

SG 3036

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: McKinley Park

Other names/site number: East Park

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Corner of H Street and Alhambra Boulevard

City or town: Sacramento State: California County: Sacramento

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national x statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A B x C D

	State Historic Preservation Officer <u>28 August 2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>California Office of Historic Preservation</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)



[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

10/18/2018
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation

Recreation and Culture/Sports Facility

Recreation and Culture/Auditorium

Recreation and Culture/Music Facility

Landscape/Park

Landscape/Garden

Landscape/Natural Feature

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation

Recreation and Culture/Sports Facility

Recreation and Culture/Auditorium

Landscape/Park

Landscape/Garden

Landscape/Natural Feature

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement/Art Deco

Modern Movement/Other/California Style

Other - Late Nineteenth Century Picturesque park landscape

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Brick and concrete

Wood and stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

McKinley Park is a 33-acre city park in East Sacramento. Its landscape consists of mature tree masses and open meadow areas. Important park features include: a naturalistic lake; a rose garden; a community center with an auditorium, branch of the Sacramento Public library, meeting rooms, pool and pool house; a children's playground; tennis courts; a baseball diamond; and a garden and art center.

Narrative Description

Design of McKinley Park

McKinley Park was originally known as East Park, named from its location east of the Sacramento city limits. It was created in 1872 as a destination park by the Sacramento Street Railway Company to promote use of the streetcars, primarily on weekends. Typical of late nineteenth century pleasure grounds, picnicking, musical performances, dancing, ball games, and

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enjoying the naturalistic landscape were the primary uses of East Park. Its naturalistic design was typical of urban parks in the second half of the nineteenth century as pioneered by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux at New York's Central Park. With roots in English estate landscapes, naturalistic park design borrowed from Pastoral and Picturesque landscape theories and promoted the benefits for urban dwellers to experience rural landscapes. Trees and other vegetation were planted in random patterns calculated to emulate nature. Water features, such as lakes, were often part of the landscape.

In 1902, East Park became a city park with the encouragement of civic groups. It was renamed in honor of President William McKinley, who had been assassinated a year earlier. The growth of suburban development in Sacramento resulted in its being situated in a residential neighborhood rather than in an agricultural area on the outskirts of the city.

McKinley Park is characterized by its naturalistic planting of now-mature trees, open meadow areas, winding pathways, a formal rose garden, and a naturalistic lake – a remnant of a former slough. As McKinley Park evolved, new facilities were added, but the overall naturalistic design has been maintained.

The rise of Progressivism in the early twentieth century led to government reforms and the search for solutions to social problems. Government became actively involved in public health issues, housing, and clean water. Parks, and particularly services benefitting children, became part of the Progressive-era goals. McKinley Park became a focus of city improvements, including the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse with its auditorium, a branch of the Sacramento Public Library, meeting rooms, pool and pool house. The pool and pool house refer to a swimming pool, a wading pool, and a pool house with changing rooms and restrooms. A playground for children, a basketball court, tennis courts, and other recreational facilities also were added to the park during this period.

The growth of the residential neighborhood around McKinley Park, and the development of other parks in Sacramento, particularly William Land Park, meant a transition from a destination park on the outskirts of Sacramento to a neighborhood park within East Sacramento, which was annexed to the city in 1911. McKinley Park has grown in importance for its contribution to the quality of life for East Sacramento's neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, few records of the park's design and its evolution, including historic maps and design drawings, have been found. Evaluation of how its design evolved over time has been deduced through the analysis of the collection of historic photographs, and through study of written records and press accounts.

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Park Character Defining Features

Spatial Organization

The design of McKinley Park appears to have grown over time and was not necessarily based on a master plan. One remaining natural feature is the remnant of Burns' Slough that became its Lake Kiesel. As the city's street grid was extended around it, a rectangular pattern formed its shape and became a major organizing element. Major park features, including the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse, the rose garden, the tennis courts, and the Garden & Arts Center, evolved or were added over time. They were oriented with the street grid. The other major organizing element is the relationship of trees and open space meadows. The trees are planted in naturalistic form with two large open spaces – the sports field in the northwest corner, and the baseball diamond on the east side.

The trees, meadows, and curving circulation paths follow the style of a naturalistic urban park established in the late nineteenth century. The concept was for these parks to provide a healthful, natural experience as a respite from urban life. McKinley Park's landscape of mature trees, and open meadows as sports fields comprise a naturalistic and pastoral landscape of beauty with ample shade in warm weather.

One formal element of the McKinley Park landscape that no longer exists is the palm drive entrance at the corner of Alhambra Boulevard and H Street. This diagonal entry feature followed the original line of the streetcar track into the park. Sometime between 1910 and 1913, the tracks were removed and replaced by a road lined with an allée of palm trees. The roadway was removed in the 1930s, possibly related to the construction of the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse, and replaced with lawn. Other trees were planted, which have since matured, but most of the palm trees are no longer present, resulting in the loss of this design feature. Nonetheless, a few of the palms remain.

One other formal element is the rose garden, which was established in 1928. The formal arrangement of beds and lawn paths consists of concentric ovals with radiating paths on the ends. The oval form is derived from the oval running track which previously existed at that location.

There is no complete record of how McKinley Park's design evolved and changed over time. The best available evidence is found by analysis of the collection of historic photographs. It appears that there have been minimal changes to its overall spatial organization since the end of the period of significance and, therefore, its spatial organization and overall design is a contributing feature to the historic significance of McKinley Park.

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Circulation

McKinley Park's circulation consists primarily of functional pedestrian paths. A perimeter sidewalk encircles the park. This was supplemented in 1987 with a crushed granite running path adjacent to the sidewalk. Other pathways, primarily curvilinear in form, provide access to the park's interior, and a pathway encircles the lake.

Vehicular circulation and parking is primarily on neighboring streets with two exceptions. One exception is the G Street extension that was constructed about 1955 with the intention of reducing street congestion and providing parking. The other exception is the small parking lot at the Garden & Arts Center.

There is no complete record of the circulation system during the historic period or how it changed over time other than what is seen in historic photographs. The 1957 aerial photograph of the park shows that much of the existing circulation system was in place at the end of the period of significance. The circulation system is a significant feature of the park's landscape design and is, therefore, a contributing feature.

Topography

The topography of McKinley Park is mostly flat, as is much of this part of Sacramento because of its being a former flood plain of the American River. The main topographic feature is Lake Kiesel, a remnant of Burns' Slough. The average elevation is approximately 20' above sea level, with most elevations in it being between 18' and 22' with the exception of Lake Kiesel which has a water level elevation of approximately 16' above sea level.

Vegetation

The vegetation of McKinley Park consists primarily of large mature trees and expanses of lawn. Shrubs and ground covers are used as accents in key places and in foundation planting around the buildings, but most of the landscape consists of open views in the meadows and below the trees. A recent tree survey found that there are over 500 trees of approximately 70 different species present in McKinley Park¹ which would qualify it as an arboretum. Significant tree species in the park include London plane (*Platanus acerfolia*), English elms (*Ulmus procera*), several species of oaks (*Quercus* spp.), Canary Island date palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), and

¹*The Magnificent Trees of McKinley Park*. Sacramento Tree Foundation. Pamphlet, no date; and 2016 McKinley Park tree survey provided by the Sacramento Parks & Recreation Department.

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Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Most of the trees in the park appear to be in good condition judging by their full canopies, but there are a few trees which are clearly in decline. As with any landscape of mature and aging trees, a number of large trees have been removed in recent years.

The East Sacramento neighborhood is well-known for its tree-lined streets. McKinley Park has contributed to that with its row of historic sycamore trees (*Platanus occidentalis*) along McKinley Boulevard, a row of historic mulberry trees (*Morus alba*) along H Street, and a row of more-recently planted ginkgo trees (*Ginkgo biloba*), also along H Street. Although not part of the park, notable also is the row of Canary Island date palm trees on the south side of H Street.

Vegetation in McKinley Park appears to have evolved and changed over time. However, because of the age of some of the existing trees, it can be deduced that many were present during the period of significance. Overall, the vegetation in McKinley Park is considered as a contributing feature to its historic significance.

Horticultural Features

The rose garden is McKinley Park's primary horticultural feature. It was established in 1928 by Frederick Noble Evans, a landscape architect and the city's first parks superintendent. After Evans' death in 1946, it was formally named in his honor, the Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden.

The Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden contains over 1,200 ornamental roses and has perimeter companion beds with perennials, ornamental grasses, and shrubs. Pathways between the beds are lawn, and concrete bands edge the beds. Several steel arbors support climbing roses. Two large Canary Island date palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) are located at the center of the two semi-circular ends. Mature trees around the perimeter contribute to its setting. Renovations starting in 2008 and completed by 2012 include revised bed layouts, the addition of new metal arbors, and a new irrigation system. These renovations follow the overall form and design of the garden.

Dating from 1928, the Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden retains integrity and contributes to the historic significance of the park.

Another notable garden in the park is the Japanese-style garden in the courtyard of the Garden & Arts Center. The Japanese-style garden, which includes a water feature, is in need of renovation.

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Water Feature

McKinley Park's Lake Kiesel was one of its earliest features. It was created from a remnant of Burns' Slough that formerly carried flood water from the American River through the site. Construction of the North Levee in 1862 cut off Burns' Slough from the direct flow of flood waters, but it remained a low area and was used for the creation of this lake in 1872. A rustic wood deck and bridge on the lake are no longer present. The island toward the north side of Lake Kiesel was added in 1988 for wildlife habitat. Renovations in 2017 include, deepening the lake from 4 feet to 9 feet, removing the rock fountains, and lining the lake with a rubberized material. Otherwise, Lake Kiesel largely retains its historic form, design, and character. The lake was named by Frederick William Kiesel, President of the California National Bank, to honor his son Frederick Birdsall Kiesel who died in infancy. A small monument with a plaque and drinking fountain remains on the east side of the lake.

Buildings and Structures

The two major buildings in McKinley Park are the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and the Iva Gard Shepard Garden & Arts Center. The Clunie Memorial Clubhouse was designed by architects Harry Devine with Starks & Flanders. Opened in 1936, the brick building with terra cotta and concrete detailing is a modernist interpretation of Spanish Colonial Revival style. The building includes an auditorium, a branch of the Sacramento Public Library, meeting rooms, pool and pool house. Renovations in 2012 and 2013 include restoring woodwork in the auditorium, refinishing doors and floors, and refurbishing walls with new paint. The Clunie Memorial Clubhouse, pool and pool house are largely unchanged from the period of significance and are considered as contributory features to the park's historic significance.

The Garden & Arts Center opened in 1958. It was designed by architects Franceschi & Mullen, in the California Modernist style. The facility contains an auditorium, meeting rooms, and an outdoor courtyard and garden. The Garden & Arts Center and the center's courtyard patio garden retain integrity from the period of significance and both are contributory features to the historic significance of McKinley Park.

Other buildings include the rose garden building, used for decades as a children's preschool facility, a rustic brick restroom near the baseball diamond, a picnic shelter and restroom near the children's playground, and a small kiosk at the tennis courts.

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Small Scale Features

Small scale features include benches, picnic tables, signs, monuments, plaques, arbors, drinking fountains, and other similar features. A few of these may date from the period of significance, but others are beyond the scope of this study to inventory separately as historic features.

Individual Park Features

Individual park features are listed as being contributing or non-contributing to the significance of the property. A contributing feature adds to the historic associations, historic architectural values for which the property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity, or is capable of yielding important information about the period.²

1. Perimeter Sidewalk. The concrete sidewalk around the perimeter of the park was constructed in the early 1940s with federal funding from the Works Progress Administration. Much of this original concrete remains although sections have been removed and replaced with contemporary accessible curb ramps. The sidewalk retains integrity and is significant as one of the park improvements of the twentieth century reform park movement and President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs. One date stamp is found in the concrete reading "A. Teichert & Son Contractors 1944." Contributing feature.

2. Tennis Courts. The early tennis courts in this location were lawn tennis and were constructed about 1920. The date of construction of the existing courts is not known, but the existing configuration of courts is visible in the 1957 aerial photograph (see Figure 3). The tennis courts are significant as one of the park's recreational facilities from the early decades of the twentieth century, and for its association with an historic recreational activity. Contributing feature.

3. Tennis Courts Kiosk. The date of the small kiosk structure at the tennis courts is unknown, yet appears to be recent construction, and is non-contributing.

4. Garden & Arts Center. The Garden & Arts Center was designed by Raymond R. Franceschi of the firm Franceschi & Mullen in 1958. The building is a low, ranch style building with stone accents, wood panels and beams, and large expanses of glass. The roof is a low angle combination of gable and shed style. A covered walkway and integral sign extend toward McKinley Boulevard. The building retains integrity and is significant as an excellent example of California Modernist architecture. Contributing feature.

² National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form.

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5. Garden & Arts Center Courtyard Patio Garden. The courtyard patio garden adjacent to the Garden & Arts Center is integrally designed with the building and illustrates the close relationship between indoor and outdoor spaces in the California Modernist style. The patio and an original garden were part of the original building construction and include exposed aggregate concrete paving, benches, and an enclosing fence. The Japanese-style garden present today was installed about 1985, and, although after the period of significance, is a compatible feature. The courtyard patio garden is significant as an example of an outdoor space directly related to a California Modernist style building. Contributing feature.

6. Rustic Brick Restroom Building. The brick restroom near the baseball diamond likely was built during the 1930s. The building is a simple rectangle with rustic stone walls and an offset peaked roof with a chimney at one end. The restroom retains integrity and is significant as an example of park improvements dating to the reform park movement period. Contributing feature.

7. Picnic Areas. The main picnic area is south of the tennis courts and a smaller picnic area is west of the Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden. There also is a picnic area and shelter adjacent to the playground. Picnicking is an historic use in the park, but the current picnic facilities likely post-date the period of significance and there is no documentation of where picnic areas were located during the historic period. Non-contributing feature.

8. Baseball Diamond. Baseball has been played in the park since its early days in the nineteenth century. The original diamond was in the northwest corner of the park. The current location of the baseball diamond likely was established after the zoo was relocated to William Land Park in 1927, and is visible in the 1957 aerial photograph. The baseball diamond contributes to the park's significance as a facility hosting historic sporting activities that date to the nineteenth century. Contributing feature.

9. Horseshoe Pits. The installation of the horseshoe pits likely dates from the 1950s or earlier. The horseshoe pits consist of 6 sets of stakes and concrete pitching platforms with wood backboards. The horseshoe pits contribute to the park's historic significance as a traditional recreational activity dating to the period of significance. Contributing feature.

10. Rose Garden Building. The building adjacent to the rose garden was built about the same time as the rose garden, 1928. The building has some features of Craftsman architecture. Walls are vertical wood board and batten siding, topped by a hipped metal roof of low pitch with wide, unenclosed eaves and visible roof rafters. Windows are mostly dual pane vinyl replacements, but a few of the windows appear to be original, single-hung wooden casement windows. A brick chimney is located on the northern wall, opposite the building entrance. Based on historic photos, the building originally had a wooden shingled roof. An architecturally compatible eastern wing was added to the building at some point after 1928, matching the original building's

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exterior siding and roof pattern; date of construction is unknown. Despite some modification, the building retains its original massing and architectural details. Contributing feature.

11. Perimeter Running Path. The crushed granite running path around the park was installed in 1987. Non-contributing feature.

12. Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden. The rose garden was planned in 1928 by Frederick Noble Evans, the city's first parks superintendent. Construction started by 1929. The oval shape reflects a running track that previously existed at that location. The rose garden is the most significant horticultural feature of McKinley Park. A renovation of the garden was started in 2008 and completed by 2012. Contributing feature.

13. G Street Extension and Parking Area. The extension of G Street into the park was created about 1955 and was intended to address street traffic congestion and to provide additional parking. It contributes to the significance of the park as a modification during the period of significance to integrate the park into the surrounding vehicle circulation of the neighborhood. Contributing feature.

14. Lake Kiesel. The park's lake was created about 1872 as one of the early features of East Park. It was formed from the remnant of Burns' Slough that previously connected to the American River. The lake was named in 1912 by the parents of Frederick Birdsall Kiesel after the death of their infant son. Lake Kiesel is an important feature of the park's naturalistic landscape. Contributing feature.

15. Frederick Birdsall Kiesel Monument and Drinking Fountain. The monument, with a drinking fountain and plaque, was installed in 1912. Contributing feature.

16. Children's Playground. A playground in this location may have dated as early as the 1920s and is seen in photographs from the 1930s. The current playground was constructed in 2013. Because none of the original equipment remains and there is no historic integrity, the playground is a non-contributing feature.

17. Picnic Shelter. The existing picnic shelter near the playground was part of the 2013 playground reconstruction and is a non-contributing feature.

18. Restroom Near Playground. The existing restroom building also was constructed in 2013 and is a non-contributing feature.

19. Basketball Court. A basketball court at this location dates from the 1930s, but has been reconstructed and is a non-contributing feature.

20. Clunie Memorial Clubhouse. The Clunie Memorial Clubhouse built in 1936, also houses an auditorium, a branch of the Sacramento Public Library, and meeting rooms, along with a pool

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and pool house. The building is composed of brick walls with varying patterns, precast concrete details, and a tile gable roof at the central entry and auditorium wing. The library wing has a flat roof. The pool house has a curving wall with stepped recessed entry. Distinctive vertical rectangular windows appear throughout. The building is a modernist interpretation of Spanish Colonial Revival style. The Clunie Memorial Clubhouse retains integrity as one of the park's signature features and contributes to the park's significance for its architectural qualities, and as a legacy of the reform parks movement. Contributing feature.

21. Northwest Sports Field. The northwest lawn area of McKinley Park is significant for having hosted sporting events since at least the first decade of the twentieth century. Contributing feature.

22. Spatial Organization. The spatial organization is defined largely by the areas of trees and open spaces. It is a key design feature of the park and largely retains its integrity from the period of significance. This is evidenced when comparing Figure 2 (Existing Conditions), to Figure 3, which provides an aerial view of the park during the period of significance. The spatial organization of the park remains as it was then. Contributing feature.

23. Topography. The park's topography is generally flat except for the low area around Lake Keisel. The topography is largely unchanged and retains its integrity from the period of significance. Contributing feature.

24. Vegetation. Many of the park's trees date from the period of significance³ and the overall planting design retains integrity. Contributing feature.

25. Circulation System. The park's circulation system is composed of pedestrian pathways and is a significant feature of the landscape design. The 1957 aerial photograph shows that much of the circulation system was present during the period of significance. Contributing feature.

26. Park Light Standards. The traditional-style cast metal pole and acorn luminaire likely are from the period of significance and contribute to the park's landscape design. Contributing feature.

27. Irrigation System. The park's irrigation system may include components from different eras, but most of it likely is of modern construction and is considered non-contributing.

Park Features No Longer Present

³ Julin, Dr. Kent, ISA Certified Arborist. *Arborist Report – Assessment of Ages of Trees at McKinley Park*. May 2018.

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1872 Park Clubhouse. The original park clubhouse was built in 1872 as a two-story, wood-framed building with a large wood deck that served as an outdoor dance floor and basketball court. The building was removed in 1929.

Zoo. No physical descriptions or many photographs of the East Park zoo have been found, but a variety of animals were kept. One surviving photograph shows a pond full of alligators. The zoo was closed in 1927 when a larger zoo was created at William Land Park.

Streetcar Line into the Park. A diagonal streetcar line entered East Park and brought visitors directly to the original clubhouse. The tracks were removed sometime between 1910 and 1913.

Palm Drive. After the streetcar tracks were removed, a park road was built and lined on either side by palm trees, some of which still exist. The drive was removed and replaced with lawn, possibly related to the construction of the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse.

Rustic Deck and Bridge. A rustic wood deck and bridge at the lake are seen in early photographs and postcards. It is not known when these features were removed.

Auto Camp. An auto camp operated in the panhandle area⁴ of McKinley Park between 1916 and 1923. It served travelers on the transcontinental Lincoln Highway.

Running Track. A running track was built sometime prior to 1908. It was removed about 1928 and replaced with the rose garden which replicated its oval shape.

Statement of Integrity

McKinley Park retains much of its integrity from the period of significance (1871-1958). Its overall design framework of open meadows, tree plantings, and a lake has changed little from the early years of the park. Park features, such as the Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden, the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and pool, and the tennis courts retain integrity from the reform park era. Many of the trees that define its landscape were planted during the period of significance. The Garden & Arts Center also retains integrity from the post-WWII modernist period. Additions and changes after the period of significance are generally minor and do not detract from the overall integrity of McKinley Park.

Some contributing features have had renovations in recent years. The rose garden underwent a renovation between 2008 and 2012. Changes include revised bed layouts, the addition of new metal arbors, and a new irrigation system; however, the rose garden still retains its main

⁴ The northeast area of the park east of 33rd Street.

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character defining features from the historic period. Renovations to the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse in 2012 and 2013 retain their original character and integrity. They include restoring woodwork in the auditorium, refinishing doors and floors, and refurbishing walls with new paint. Lake Kiesel also underwent a renovation project completed in 2017. The lake was deepened to improve water quality, a synthetic liner was added, and the two stone fountains were removed. An earlier renovation added the island for wildlife habitat. Although these changes are not insignificant, overall the Lake Kiesel retains its character defining features from the period of significance and it remains a contributing feature to the significance of McKinley Park.

Evaluation of McKinley Park Relative to the Seven Aspects of Integrity

Integrity is traditionally recognized through seven aspects or qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In this section the overall integrity of McKinley Park is evaluated relative to the seven aspects. Overall, McKinley Park retains a high degree of integrity.

Location

McKinley Park retains its aspect of location as do most of the contributory features. The park occupies the same land as when it was first established in 1871 and the additional 14.5 acres purchased in 1873. As the residential neighborhoods around the park were established, the street grid was extended around the park and this changed the edges of the park, but overall the park retains its aspect of location.

Design

There is not good documentation of the original design of the park, but we know that many of the original elements still exist and the overall design and spatial organization of elements throughout the park has changed little since the early years of East Park. Additionally, with the period of significance of 1871 to 1958, it can be documented that the overall park design we see today retains integrity of design as existed near the end of the period of significance. Much of the design was based on logical site planning and as a response to natural conditions. The park's main natural feature was the remnant of Burns' Slough, and being the low spot in the park's topography, it became Lake Kiesel. The original park clubhouse was located at the front of the park to be convenient for visitors arriving by streetcars. In 1936, the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and pool was built on the site of the original clubhouse to be visible from Alhambra Boulevard. Large open meadows at the northwest corner and east side of the park were created for sports activities. A naturalistic planting design of large shade trees filled in much of the other areas of the park to fulfill the vision of a naturalistic landscape, typical of nineteenth century urban parks. The original planting design and the large open meadows for sports activities remain to this day and retain integrity.

Setting

The setting of the environment surrounding McKinley Park did change significantly since the founding of the park, but has changed little since the period of significance. The park was

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established on land just beyond the developed city in 1871. The park was the pioneer development in what would become East Sacramento and it was a stimulus for the residential development that occurred in the early decades of the twentieth century. The residential neighborhood, with tree-lined streets and many architecturally significant homes, creates a very distinctive setting for McKinley Park that has changed little since the end of the period of significance. The park's setting is a significant characteristic of the park and it retains a large degree of integrity.

Materials

As a historic and living landscape, some of the materials that make up the park are dynamic, but overall McKinley Park retains a high degree of materials integrity. Many of the trees and plants that make of the park's landscape are old enough to be from the period of significance, and some of the oldest trees may be from the early years of the park. Much of the park's ground plane is grass as it had been during the period of significance. Some of the paved surfaces have likely changed since the period of significance, but parts of the perimeter concrete sidewalk are date stamped from 1944. Other asphalt and concrete paved areas are clearly from after the period of significance. This analysis will not go into detail of the integrity of the park's buildings, but it can be clearly stated that the brick, stone, wood and other materials of the Clunie Clubhouse, the Garden & Arts Center, and the brick restroom building, all dating from the period of significance, retain a high degree of integrity of materials. As previously stated, overall, the park retains a high degree of integrity of materials.

Workmanship

As a dynamic landscape the evidence of workmanship that has occurred for generations can be seen in the high degree of craft, skill, and workmanship in the landscape maintenance of the park. The park is maintained to a high level that is evident both today and in photographs from the period of significance. The trees and turf areas are generally in good health and condition. The Rose Garden displays a high degree of skill and workmanship in the annual display of rose blossoms. Likewise, the park's buildings are generally well maintained, were built with excellent workmanship, and have retained original materials in good condition through regular care and maintenance. Overall, McKinley Park retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship.

Feeling

Feeling is the ability of a historic property to convey or evoke a sense of the past. With its naturalistic landscape design and historic buildings, McKinley Park is clearly a product of an earlier time. The naturalistic landscape with mature trees, open meadows, and Lake Kiesel evokes the characteristics of nineteenth century urban parks that were created to provide places of nature and escape from urban pressures. The naturalistic design is intended to emulate forests, meadows, and water features as they were found in nature. The buildings also contribute to the park's sense of the past with both the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and the Garden & Arts Center distinctive products of their periods. The Clunie Memorial Clubhouse, designed in the 1930s, exhibits characteristics of a transition period between the earlier Spanish Colonial Revival style and that of the coming modern styles. The Garden & Arts Center is a product of the post-World War II California Modernist design style with its distinctive use of materials and linking of

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indoor and outdoor spaces. McKinley Park evokes a sense of the past and retains integrity of feeling.

Association

Association is the direct link between a property and the event(s) for which it is significant. For McKinley Park it is not an event that has significance, but its continuous use as a place of recreation and escape from urban pressures. Since its opening in 1872, the park has been a destination for recreational activities, sports, and simply enjoying the park landscape. This association from the earliest days of the park remains unchanged to this day. In the twentieth century a branch library, pool, garden & arts center were added making the park even more of a destination for additional leisure activities. McKinley Park retains integrity of association.

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Park Features

Existing Park Features	Type of Feature	Date Built	Historic Status	Notes
Spatial organization and forest/meadow relationship	site	1871-present	Contributing	Largely unchanged from the period of significance.
Topography	site	1871-present	Contributing	Unchanged from the period of significance.
Vegetation	site	1871-present	Contributing	Largely unchanged from the period of significance.
Circulation system - pedestrian paths	site/circulation	1871-present	Contributing	Largely unchanged from the period of significance.
Perimeter sidewalk	site/circulation	ca. 1940	Contributing	WPA project
Tennis courts	site/recreation facility	ca. 1920	Contributing	Lawn tennis courts at this location predate the constructed courts.
Tennis courts kiosk	structure	unknown	Non-contributing	
Garden & Arts Center	building	1958	Contributing	
Garden & Arts Center courtyard garden	site/garden	1958	Contributing	Japanese garden re-design ca. 1985
Picnic area (2)	site/recreation facility	unknown	Non-contributing	
Baseball diamond	site/recreation facility	ca. 1927	Contributing	Originally in the NW corner of the park, the baseball diamond was moved to its current location around 1927 with the relocation of the zoo to Land Park.
Brick restrooms building	structure	1930s	Contributing	Near baseball diamond.
Horseshoe pits	site/recreation facility	1950s	Contributing	
Perimeter running path	site/circulation	1987	Non-contributing	
Rose garden	site/garden	1928	Contributing	
Rose garden building	building	ca. 1928	Contributing	
G Street extension and parking area	site/circulation	ca. 1955	Contributing	
Lake Kiesel and fountains	site/water feature	1872	Contributing	
Frederick Birdsall Kiesel monument and fountain	object	1912	Contributing	
Children's playground	site/recreation facility	2013	Non-contributing	Original playground may date from sometime prior to 1920, but none of the original equipment survives.
Picnic shelter near playground	structure	2013	Non-contributing	
Restroom near playground	structure	2013	Non-contributing	
Basketball court	site/recreation facility	unknown	Non-contributing	Original basketball court likely dates from 1936.
Clunie Memorial Clubhouse & Pool	building/recreation facility	1936	Contributing	
Sports field (NW)	site/recreation facility	prior to 1908	Contributing	
Park light standards - Steel standards and acorn luminaires	objects	likely from period of significance	Contributing	
Irrigation system	site/infrastructure	various periods	Non-contributing	Unknown if any components date from the period of significance.

Park Features No Longer Extant	Type of Feature	Date Built	Date Removed	Notes
Original park clubhouse	structure	1872	1929	Replaced by the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse.
Outdoor dance floor/basketball court	structure	1872	ca. 1936	At original clubhouse.
Zoo	site	1870s	1927	Zoo moved to Land Park.
Streetcar line into park	circulation	prior to 1902	between 1910 and 1913	Replaced by Palm Drive.
Palm Drive	circulation & horticultural	prior to 1920	ca. 1936	On alignment of streetcar line into park, few of the palms remain.
Rustic deck and bridges at lake	small scale features	prior to 1912	unknown	Seen in historic photos and postcards.
Auto camp in panhandle	site	1916	1923	
Running track	recreation facility	prior to 1908	ca 1928	On site of rose garden.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Community Planning and Development

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Period of Significance

1871-1958

Significant Dates

1871

1872

1873

1902

1929

1936

1958

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Zeinwaldt, C. Jacob.

Evans, Frederick Noble.

Devine, Harry.

Franceschi, Raymond R.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

McKinley Park has significance at the state level under Criterion A for recreation, and community planning and development. It is Sacramento's first park related to the American urban parks movement of the nineteenth century. The land was purchased in 1871 and the park was developed in 1872 as East Park, making it one of the earliest parks developed in California and the West – only San Francisco's Golden Gate Park (1871) being older. The park also is significant as one of the earliest examples of the phenomenon of "trolley parks" that were created by streetcar companies to boost ridership and to spur suburban residential development. In the early decades of the twentieth century, it was influential in the development of East Sacramento's neighborhoods, with its collection of architecturally significant houses and tree-lined streets shaded with canopy trees.

McKinley Park also is locally significant under Criterion C as a work of landscape architecture. Its naturalistic design of informal tree plantings, meadows, curving pathways, and a picturesque lake is typical of urban parks from the nineteenth century. It also is significant for its collection of recreational features added during the reform park movement of the twentieth century prior to 1940.

The period of significance is 1871 to 1958.

Period of significance is defined as the span of time during which a property achieves its significance through development, construction, and/or events. The period of significance for McKinley Park begins in 1871 with the purchase of land by the Sacramento Street Railway Company for development as a park, and continues to 1958 with the construction of the Garden & Arts Center, the last major addition to McKinley Park.

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

To be eligible for the National Register, a property must have significance that meets one or more of the National Register criteria, and it must retain integrity from the period of significance. McKinley Park is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: association with events or activities that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history, and Criterion C: embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values.

Criterion A – Recreation, and Community Planning and Development – State Significance

McKinley Park is significant at the state level under Criterion A for its association with patterns of history related to the American urban parks movement of the nineteenth century, and as an early recreational destination developed by a streetcar company. The American urban parks movement of the nineteenth century was still in its formative years in 1871 when the land for East Park was purchased. The park was developed in 1872. The park was renamed McKinley Park in 1902, after the assassination of President William McKinley.

The idea of a pleasure ground was to provide healthful recreation for urban dwellers in outdoor areas that were designed to emulate nature in pastoral and picturesque settings. Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux designed New York's Central Park in 1858 and that park was still in development when East Park was begun. San Francisco's Golden Gate Park was started just one year prior to the creation of East Park. Although much smaller than Golden Gate Park, McKinley Park is one of the pioneering urban parks in the West. As with both Central Park in New York City and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, East Park was created at the edge of the expanding urban area, and as McKinley Park, has played an important role in the future growth and development of the city of Sacramento and of its park-centered residential neighborhoods.

In the context of California, McKinley Park is the state's second oldest urban park associated with the American urban parks movement of the nineteenth century. Sacramento was the state's second largest city with a population of 16,283 in 1870. A chronology of California's urban parks is provided below:

- 1868 – San Diego's Balboa Park land set aside, but the park was not developed until the twentieth century.
- 1870 – San Francisco's Golden Gate Park established.
- 1870 – Oakland's Lake Merritt, land set aside, but park not developed until years later.
- 1871 – Sacramento's **East Park**, land purchased, park developed in 1872.
- 1872 – San Jose's Alum Rock Park, land set aside.
- 1886 – Los Angeles' Elysian Park established.
- 1889 – Sacramento's McClatchy Park established as Joyland amusement park.

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- 1896 – Los Angeles’ Griffith Park land donated.
- 1903 – Fresno’s Roeding Park established.
- 1905 – San Francisco’s Mission Dolores Park established.
- 1905 – Chico’s Bidwell Park established.
- 1907 – Sacramento’s Southside Park established.
- 1907 – Modesto’s Graceada Park established.
- 1922 – Sacramento’s William Land Park developed.

Relevant also to Criterion A is McKinley Park’s facilities related to the reform park movement of the first half of the twentieth century. The reform park movement focused civic efforts to improve recreational facilities with an emphasis on healthful benefits and facilities for children. During this period, McKinley Park saw the addition of the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and pool. A children’s playground also was built adjacent to the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse.

McKinley Park also is significant as a very early example of a “trolley park” – parks developed by streetcar companies as a way to generate ridership and to stimulate suburban residential development. Trolley parks were a phenomenon throughout the United States, but the majority of these were developed from the 1890s through the 1920s. East Park, developed in 1872, was one of the earliest examples of this phenomenon. Trolley parks were developed into two distinct types. The first type was the traditional pleasure ground park, which often included picnic facilities, music and dancing venues, sports fields, and a water feature. East Park is an early example of the pleasure ground trolley park. The second type of trolley parks were developed as amusement parks, including Sacramento’s Joyland amusement park, now McClatchy Park, which included rides, midways, and food vendors.

Sacramento’s streetcar company lost interest in operating and maintaining East Park in the 1890s, but a campaign by civic groups led to its being purchased by the city. McKinley Park became the centerpiece for the residential development of East Sacramento in the early decades of the twentieth century. Architecturally diverse houses were developed around McKinley Park, including American Craftsman bungalow, English Cottage, Tudor, and Spanish Colonial, which add to the diversity of storybook neighborhood styles in East Sacramento.

Criterion C – Landscape Architecture – Local Significance

McKinley Park is significant under Criterion C as an historic designed landscape and as an example of naturalistic park design typical of the nineteenth century American urban parks. Naturalistic planting of tree groves created both forest and meadow areas. The lake provided a picturesque focal point within the landscape. Recreational facilities and attractions included a clubhouse, outdoor dancing and music venue, pathways for walking, and sports facilities for

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tennis and ball games. There is no professional designer credited and documented with the original design of East Park and there are no plans showing its early development. Historic photographs and descriptions, and the relative age of the park's mature trees, lead to the conclusion that much of the original design survives.

In the twentieth century, McKinley Park came under professional management of the city's parks department. In particular, landscape architect Frederick Noble Evans became Sacramento's first Superintendent of Parks in 1920 and served in that capacity until his death in 1946. During his tenure, he planned the rose garden, 1928, and oversaw the planning and construction of the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and pool in 1936, which replaced the park's original clubhouse.

The Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and pool were listed in the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources in 1983 as the "Florence Turton Clunie Memorial." It is eligible for the National Register as a work of architecture from the early modernist period. The Garden & Arts Center, built in 1958, is also individually eligible as a work of architecture representative of the California style of post-WWII modernist architecture. It was surveyed for National Register eligibility; the survey recommended the property as National Register eligible.

Site History

McKinley Park originally was created as East Park in 1872 by the Sacramento Street Railway Company to provide a destination for streetcar service. In 1871, the streetcar company bought 30 acres of land just outside of the Sacramento city boundary. By 1872, a two-story park building was constructed complete with "balconies and piazzas" with views to both the Sierra and the Coast Range.⁵ The streetcar line from H Street was extended directly into the park, bringing visitors right to the park building where events, musical performances, and dances were held.⁶

A newspaper report at the time noted that the "grounds are being tastefully laid out with drives, avenues and approaches, and ornamented with trees, shrubs and flowers."⁷ A lake was planned in the park's low point and constructed from a remnant of Burns' Slough. The slough was once a source of flood waters into Sacramento from the American River. Levees were built to prevent the flooding and most of the slough was filled in and eventually developed.

⁵ *Sacramento Daily Union*. June 8, 1872.

⁶ Until approximately 1890 when overhead electric lines were installed, streetcars were pulled by mules.

⁷ *Sacramento Daily Union*. June 8, 1872.

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A zoo was part of the early East Park with “deer, raccoons and other animals.” The inspiration for the zoo was apparently the Woodward’s Gardens, a combination amusement park, museum, and zoo that opened in 1866 in San Francisco’s Mission District.⁸ The early plantings in East Park were subject to trial and error. An 1873 newspaper article noted that severe frosts killed or damaged a number of trees and shrubs, including pepper trees, acacias, oleanders, and Australian gum trees. A nursery was set up on two acres in the southwest corner of the park to grow replacement plants.⁹

While East Park was designed intentionally, there is little record of who designed the park. It may have been C. Jacob Zeinwaldt (or Zumwaldt) who is credited as East Park’s first superintendent, with early park work being done under his direction.¹⁰ Zeinwaldt was a northern California orchardist and landscape gardener. He was listed as the East Park gardener in city directories from 1874 to 1876 and had previously worked as a farmer.¹¹ In 1873, the streetcar company purchased an additional 14.5 acres at the northeast corner of East Park for picnic grounds. East Park was deemed a success and the streetcar company added extra service on Sundays to accommodate the crowds. As early as the 1870s, baseball games were a popular activity on weekends.

Maintaining East Park was costly. Eventually, the streetcar company lost interest and the park’s condition deteriorated. In 1900, the Tuesday Club, a group of civic-minded Sacramento women, urged the city to purchase East Park. The Tuesday Club hoped that city stewardship would lead to East Park improvements, particularly the addition of a large children’s playground. At the time, McKinley Park and Capital Park were Sacramento’s only large parks. Ten small public squares, however, also existed having been deeded to the city by John Sutter.¹²

In 1902, Albert Gallatin, president of the streetcar company, had been planning to sell the East Park land to be subdivided for residential development. The Tuesday Club persuaded Gallatin to reduce the price for the land from \$20,000 to \$12,500 and to allow the city to purchase the property. After much discussion, and the Tuesday Club’s promising to maintain and to improve the park, the city finally agreed to the purchase of East Park. The assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 led to the Tuesday Club’s proposing to make the park a memorial to the slain president. Their idea was not to build a memorial monument, but rather to make the park itself the memorial.¹³

⁸ Reference to Woodward Gardens is made in the June 8, 1872 *Sacramento Daily Union* article.

⁹ *Sacramento Daily Union*. February 1, 1873.

¹⁰ *Sacramento Daily Union*. November 23, 1872.

¹¹ Anderson, Christy and Mahan, William E. *Sacramento History Journal*, Volume III, No. 1, Winter & Spring 2003. P. 14.

¹² 1900 Official Map of Sacramento. California State Library.

¹³ Anderson and Mahan. P. 19.

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Thereafter, under city ownership, East Park was renamed McKinley Park. Through the efforts of Tuesday Club member, Carrie Miller, the women's group managed to raise private funds for maintaining McKinley Park between 1902 and 1908.

A 1908 city map shows McKinley Park in some detail for the first time. The map shows a developed system of paths or drives, a running track, deer park, flower garden, lawn tennis, a basketball court, a baseball field, zoological gardens, and picnic grounds.

In 1911, the city annexed East Sacramento and allocated funds for the maintenance of the park. A Board of Park Directors was created in 1913 to oversee management of the park. In 1915, Sacramento engaged John Nolen, a landscape architect and urban planner from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to prepare a general plan for a park system. The plan included a series of roadways and parks in Sacramento's surrounding suburban areas. East Sacramento was among the first suburban areas to be transformed with street and utility improvements, and for residential development.

The Lincoln Highway, the nation's first transcontinental highway, passed through Sacramento. In 1916, the city created an auto camp for travelers in the park's panhandle section, the northeast area of the park east of 33rd Street. The camp hosted over 10,000 touring autos in 1919. It operated until neighborhood complaints resulted in its closure in 1923.

In 1918, George Sim was hired as Sacramento's first Superintendent of Playgrounds. He noted the poor condition of McKinley Park and began planning improvements. The 1921 park report of the Board of Park Directors noted several accomplishments, including new plant nurseries, greenhouses, a children's playground, improved driveways, six tennis courts, an outdoor dance platform, and a running track.¹⁴ During this time, landscape architect Frederick Noble Evans was hired as the city's first Superintendent of Parks.

A zoo had been part of East Park since its earliest days. A variety of exotic animals were added over the years, including two brown bear cubs, monkeys, and a lion. A pond in the zoo area was full of alligators. With the creation of a new zoo in William Land Park in 1927, the McKinley Park zoo was closed. The area of the zoo which had been designated for deer, became the baseball field, current site of the George "Butter" Cole Field. Additional tennis courts were built on the site of the zoological gardens.

In 1928, Superintendent of Parks Frederick Noble Evans began planning a rose garden for McKinley Park on the site of a running track. The rose garden maintained the oval form created by the running track.

¹⁴ Anderson and Mahan. P. 29.

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The original park clubhouse was torn down in 1929 and plans were made for a new park facility. Florence Turton Clunie (1858-1934), Sacramento businesswoman and wife of Congressman Thomas J. Clunie, donated \$150,000 for the building of a community center and pool in McKinley Park. Mrs. Clunie died in 1934, and the center that bears her name was completed in 1936. Designed by architects Harry J. Devine with Starks & Flanders, the community center included an auditorium, a branch of the Sacramento Public Library, and meeting rooms, in addition to the pool and pool house.

As previously mentioned, the H Street streetcar line extended diagonally into the park from the southwest corner. The streetcar tracks were removed sometime between 1910 and 1913, and replaced with a park drive lined with an allée of palm trees. This striking design feature demarcated the entrance to McKinley Park and dominated views of the park for many years. The roadway was later removed and replaced with lawn, likely about the time of the construction of the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse. With the growth of other trees and loss of many of the palms, the allée effect has been lost. Nevertheless, a few of the palms remain, providing evidence of this design feature of the park.

In the early 1940s, the Works Progress Administration (WPA), one of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs, built new sidewalks around the perimeter of the park.¹⁵ In about 1955, G Street was extended across the park's southwest corner with the intention to reduce street traffic congestion and to provide parking.¹⁶

In 1958, a garden and arts center was built on the panhandle section of the park. The building was designed by Raymond R. Franceschi of Franceschi & Mullen Architects. In 1972, the Garden & Arts Center was named for Iva Gard Shepard, the leader of the Sacramento Garden Club and garden columnist for *The Sacramento Bee*, becoming the Iva Gard Shepard Garden & Arts Center.¹⁷

The children's playground was improved with new playground equipment in 1976. The facility was improved again in 1994 with a community-built playground, only to be destroyed by a fire in 2012. A community fundraising effort resulted in the current playground that opened in 2013. A popular 1.1-mile crushed granite running path adjacent to the perimeter sidewalk around the park was added in 1987.

In recent years, with the city fiscally challenged to maintain park facilities, many groups, organizations, and individuals have rallied support to preserve the Frederick N. Evans Memorial

¹⁵ Anderson & Mahan. P. 34.

¹⁶ Anderson & Mahan. P. 36.

¹⁷ Anderson & Mahan. P. 36.

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Rose Garden, and the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse as valued resources for the surrounding McKinley Park neighborhoods, and the larger Sacramento community.

Starting in 2008, the Sacramento Rose Society began planning for the renovation of the rose garden, now-named Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden. With renovations completed by 2012, the Sacramento Rose Society continues to assist with training and helping to maintain the garden.

In 2012, Friends of East Sacramento, a non-profit organization, assumed renovation and management of the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse as a community center. It also took over management of the rose garden for continuing public use for weddings and other events.

With McKinley Park's origins dating from 1871, friends and neighbors throughout the City of Sacramento, East Sacramento, and East Sacramento's McKinley Park neighborhoods are committed to the preservation of this historically valued community cultural landscape resource.

Historic and Design Context

With its strategic location at the confluence of the American River and the Sacramento River, Sacramento became a boom town after the 1848 discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill, the subsequent California Gold Rush, and California statehood in 1850. The settlement was selected as California's capital in 1854. By the 1870s, with a population over 16,000, Sacramento was growing into an American city and beginning to expand beyond its downtown core. The local streetcar company, looking for ways to expand ridership, purchased land and real estate interests to the east of downtown for expanding residential development.

American Urban Parks Movement: 1850 to 1900

As the country was evolving from an agrarian economy to a more urban and industrialized economy during the nineteenth century, people's lives changed. Working and living conditions disconnected them from nature and outdoor activities. Oppressive urban conditions in New York City led to the development of Central Park which was recognized for its "civilizing and humanizing influence."¹⁸ Growing cities around the country recognized the need for urban parks and their development became a national movement. In the new cities of the West, parks were seen not only for their social contributions, but also for showing that they were equals of cities in

¹⁸ David Schuyler. *The New Urban Landscape: the Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.

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the East. San Francisco established Golden Gate Park in 1870. Within a year, the Sacramento Street Railway Company purchased land to create a “pleasure ground,” as they were called at the time. Although McKinley Park’s development by a streetcar company was intended to gain ridership and to spur real estate development, it also provided residents a place for Sunday outings, picnicking, music, dancing, and outdoor recreation.

A pleasure ground park being created at the end of a streetcar line was not unique to Sacramento. In fact, “trolley parks” were a phenomenon of the era and there may have been up to 2,000 similar parks around the United States.¹⁹ Many of these parks started as pleasure grounds, as did East Park. A good number of them also developed into amusement parks with rides, carousels, swimming pools, and other attractions, some of which survive today. McKinley Park may be unusual in that it became a city park.

Naturalistic Park Design

The earliest urban parks and squares in the United States were often small and of formal or geometric designs. At New York’s Central Park, Frederick Law Olmsted created a naturalistic design that contrasted intentionally from the urban environment of cities. Building on the naturalistic garden style espoused by American landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing, Olmsted created a new design form and vocabulary for American urban parks. These nineteenth century parks were characterized by open meadows defined by forested areas, and accented with natural features, including rock outcroppings, lakes, streams, and waterfalls. Curvilinear pathways and drives were designed to move park visitors through the landscape with ever-changing vistas. East Park was designed in this naturalistic tradition with meadows, informal tree plantings, a small lake, and curving pathways. As in Central Park, East Park was created in the context of an urban grid of streets. The rectangular shapes of both Central Park and East Park, later as McKinley Park, contrast further with the naturalistic features within their design.

Reform Parks Movement and Progressivism: 1900 to 1940

In the early decades of the twentieth century, social reformers worked to address urban issues through the reform and growth of local government and services. As municipal lands, urban parks were often seen as places well-suited to provide social services. The Reform Park Movement resulted in new park facilities being added to parks, including playgrounds, recreation

¹⁹ Street Railway Journal. *Street Railway Parks and Pleasure Resorts*. June 1, 1901, Vol. XVII, No. 22.

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and sports facilities, pools and public buildings.²⁰ In McKinley Park, this reform movement is evidenced in the addition of tennis courts (1920), children's playground (1930s), and the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and Pool (1936).

The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs, several of which benefitted parks around the nation. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided funding and labor for park projects. In McKinley Park, a new perimeter sidewalk and possibly the brick restroom building were benefits from these programs.

McKinley Park in the Context of Sacramento Parks

When Sacramento's street grid was created in 1848, ten blocks distributed around the grid were reserved for public squares, having been deeded to the city by John Sutter, Jr. Eight of these squares survive today as small parks in the downtown core. The 40-acre Capitol Park, created in the 1870s, was the only other park in the city limits. Land for East Park was purchased by the streetcar company in 1871, and when East Park opened in 1872, it was Sacramento's first large park, later renamed McKinley Park in 1902. Land for Southside Park was purchased by the city in 1906, and William Land Park was created in the 1920s.

East Park was not the only Sacramento park created by a streetcar company. Oak Park, now McClatchy Park, was created in the 1890s at the terminus of a streetcar line, the goal of which was to develop the suburb of Oak Park. In 1903, a roller coaster, swimming pool, and other amusements were added by the streetcar company, creating Sacramento's Joyland amusement park. A fire in 1920 destroyed the amusement park. In 1927, a member of the McClatchy newspaper family purchased the property and donated it to the city for a public park, renamed McClatchy Park in honor of James McClatchy, founder of *The Sacramento Bee*.

²⁰ Galen Cranz. *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*. MIT Press, 1982.

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McKinley Park Chronology

Period of Significance: 1871 to 1958

- 1862 The “North Levee” along the American River is raised to 30’ cutting off the river from flooding the city and cutting off Burns’ Slough from its water source.
- 1869 The transcontinental railroad is completed with Sacramento as its western terminus, significantly boosting the city’s economy.
- 1871 Sacramento Street Railway Company purchases 30 acres of undeveloped and unincorporated land for use as East Park.
- 1871 Streetcars begin running along H Street to East Park.
- 1872 Early planting of the park includes 600 evergreen trees (pines, cypresses, and acacias).
- 1872 The streetcar company builds a two-story park building with “balconies and piazzas.” The streetcar line is extended into the park to bring visitors directly to the park building.
- 1872 Social dances and musical performances begin in the park.
- 1872 Lake Kiesel is constructed from a remnant of Burns’ Slough.
- 1873 Railway company purchases an additional 14.5-acre parcel at the northeast corner of the park for picnic grounds. Other improvements include ball grounds, shooting alleys, and a zoo.
- 1875 Baseball games are a regular activity in East Park.
- 1877 Railway company sells the site to a group of investors called the East Park Association, headed by Albert Gallatin. The park falls into disrepair and suffers from competition from Joyland amusement park in the Oak Park neighborhood.
- 1893 A formal carriage entrance at 31st and F Streets, and a graded dirt path along the edges of the park are seen on an 1893 map.
- 1900 The East Park Association has been considering subdividing the park for development. The Tuesday Club, a women’s cultural improvement association, lobbies the City to purchase East Park as a children’s playground to be named in honor of recently-assassinated President William McKinley.
- 1902 City Trustees vote to purchase the property from the East Park Association, and Albert Gallatin agrees to lower the price from \$20,000 to \$12,500. In convincing the city to purchase the park, the Tuesday Club states that they will maintain the park themselves (a fact later in dispute).
- 1904 To offset the cost of maintaining the park, the City fences off the 14.5-acre panhandle section and leases it as a cow pasture.
- 1906 Mrs. J. Henry Miller, manager of McKinley Park from 1902 to 1908, suggests the creation of flower beds in the park.
- 1908 City consults with city planner Charles Mulford Robinson on the city’s park system. He notes that McKinley Park is “very incompletely and poorly developed.”
- Circa 1910 Streetcar tracks removed from within the park and replaced with a palm-lined drive.

McKinley Park

Sacramento, California
County and State

Name of Property

- 1911 The City annexes East Sacramento into its boundaries, and allocates funding for the park's upkeep.
- 1913 City creates a Board of Park Directors to manage park-related issues, including McKinley Park's mosquito infestation.
- 1916 E Street is extended, creating McKinley Boulevard as the north border of McKinley Park.
- 1916 An auto camp is established in McKinley Park's panhandle area to serve travelers on the transcontinental Lincoln Highway.
- 1918 George Sim is hired as Sacramento's first Superintendent of Playgrounds.
- 1920 Landscape architect Frederick Noble Evans is hired as Sacramento's first Superintendent of Parks.
- Circa 1920 Tennis courts are built.
- 1920 Residential development accelerates in the neighborhood around McKinley Park.
- 1921 Report of the Board of Park Directors extolls new plant nurseries, greenhouses, a playground for children, improved driveways, six tennis courts, an outdoor dance platform, and a running track.
- 1922 City approves the purchase and development of William Land Park, creating another destination park for Sacramento.
- 1923 The auto camp is closed due to objections from neighbors.
- 1927 McKinley Park zoo is closed, and animals are transferred to a new zoo at William Land Park.
- 1928 Parks Superintendent Evans begins planning the Rose Garden in McKinley Park. The oval form reflects the running track that previously occupied the site.
- 1929 Planting in the Rose Garden begins with roses suitable for Sacramento's hot summer weather.
- 1929 Original wood frame clubhouse is torn down.
- 1936 Florence Turton Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and Pool are constructed.
- 1940 The federal Works Progress Administration (WPA, a New Deal relief agency) encircles the park with sidewalks.
- 1940 The Sacramento Rose Society (SRS) is established. Frederick Evans is among the founding members. Members provide annual winter pruning in January. The volunteer service continues to the present.
- 1946 The Rose Garden is named after landscape architect Frederick Noble Evans, Sacramento's first Superintendent of Parks.
- Circa 1954 The G Street extension cuts into the southwest corner of the park with the intention to relieve congestion and to provide more parking.
- 1958 The Garden & Arts Center is constructed, becoming the last major addition to McKinley Park.
- 1972 The Garden & Arts Center is named for Iva Gard Shepard.
- 1973 A renovation of the Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden is accomplished.
- 1976 New playground equipment is installed in the children's area.
- 1980 Baseball diamond is named in honor of George "Butter" Cole, who promoted amateur baseball in Sacramento from the 1930s.
- 1981 A proposal to install a parking lot on the park's northwest corner results in strong neighborhood opposition and the plan is defeated.

McKinley Park

Sacramento, California
County and State

Name of Property

- Circa 1985 The courtyard garden at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center is redesigned as a Japanese-style garden with stones and a small pond.
- 1986 A proposal to expand the Shepard Garden & Arts Center to add more parking is defeated by organized neighbors to preserve lawn areas and to limit traffic.
- 1987 A 1.1-mile crushed granite running track is constructed around the perimeter of the park to address muddy conditions and protect tree roots.
- 1988 An island in Lake Kiesel is built to provide habitat and nesting ground for the ducks and geese.
- 1994 A new community-built playground is installed.
- 1996 Improvements to the edge of Lake Kiesel are made to address erosion, including installation of a stone edge constructed from former Sacramento street paving stones. A new pathway around the lake also is installed.
- 1997 Accessibility improvements are made to the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse.
- 2008 Members of the Sacramento Rose Society (SRS) begin to explore McKinley Park Rose Garden Beautification and Restoration Project.
- 2009 SRS meets with the City architect to implement the proposal submitted to Sacramento Parks Department, and provides seed money for the renovation. Friends of McKinley Park Rose Garden is formed to help raise funds through Gifts to Share/McKinley Park Rose Garden Restoration Project, a 501(c)3 non-profit.
- 2009 Rose growers help to supply bare root roses, soil, and fertilizer. City provides funding for new irrigation system and paved areas, with additional community contributions from a private foundation and individuals.
- 2010 SRS members and volunteer labor, including AmeriCorps teams and the Sacramento County Sheriff's crew, provide initial planting of 800 roses.
- 2011 Due to budgetary constraints, the city proposes to close the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse.
- 2011 Planting of the renovated Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden is completed.
- 2012 Friends of East Sacramento leases and assumes operation of the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse, and establishes the Clunie Community Center.
- 2012 City completes a renovation of the Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden with a new irrigation system and accessibility improvements. Friends of East Sacramento sign a long-term lease for management of the rose garden.
- 2012 Playground is destroyed by fire.
- 2013 Playground is rebuilt. Restroom and picnic shelter also are added as part of the project.

McKinley Park
Name of Property

Sacramento, California
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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LD Research & Writing. *McKinley Park Historic District Project, Phase I: Research, Writing & Recommendations*. June 2012 Draft. Unpublished research report.

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Norton, Merren Gillis. *Achievements – A History of the Tuesday Club of Sacramento, California*. 1933. California State Library.

Phillips, Kerry C. *Sacramento Park Neighborhoods*. StoneBridge Properties, LLC, 2009.

RHAA Landscape Architects. *Sacramento McKinley Park Cultural Landscape Report*. January 2018.

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Sacramento Tree Foundation. *The Magnificent Trees of McKinley Park*. Brochure, no date.

Schuyler, David. *The New Urban Landscape – The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.

United States Geologic Survey. *TopoView* website. <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/maps/topoview/>. Source for historic topographic maps.

McKinley Park
Name of Property

Sacramento, California
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # CA-133

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

- Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center (Center for Sacramento History)
- Sacramento Public Library
- California State Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

McKinley Park
Name of Property

Sacramento, California
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property 33

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.575043° | Longitude: -121.464160° |
| 2. Latitude: 38.578153° | Longitude: -121.462814° |
| 3. Latitude: 38.576700° | Longitude: -121.457205° |
| 4. Latitude: 38.575901° | Longitude: -121.457591° |
| 5. Latitude: 38.576436° | Longitude: -121.459637° |
| 6. Latitude: 38.574092° | Longitude: -121.460660° |



Location Map



McKinley Park
Name of Property

Sacramento, California
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The McKinley Park property consists of two Sacramento County parcels 003-0010-002 and 004-0221-001. The property is bounded by Alhambra Boulevard, McKinley Boulevard, 35th Street, Park Way, 33rd Street, and H Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundary is defined by the edge of the streets surrounding the park and is measured from the face of curb inward, inclusive of existing curb and sidewalk.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Douglas Nelson, Historical Landscape Architect
organization: RHAA Landscape Architects
street & number: 225 Miller Ave.
city or town: Mill Valley state: CA zip code: 94941
e-mail doug@rhaa.com
telephone: 415-383-7900
date: May 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

McKinley Park

Name of Property

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: McKinley Park
City or Vicinity: Sacramento
County: Sacramento
State: California
Photographer: Douglas Nelson
Date Photographed: see description

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

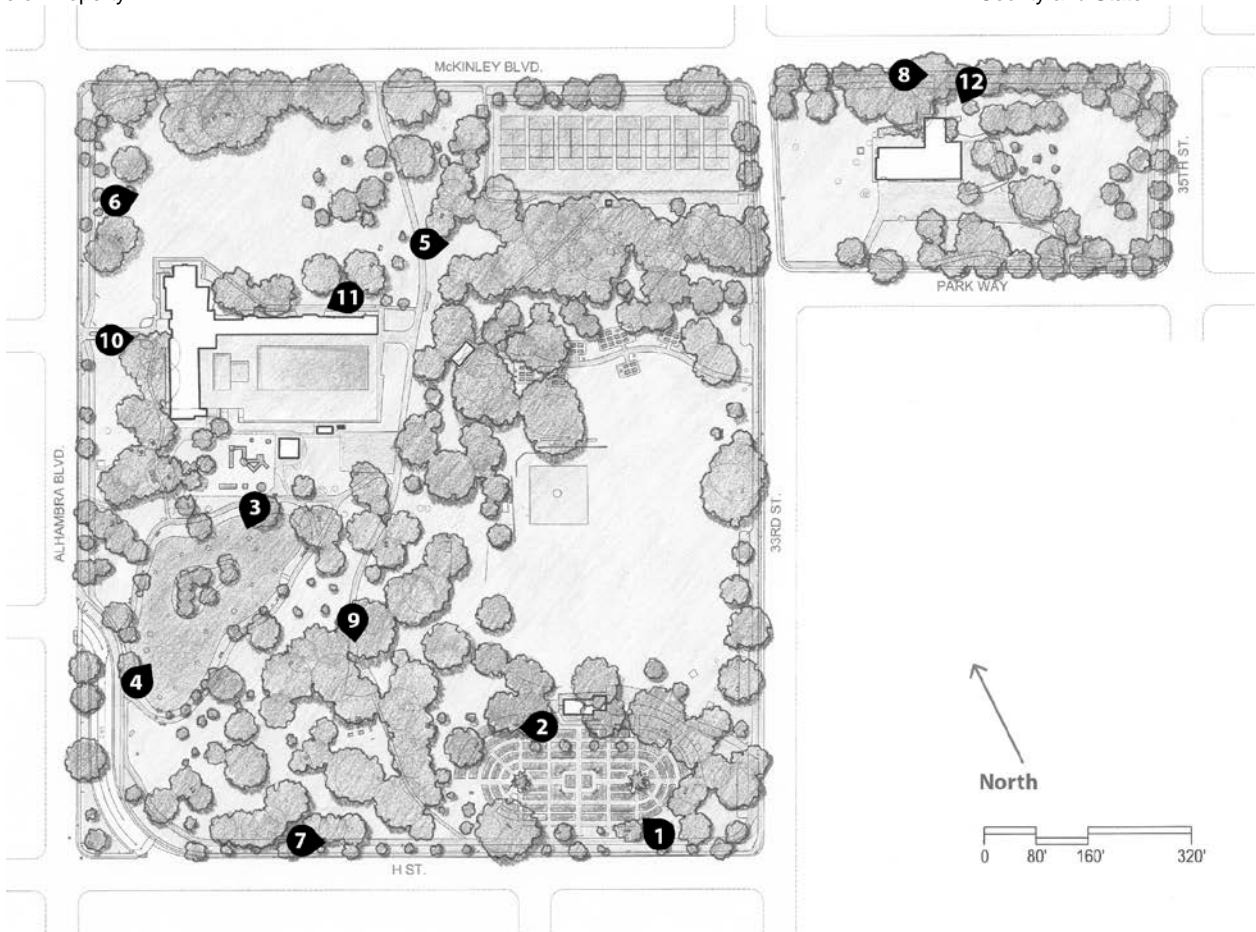
- 1 of 12. Rose Garden, looking north. April 13, 2016.
- 2 of 12. Rose Garden, looking west. April 28, 2016.
- 3 of 12. Lake Kiesel, looking southwest. April 28, 2016.
- 4 of 12. Lake Kiesel, looking northeast. April 13, 2016.
- 5 of 12. Grove of mature trees, looking east. April 28, 2016.
- 6 of 12. Sports field bordered by mature trees, looking east. April 28, 2016.
- 7 of 12. Running path along H Street, looking southeast. November 22, 2016.
- 8 of 12. Running path along McKinley Boulevard, looking southeast. November 22, 2016.
- 9 of 12. Path and picnic area among mature trees, looking south. November 22, 2016.
- 10 of 12. Clunie Memorial Clubhouse, looking east. April 28, 2016.
- 11 of 12. Pool House entrance, looking west. November 22, 2016.
- 12 of 12. Garden & Arts Center entrance, looking southwest. November 22, 2016.

McKinley Park

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Photograph Locations

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.).

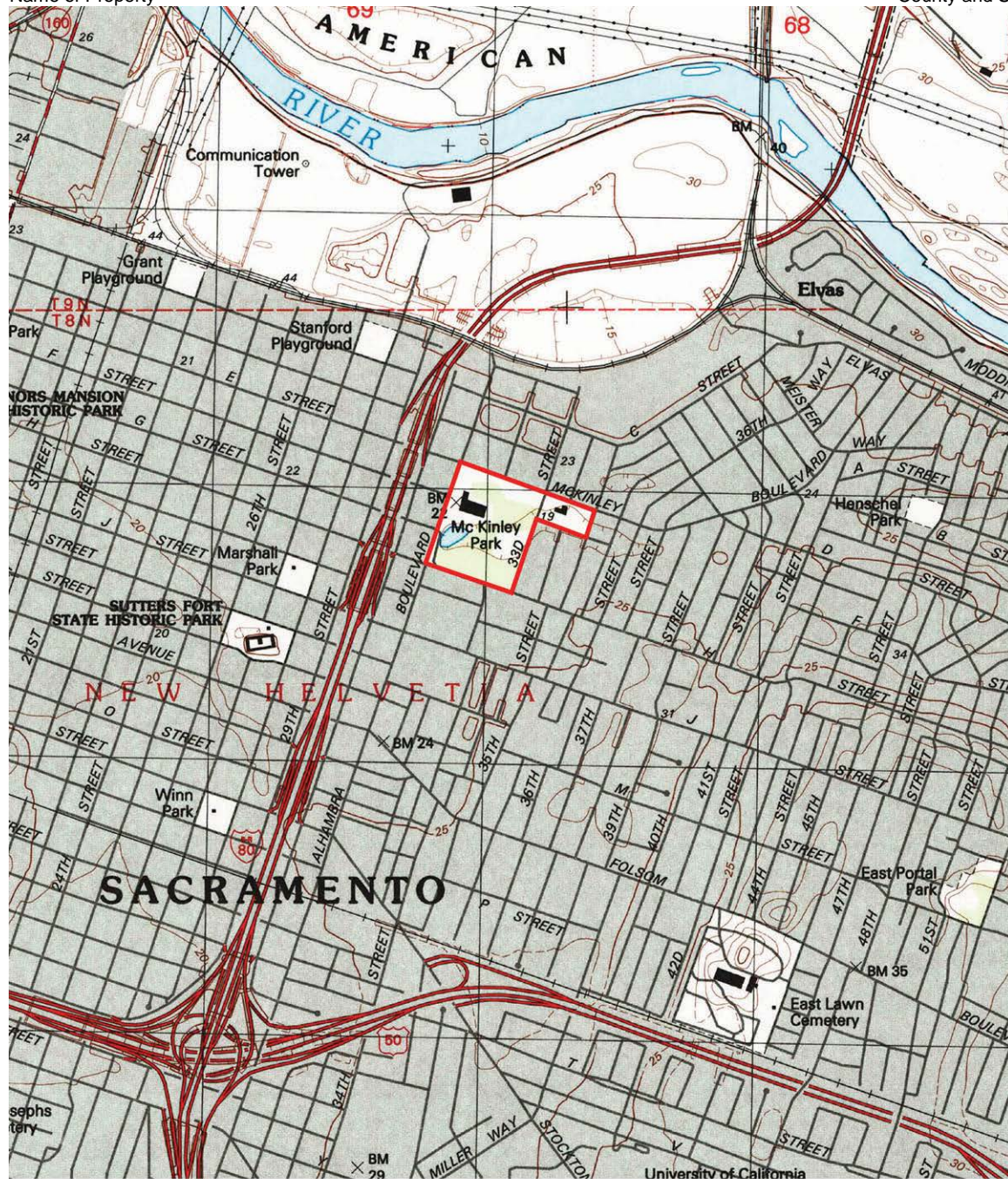
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

McKinley Park

Name of Property

Sacramento, California

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USGS Sacramento East 7.5-Minute Series, 1992

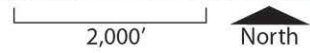
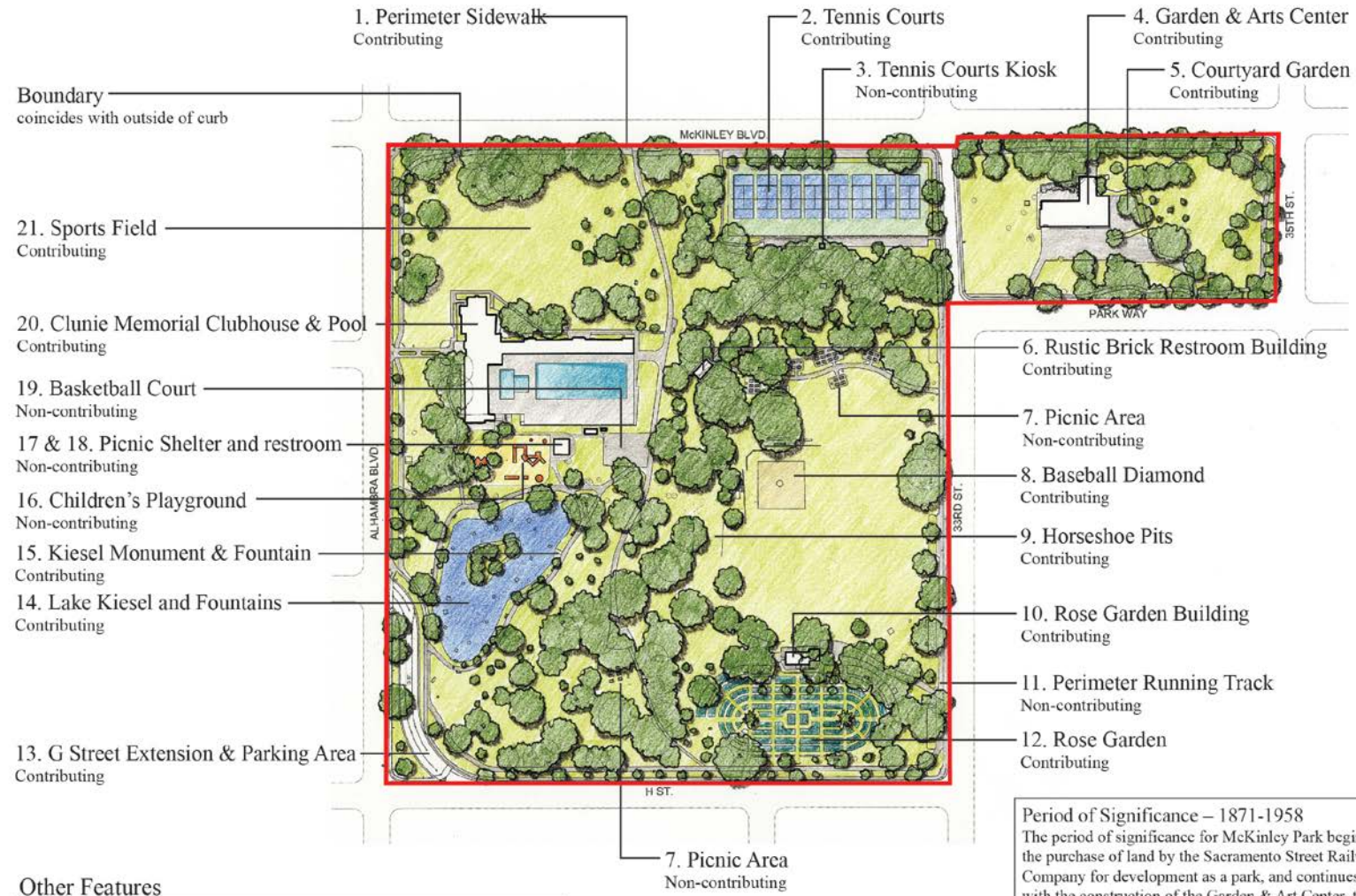


Figure 1. USGS Map

McKinley Park
 Name of Property

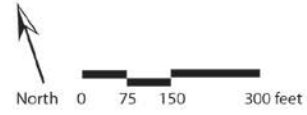
Sacramento, California
 County and State

Figure 2. Existing Conditions



Period of Significance – 1871-1958
 The period of significance for McKinley Park begins with the purchase of land by the Sacramento Street Railway Company for development as a park, and continues to 1958 with the construction of the Garden & Art Center, the last major addition to McKinley Park.

- Other Features**
- 22. Spatial organization - forest/meadow relationship - Contributing
 - 23. Topography - Contributing
 - 24. Vegetation - Contributing
 - 25. Circulation system - pedestrian paths - Contributing
 - 26. Park light standards - Contributing
 - 27. Irrigation system - Non-contributing

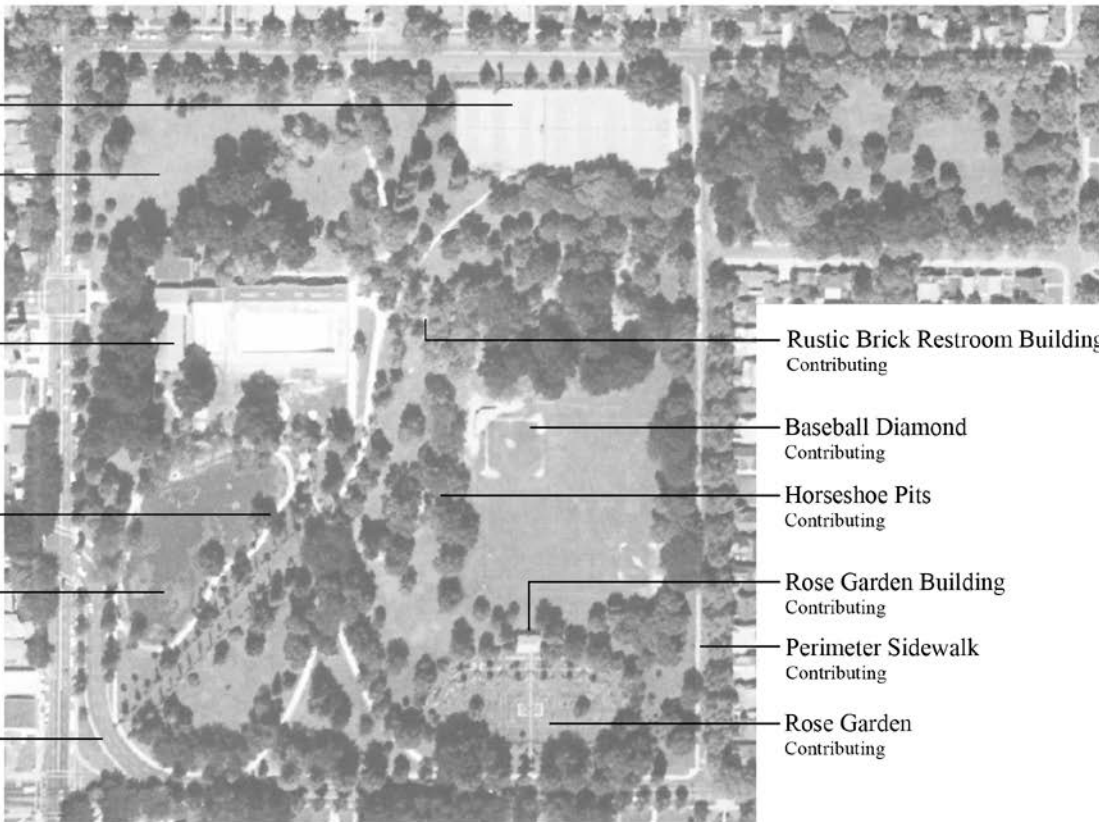


McKinley Park
 Sacramento, CA

5/22/18

McKinley Park
 Name of Property

Sacramento, California
 County and State



1957 Aerial Photograph - Source: historicaerials.com

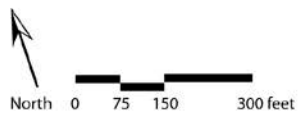
Figure 3. 1957 Aerial Photograph

1957 Aerial Photograph
 Showing Contributing Features Present Near
 the End of the Period of Significance (1871-1958)

Other Features

- Spatial organization - forest/meadow relationship - Contributing
- Topography - Contributing
- Vegetation - Contributing
- Circulation system - pedestrian paths - Contributing
- Park light standards - Contributing

5/22/18



McKinley Park
 Sacramento, CA

McKinley Park
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County and State

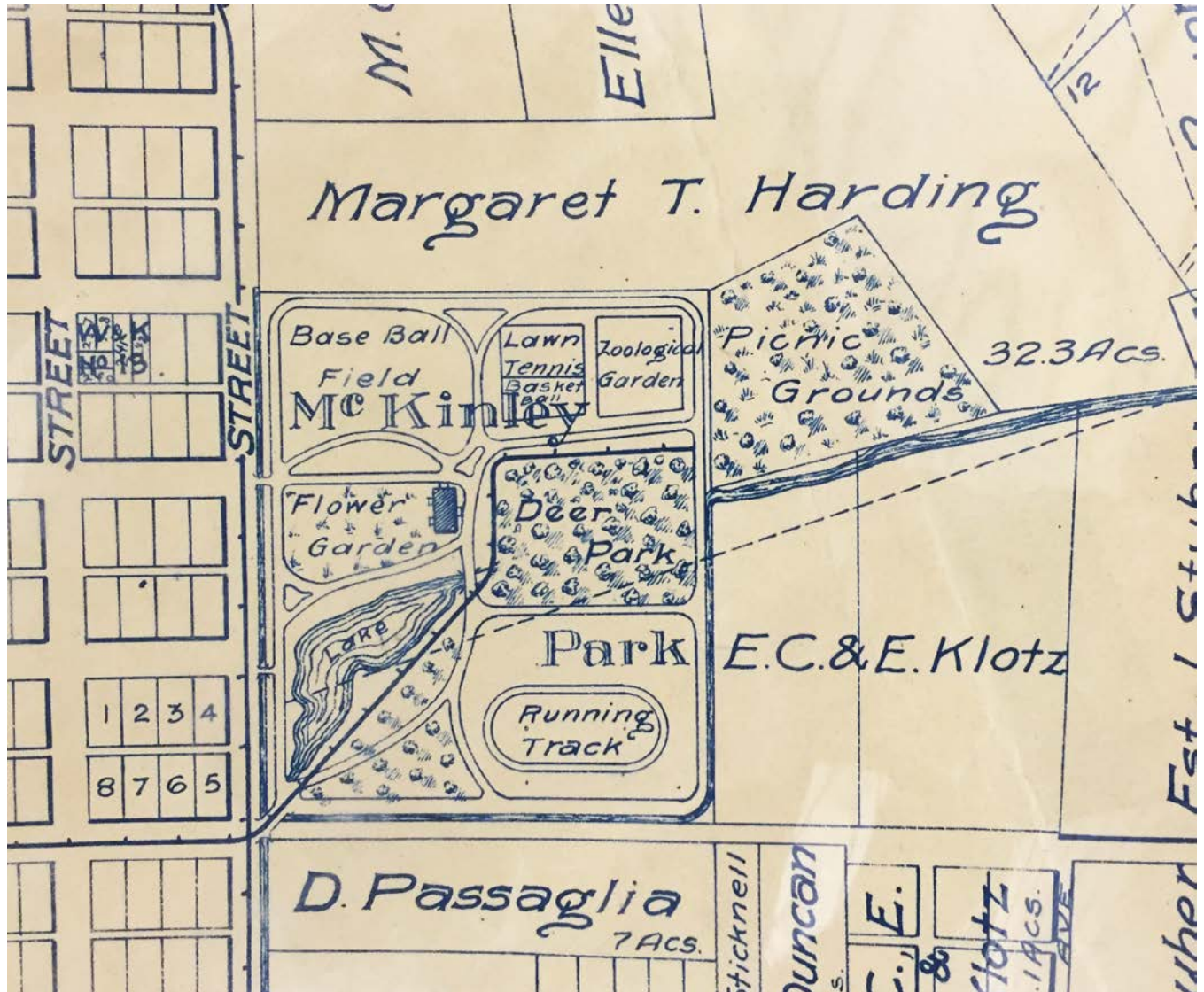


Figure 4. 1908. Official Map of Sacramento City and Suburban Tracts (detail). *California State Library*

McKinley Park
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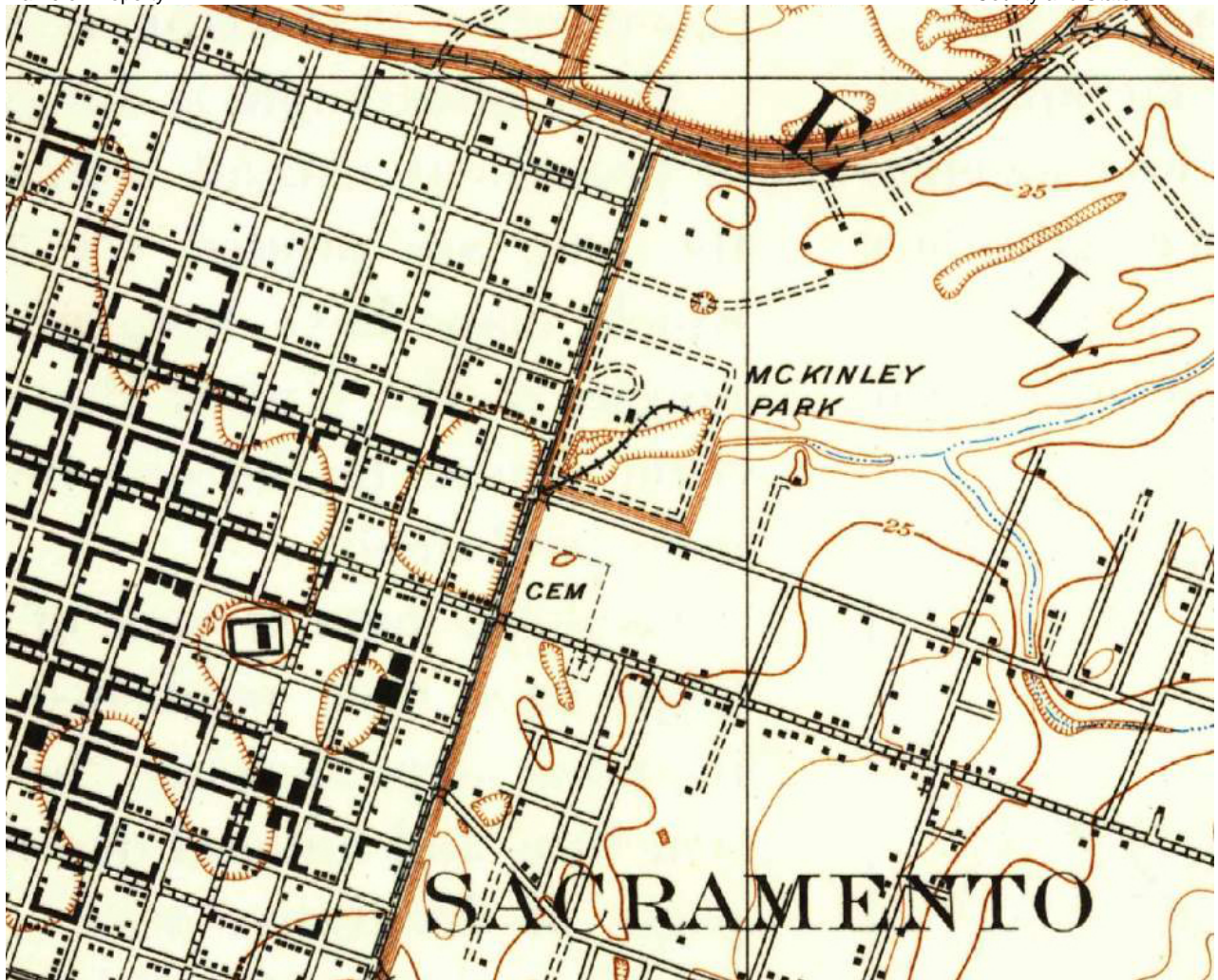


Figure 5. 1911 USGS Brighton quadrangle 1:31680 series (detail). *USGS Topo View*.

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Figure 6. 1894. East driveway in East Park. *Center for Sacramento History.*

McKinley Park
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Figure 7. 1906. Young Men's Institute baseball team at McKinley Park. *Center for Sacramento History.*

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Figure 8. 1912. Lake Kiesel and rustic deck. *Center for Sacramento History.*

McKinley Park
Name of Property

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Figure 9. Undated photograph of Lake Kiesel. *California State Library.*

McKinley Park
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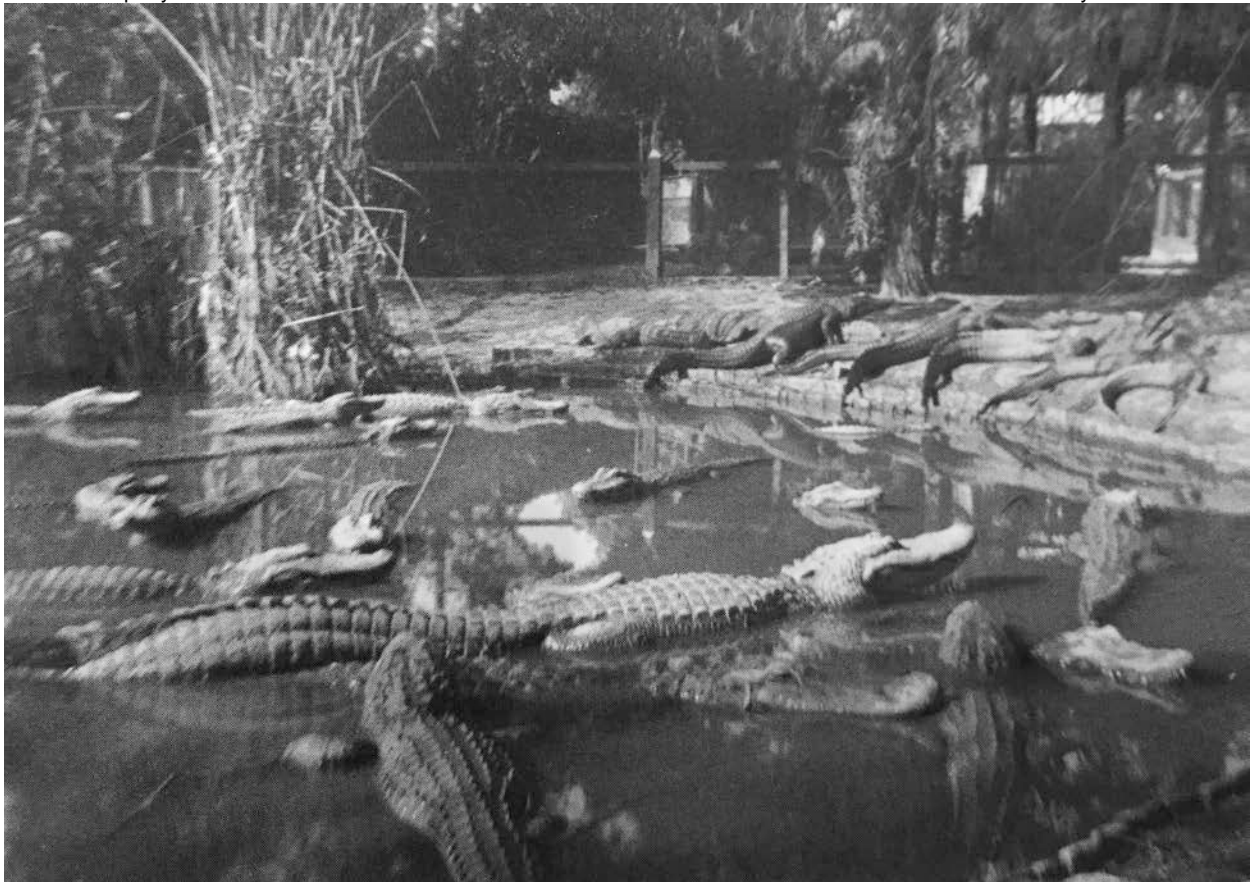


Figure 10. 1914. Alligators at the zoo at McKinley Park. *Center for Sacramento History.*

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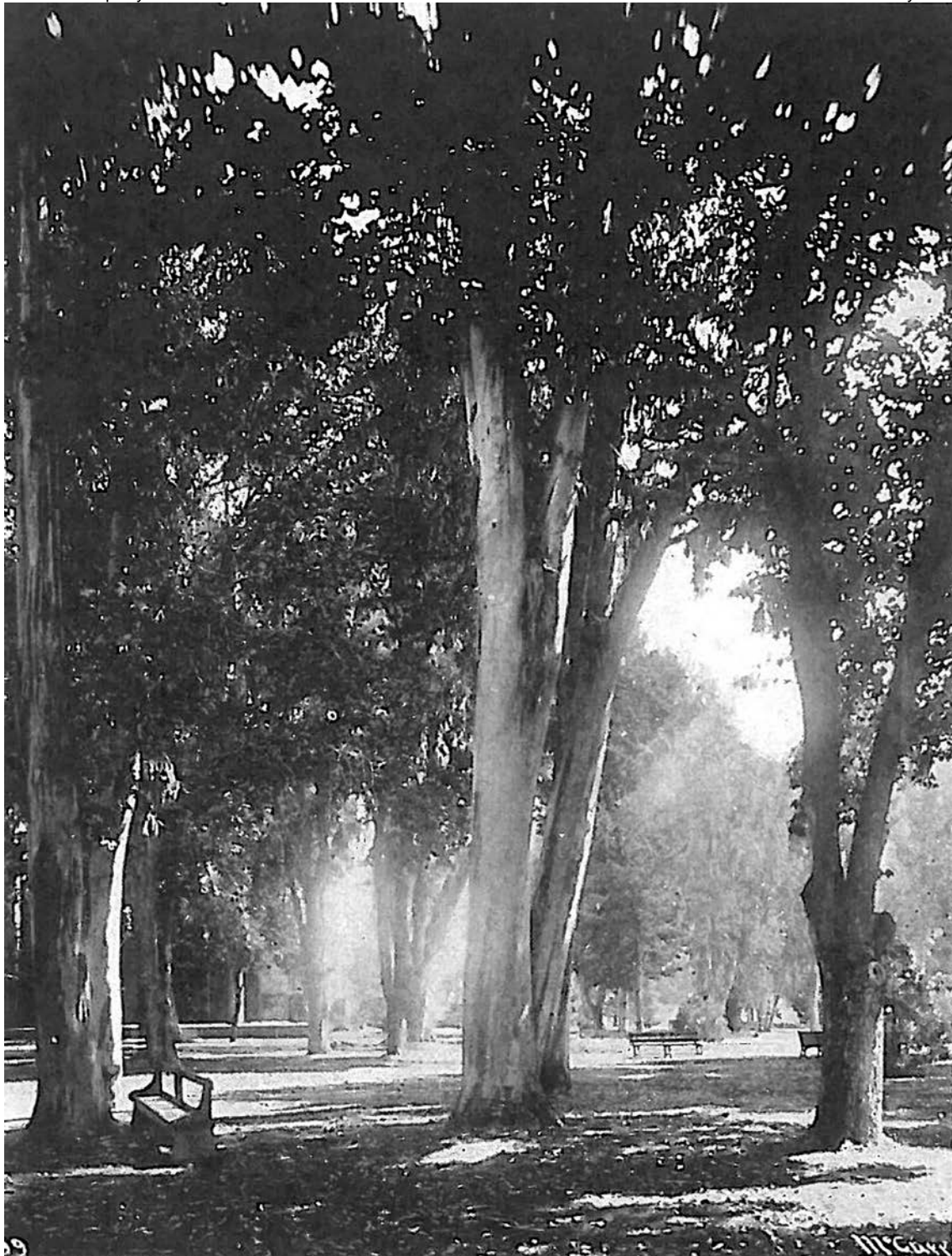


Figure 11. 1921. Eucalyptus grove. *Sacramento Public Library.*

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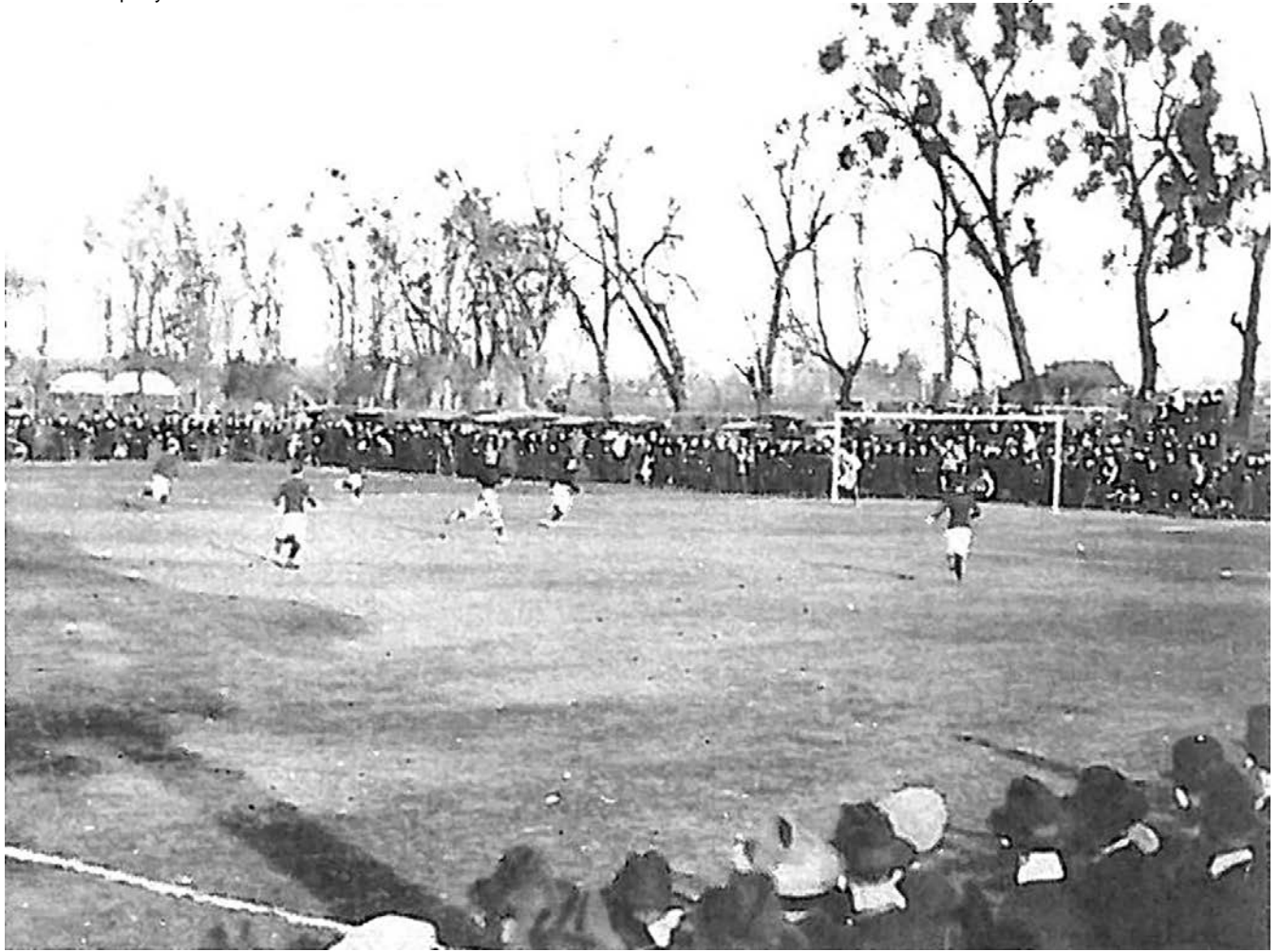


Figure 12. 1921. Soccer game at McKinley Park. *Sacramento Public Library.*

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Figure 13. 1922. Baseball game at McKinley Park. *Center for Sacramento History.*

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Figure 14. 1927. Lake Kiesel. *California State Library.*

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Figure 15. Circa 1930. Rose Garden. *Center for Sacramento History.*

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Figure 16. 1937. Rose Garden. *Center for Sacramento History.*

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Figure 17. 1938. Clunie Memorial Clubhouse. *California State Library.*

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Figure 18. 1938. Pool entrance and bathhouse. *California State Library.*

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Figure 19. 1937. Pool and bathhouse. *Sacramento Public Library.*

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Figure 20. 1938. Playground and basketball court at the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse.
California State Library.

McKinley Park
Name of Property

Sacramento, California
County and State

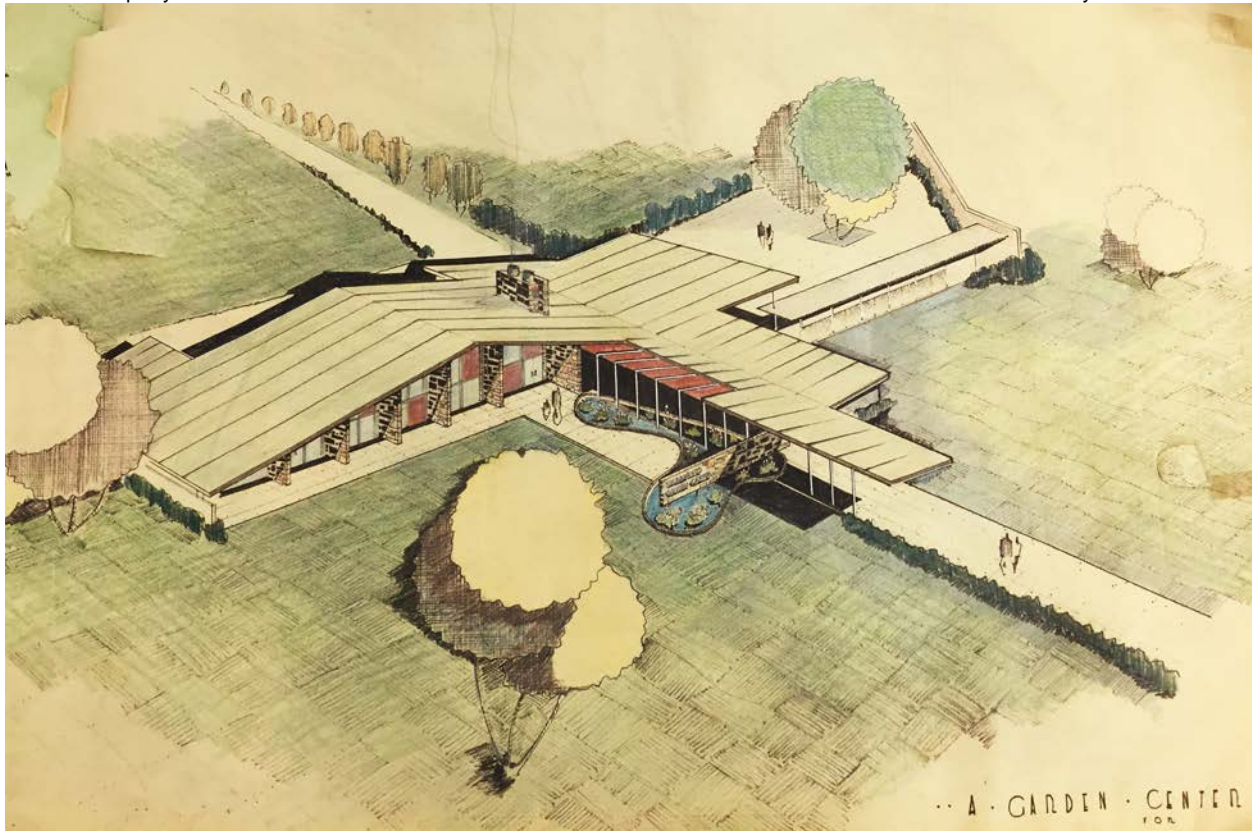


Figure 21. 1953. Architectural rendering of the Garden & Arts Center by Francischi & Mullen Architects. *Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department.*

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Figure 22. Circa 1953. Intersection of Alhambra Boulevard and H Street. Palm Drive roadway has been removed and replaced with lawn, but the allée of palms is still very prominent. The additional parking and roadway at this corner of the park is yet to be constructed. *Center for Sacramento History.*

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Figure 23. 1955. Pool and bathhouse. *Sacramento Public Library.*



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TEEN (13-17)	8.00
CHILD (6-12)	5.00
INFANT (2-5)	3.00
MEMBER	10.00
GROUP	15.00
STUDENT	5.00
SENIOR (65+)	5.00
DISABLED	5.00
ADULT	12.00
TEEN	8.00
CHILD	5.00
INFANT	3.00
MEMBER	10.00
GROUP	15.00
STUDENT	5.00
SENIOR	5.00
DISABLED	5.00

NO SWIMMING
NO RUNNING
NO BIKES
NO BALLS
NO FOOD OR DRINK
NO GLASS

NO SWIMMING
NO RUNNING
NO BIKES
NO BALLS
NO FOOD OR DRINK
NO GLASS

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NO RUNNING
NO BIKES
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NO BALLS
NO FOOD OR DRINK
NO GLASS



I VA GARD SHEPARD
GARDEN & ARTS CENTER
CITY OF SACRAMENTO



National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: McKinley Park

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: CALIFORNIA, Sacramento

Date Received: 9/4/2018 Date of Pending List: 10/1/2018 Date of 16th Day: 10/16/2018 Date of 45th Day: 10/19/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003036

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 10/18/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: McKinley Park is of state and local significance under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Landscape Architecture, Community Planning and Development, and Recreation/Entertainment. Established in 1872, as an early streetcar system "destination" park (pleasure ground) on the outskirts of Sacramento, the park became an important civic amenity and catalyst for the expanding city's East Side neighborhood. Capitalizing on the open naturalistic landscape the park would eventually house a branch library facility, a public clubhouse/auditorium, a public pool, and an expansive rose garden, along with more structured play and recreation areas, developed in association with the Progressive-era reformed parks movement of the early twentieth century. The park was among the state's earliest examples of the nineteenth century urban parks movement. While individual features have been updated over the years, the park's main built elements and natural features retain a high-level of overall integrity.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criteria A and C

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229 Date 10/18/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

McKinley Park
Sacramento, Sacramento County, California
National Register of Historic Places

McKinley Park is a 33 acre city park, including 19 contributors (3 buildings, 13 sites, 1 structure and 2 objects) and 8 non-contributors (5 sites, 3 structures) located in the McKinley Park neighborhood of Sacramento, whose name derives from its association with the nominated property. The park was located on the site of a former slough, which became the park's major water feature, Lake Kiesel. The trees, meadows, and curving circulation paths follow naturalistic 19th century urban park styles. Major features of the park include the 1928 rose garden planned by park superintendent Frederick Noble Evans, the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse, built in 1936 and designed by Harry Devine with Starks & Flanders, and the Iva Gard Shepard Garden and Art Center, completed in 1958 by Franchesci & Mullen. Other contributing elements include Lake Kiesel, the Frederick Birdsall Kiesel monument, a rustic brick restroom, baseball diamond and horseshoe pits, tennis courts and perimeter sidewalk.

The property is nominated under Criteria A in the areas of Recreation and Community Planning & Development, at the state level of significance. Originally called East Park and developed in 1872 as a streetcar park, the property is one of the oldest examples of the 19th century urban parks movement in the western United States; only San Francisco's Golden Gate Park is older. The park was privately owned until 1902, when the Tuesday Club, a Sacramento women's organization, convinced park owner Albert Gallatin to donate the club to the City of Sacramento and rename it after President William McKinley, who was assassinated in 1901. During the twentieth century, stewardship of the park was guided by the park reform movement, including replacement of earlier private park buildings with new, public owned civic buildings, sites, and structures.

In the area of community planning and development, the property is significant as a streetcar park. Located at the end of the City Street Railway streetcar line, originally mule-drawn and later electrified, then consolidated into the Sacramento Electric, Gas & Railway Company, the park spurred residential development on Sacramento's eastern perimeter, within and outside Sacramento's original city limits.

Under Criterion C, the property is locally significant in the area of landscape architecture, including elements of naturalistic landscape design from the 19th Century and 20th Century Park Reform Movement design. Much of the 20th Century park design is credited to landscape architect Frederic Noble Evans, Sacramento's first appointed Superintendent of Parks. The overall period of significance for the property is 1871-1958, from the park's initial construction to the completion of the Iva Gard Shepard Garden & Art Center.

The property is nominated by a third party, Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park, LLC.

As a Certified Local Government, the City of Sacramento's Preservation Director and Preservation Commission provided two letters of review and comment regarding the nomination. Comments requesting more detailed assessment of contributing and non-contributing properties were reviewed and considered by staff and the applicant as part of the RFI process, and responses were integrated into the final draft of the nomination. The letters also stated that the Preservation Commission and Director considered the property eligible and support the nomination, but sought additional clarification. The nomination has also received twenty-one letters of support and one letter of opposition from a member of the public, Paul Noble of East Sacramento Improvement Association. The nominating party provided a separate letter of support for the nomination. The City of Sacramento's Department of Parks also provided a letter of comment regarding eligibility of individual resources.

Regarding eligibility of individual resources, as mentioned by the City of Sacramento's Parks Department's comment letter, the nomination in its revised form identifies contributing and non-contributing resources within the park, including brief descriptions of each property and an overall statement addressing the historic integrity of the park via the seven aspects of integrity. As a district nomination, it is not necessary to explain in detail why each contributor is eligible, as that historic context information is included in Section 7, Property Description, and Section 8, Statement of Significance. Similarly, it is not necessary for a National Register of Historic Places nomination to detail every minor feature of a district for eligibility or ineligibility. The district retains sufficient historic integrity for listing under Criteria A and C.

The letter of opposition, submitted by the East Sacramento Improvement Association, provides the following reasons for objection: Lack of community engagement and outreach, lack of understanding on implications of listing, historic significance of park features is unclear, nomination was intended to stop a planned project on the site, and the nomination should have been initiated by the City of Sacramento. In response, the nomination was noticed and local government informed in accordance with 36 CFR 60 and applicable state regulations, including public posting of the nomination. The City of Sacramento's Preservation Commission held two public hearings regarding the nomination, providing feedback but indicating that the city of Sacramento's position was supportive of the nomination. The City of Sacramento has multiple historic parks, including those listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and a historic preservation program and preservation director, so the applicable public authorities already understand how to manage historic resources. No members of the public have contacted our office with questions regarding these issues. As mentioned above, it is not necessary for each contributing element to demonstrate individual significance, and the significance of these features in context of a district is sufficiently explained in the nomination. There is no requirement that only a local government may submit a

National Register nomination; any member of the public may nominate any property. Regarding the project on the site, planned projects or outside economic or social considerations are not considered by National Register nominations; only the eligibility of the resource is considered.

Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission determine McKinley Park eligible under Criteria A and C, at the state level of significance, with a period of significance of 1871-1958. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

William Burg
State Historian II
August 1, 2018

April 18, 2018

Ms. Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95816-7100

ATTN: Registration Unit

Subject: Sacramento Preservation Commission Review and Comment – McKinley Park National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Nomination

Good Day Ms. Polanco:

Pursuant to the Certified Local Government (CLG) Agreement between the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and the City of Sacramento, the City is writing on behalf of its Preservation Commission to provide comments on the draft nomination to the NRHP of McKinley Park, located east and northward from the corner of H Street and Alhambra Boulevard, and referenced more specifically as 601 Alhambra Boulevard and 3300 McKinley Boulevard.

At its March 21, 2018 meeting, the Preservation Commission reviewed and commented on the draft nomination, and also received public comment on the matter. Public comment revealed some concern about the implications of NRHP listing on a park from an operational standpoint; however, pursuant to its mandate under CLG Agreement procedures, the Commission confined its discussion strictly to historical scholarship concerns related to whether the property meets the criteria for listing on the NRHP.

Based upon its historical associations and design features, the commission expressed unanimous support for the nomination of McKinley Park to the NRHP. It also, however, expressed significant concerns about the nomination in its current written form. Although it was generally agreed that the nomination contains most of the information necessary to support its claims of historic significance there was a consensus that major redrafting and reorganization of the information is needed; that, in particular, a stronger justification for the period of significance and stronger delineation of contributing versus non-contributing resources is called for. Examples include features that actually post-date the period of significance, as well as the nomination's current "Small Scale Features" discussion. It was recommended that that discussion include a forthright analysis of all the such features, using that evaluation to categorize each as either contributing or non-contributing. Making a distinction between monuments from the recent past of a purely commemorative nature and monuments of an historical nature was viewed a way to aid the preparer in determining what features are properly classified as contributing. A more detailed documentation of how the park features evolved over time would also support that assessment of contributing versus non-contributing features (helpful documentary sources could include sequentially presented aerial photography, maps, historic photographs, for example).

Other comments made by the commission focused on the claims made in the Narrative Statement of Significance. The commission questioned claims that features in the park can be accurately classified as having regional significance, as opposed to purely local, statewide or national significance. Further evaluation of the Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden was also recommended in order to confirm its design integrity and significance, potentially within a statewide public rose garden historic context.

A small number of public comments were received at the commission meeting. A majority of the commenters supported the nomination while several other commenters voiced concerns related to future operational needs of the park. In response, the commission suggested that City's Park Planning & Development Services Section involve community stakeholders in formulating ways to accommodate the park's evolving program needs consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.

The City understands the importance of providing comments on NRHP nominations and welcomed this opportunity to offer its input. In the event you have any questions concerning the comments provided here please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Carson Anderson, Preservation Director
Planning Division, City of Sacramento
916.808.8259
canderson@cityofsacramento.org

Attachment

cc Sacramento Preservation Commission
Raymond Costantino, Senior Planner, Park Planning & Development Services
The Honorable Jeff Harris, Councilmember, District 3
The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Mayor, City of Sacramento

July 6, 2018

Ms. Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95816-7100

ATTN: Registration Unit

Subject: Sacramento Preservation Commission Review and Comment on the REVISED McKinley Park National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Nomination (Revision Dated 05/31/18)

Good Day Ms. Polanco:

Consistent with its Certified Local Government (CLG) Agreement with the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), the City of Sacramento, is writing on behalf of its Preservation Commission to provide comments on the REVISED draft nomination to the NRHP of McKinley Park, located east and northward from the corner of H Street and Alhambra Boulevard, and referenced more specifically as 601 Alhambra Boulevard and 3300 McKinley Boulevard.

At its June 20, 2018 meeting – similar to its previous review on March 21, 2018 – the Preservation Commission reviewed and commented on the updated draft nomination (bearing the date of May 31, 2018). Commission discussion focused strictly on historical scholarship concerns related to whether the property meets the NRHP criteria for listing. An opportunity was also afforded the public to comment on the matter.

As expanded, the historic significance narrative was considered persuasive, and it was again the unanimous view of the individual commissioners present that McKinley Park appears eligible for the NRHP based upon its strong historical associations (e.g., recreation, community planning and development history per Criterion A) and landscape architecture design significance as an urban park (per Criterion C). Although it was generally agreed that the nomination contains most of the information necessary to support its claims of historic significance there was also a consensus that an expanded discussion of contributing resources is still required. Specifically, a more robust discussion of integrity (and in certain instances, boundary delineations) and stronger inclusion rationales should be provided for certain of the park features that are currently classified as “contributing.” (e.g., “Baseball Diamond;” and tennis courts that appear to date from the recent past) Detailed examples include the following:

- Water Feature (Section 8 page 9). The nomination states that Lake Kiesel “..retains historic form, design and character.” While it appears true that the lake retains its overall form and integrity of location, the other aspects of integrity potentially lost due to several past design interventions that occurred in 1988, 2017 and earlier, are not clearly discussed.
- Horticultural Features (Section 8 page 9). In referring to the rose garden the nomination states that “..mature trees around the perimeter contribute to the setting.” Which trees are they and in what way do they contribute to the setting around the Frederick N. Evans Rose Garden (e.g., in terms of massing,

height, form, color or other design attributes)? What features other than the pathway placements and concrete bands that edge the flower beds convey the garden's historic character? Are the steel arbors original or do they replicate similar historic garden elements? More discussion is warranted to substantiate how the garden "...retains .. overall form and design." Also, per the direction provided by the commission at its March 21st meeting, has additional research been completed that makes the case for discussion of the Frederick N. Evans Rose Garden within a broader statewide rose garden context?

- Buildings and Structures (Section 8 page 9). Based on the historic photos included as part of the nomination, the Rose Garden Building appears to be significantly remodeled but the nomination does not explain how it retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a structure originally built in the late 1920s. Is there an historical association with the adjoining rose garden that is significant? If so, that needs to be explained. What is the significance of the building being used over several decades as a pre-school facility in terms of the historical themes for which the park is being nominated as a whole?
- Small Scale Features (Section 8 page 10). These features have not been classified as to type, nor have they been sorted as to whether they date from the period of significance or post-date it. A clear tally of contributing resources versus non-contributing resources, sorted as to approximate time of installation, is needed in order to more fully assess the design character and integrity of the park.
- Individual Park Features (Section 8 page 11). The discussion of the Japanese Garden mentions that it dates from c1985, and hence, post-dates the period of significance; however, the discussion does not clarify why it continues to be classified as a contributing resource. Does it implement original landscape design intentions for the garden that were not realized when the building was originally constructed in 1958? Does the garden reinstitute a landscape treatment that was lost over time? If neither circumstance applies, does the garden meet criteria for exceptional significance (NRHP Criterion G)?

In addition, it is unclear from reading the nomination why significance only at the state level is being considered under Criterion A and only at the local level of significance is being considered under Criterion C. The rationale for listing at a national level of significance appears to be equally, or possibly better supported, by the nomination's current language.

The City understands the importance of providing comments on NRHP nominations and welcomed this opportunity to offer additional input. In the event you have any questions concerning the comments provided here please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carson Anderson, Preservation Director
 Planning Division, City of Sacramento
 916.808.8259
canderson@cityofsacramento.org

Attachment

cc Sacramento Preservation Commission
 Tom Pace, Planning Director
 Raymond Costantino, Senior Planner, Park Planning & Development Services
 The Honorable Jeff Harris, Councilmember, District 3
 The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Mayor, City of Sacramento



4/30/2018

Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Julianne Polanco,

This letter is regarding McKinley Park National Register of Historic Places Nomination (File M18-004). City of Sacramento, Department of Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment has reviewed the nomination for McKinley Park to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places and the department has concerns about the overall breadth of the nomination that includes nineteen separate park features. There are some features that seem to have historic significance but given that this has implication for the future park development, we want to make sure that nominated features have historic value and supporting documentation. The nomination itself seems light on substantiating the historic significance of different features and there are some features that do not seem to be historic at all.

Our primary concern is that park be retained for the purposes of recreation and meeting the recreational needs of Sacramento residents. Classifying park feature as historic may limit the ability to update or rehabilitate different park features based on the current recreation trends. In addition, this nomination would add additional review and oversight to future park development which would increase project timelines and costs. This would be appropriate if a park feature indeed has historic value, however we question that some features are being nominated without supporting documentation of their historic significance. For example,

1. Tennis Courts- There is not sufficient information presented to determine that these courts have historic significance. Proponent should explain what exactly about these court has historic significance. Is it the location, the design, the material, or who played on the courts that makes these courts historic? Given that none of the original equipment remains there is loss of historic value.
2. Baseball Diamond- There is not sufficient information presented to determine that this baseball diamond has historic significance. Given that this is not the original location of the baseball diamond, nor the original equipment or materials, it does not seem to have historic significance.
3. Horseshoe Pits- There is not sufficient information presented to determine that these horseshoe pits have historic significance. Proponent should explain what exactly about these horseshoe pits has historic significance. Is it the location, the design, the material, or

Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Department
916-808-5200
915 I Street, Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

City of
SACRAMENTO
Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment

who played on the horseshoe pits that makes them historic? Given that the date of construction is unknown, the historic value is questionable.

4. Rose Garden Building- There is not sufficient information presented to determine that this building has historic significance. Proponent should explain what exactly about this building has historic significance. Is it the location, the design, the material, the adjacent rose garden or who designed/used the building that make it historic?
5. G Street Extension and Parking Area- There is not sufficient information presented to determine that this location or feature has historic significance. This area's purpose was to alleviate traffic congestion and provide additional parking for park visitors. Proponent should explain what exactly about this area has historic significance.
6. Northwest Sports Field- There is not sufficient information presented to determine that this site has historic significance. There is not a concrete date for when the field was first used, nor an indication of who specifically utilized the space. Proponent should explain what exactly about this field has historic significance.

Based on the current information presented it is uncertain if the above-mentioned park features can be designated as historic. City staff requests that a more rigorous review be conducted to determine if these features have historic significance.

Raymond Costantino



Senior Planner
City of Sacramento
rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org
916-808-1941

Cc: Jeff Harris, Council Member, City of Sacramento

Cc: Gary Hyden, Park Planning and Development Services Manager, City of Sacramento

Cc: Carson Anderson, Preservation Director, City of Sacramento

Cc: Friend of East Sacramento

Cc: Cecily Hastings

Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment Department
916-808-5200
915 I Street, Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED

MAY 03 2017

OHP



P. O. Box 10147
Sacramento, CA 95819

July 31, 2018

Office of Historic Preservation
Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Ms. Polanco,

This letter is regarding the McKinley Park National Register of Historic Places Nomination (FileM18-004). The East Sacramento Improvement Association (ESIA) has reviewed the nomination and has serious concerns. ESIA was formed in 1958 to protect, maintain, and improve the neighborhood, and represents approximately 500 households.

McKinley Park is a treasure to the East Sacramento community and serves as a significant neighborhood and regional recreation destination. We support efforts to improve the park to respond to changing needs, and efforts to enhance the viability of the Clunie Community Center, McKinley Rose Garden and Shepard Garden and Arts Center. In particular, we appreciate and support the efforts of the Friends of East Sacramento as a non-profit organization overseeing the programming of the Clunie Community Center and McKinley Rose Garden.

Our comments reiterate concerns expressed by the City of Sacramento and the Friends of East Sacramento. In summary:

- There has not been adequate community engagement on this important decision. No neighborhood outreach has occurred, either to immediate neighbors or the broader East Sacramento community.

- There is a lack of understanding on the implications of the designation and its effect on future improvements and programming. The cost of additional review and oversight could raise costs for the City and Friends of East Sacramento.
- The nomination is vague and it is not clear about the historic significance of many park features, such as the tennis courts and baseball diamond.
- The intent of this nomination is unclear, with indication that its purpose is to stop or hamper the McKinley Water Vault. The vault decision needs to stand on its own merits. If listing of the Park is beneficial to the community, then the nomination should have been initiated by the City of Sacramento with broad community support.

We support the preservation of truly historically significant resources at the Park, though we observe that everything that happens at McKinley Park is reviewed by the City to ensure compatibility with the City's historic ordinances, and the need for a National designation is not apparent.

ESIA recommends that the State Historic Preservation Commission not act on this nomination at this time. The ESIA Board of Directors voted (9-0) to take this position. Please feel free to contact me at noblep5@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Noble, President
East Sacramento Improvement Association

Cc: Friends of East Sacramento
Councilmember Jeff Harris

From: [Susan Ballew](#)
To: [Burg, William@Parks](mailto:Burg.William@Parks)
Subject: McKinley Park Nomination to NRHP -- Support
Date: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 10:00:37 AM

July 11, 2018

To: State Historical Resources Commission
From: Susan Henas
Subject: Nomination of McKinley Park to the NRHP – Support

I support the nomination of McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places and strongly urge you to list this historic resource on the national register.

McKinley Park deserves this recognition, not only because of the historic significance of the Park in Sacramento's early growth and development, but also because the Park's naturalistic landscape design reflects our cultural landscape heritage as well.

Historic photos and postcards of McKinley Park show a busy, bustling park with people enjoying the Park's amenities – swimming, baseball, dancing, strolling through the Rose Garden. It is still well-used and well-loved by visitors who want to experience a rural landscape in an urban setting.

Listing McKinley Park will give it the recognition it deserves as one of America's significant historic parks. Thank you for your consideration.



July 11, 2018

State Historic Preservation Officer, Julianne Polanco
State Historical Resources Commission
c/o William Burg, State Historian II - via email - william.burg@parks.ca.gov
Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Parks and Recreation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Re: Support Nomination by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park

Dear Ms. Polanco, Chair McKay, Commissioners, and Mr. Burg:

Please accept our letter of support for the nomination of the Sacramento's McKinley Park as a historic district to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sacramento Modern (SacMod) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, preserving and protecting modern art, architecture and design in the Sacramento region.

We concur with the findings in the nomination and applaud the effort to recognize and honor the importance of McKinley Park's landscape, features, buildings, and structures as a significant historic district. In particular, we reached the same conclusion for eligibility of the Iva Gard Shepard Garden and Arts Center in an independent evaluation.

Last year, SacMod participated in the [2017 Mid-Century Modern in the City of Sacramento Historic Context Statement and Survey](#) which conducted a separate and independent intensive evaluation of the Iva Gard Shepard Garden and Arts Center. Architectural historians from Mead & Hunt, Inc. evaluated the Center and concluded:

"The Iva Gard Shepard Garden & Arts Center meets National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria A and C, the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) Criteria 1 and 3, and the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources (Sacramento Register) Criteria i and iii for its association with important post-World War II development patterns in recreation and entertainment within the City of Sacramento and as a locally important example

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, preserving and protecting modern art, architecture and design in the Sacramento region.

Gretchen Steinberg 4910 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95822
gretchen@SacMod.org
SacMod.org

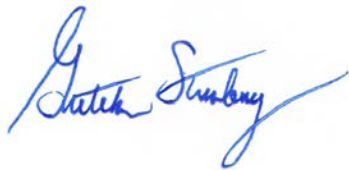
of Mid-century Modern architecture in Sacramento featuring post-and-beam construction that was designed by notable Sacramento architect Raymond R. Franceschi, AIA. The period of significance is 1958-1959 to encompass the completion of the building in 1958 and the Evans Garden Court in 1959 both designed by Franceschi.”

The DPR form that was completed by architectural historians/consultants from Mead & Hunt, Inc. regarding the Iva Gard Shepard Garden and Arts Center for the Sacramento Mid-Century Modern Historic Context Statement and Survey can be found on OHP’s site:

http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1054/files/Part2ContextStatement_20170930_Final.pdf

We hope you agree that Sacramento’s McKinley Park is eligible for designation to the National Register of Historic Places.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Steinberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gretchen Steinberg
President, Sacramento Modern



July 6, 2018

Mr. William Burg
State Historical Resources Commission
Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Re: Support for the nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places.

Dear Ms. Polanco, Commissioners, and Mr. Burg,

California ReLeaf is the Urban Forest Volunteer Coordinator for the State of California. In that role, we provide support and services to a network over 100 nonprofit and community groups who plant and care for urban trees in their neighborhoods. One of the fundamental principles of our work is that urban greenspace is critical to the health and well-being of Californians – 95% of whom live in cities and towns.

McKinley Park is a stellar example of a well-planned historic park designed to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the many community members who seek respite and revitalization from life's stresses. McKinley Park is renowned in Sacramento as the "best" park – with a glamour to which all other parks aspire. McKinley Park's historic charm and well-designed spaces attract a multitude of people from all over the city and region who come to play, run, practice yoga and tai chi, hang out with friends, as well as stroll the Rose Garden or engage with the community at the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse.

The trees and the naturalistic design are integral to the appeal of this well-used and well-loved park. The large trees provide shade for many of the park's activities while also defining the open meadows as well as the Rose Garden. The abundance of 500+ trees and 70+ tree species create a de facto arboretum, which is echoed in the nearby historic neighborhood. This park and neighborhood are also historically noteworthy in how **all** of it was created through the efforts of California residents.

California ReLeaf strongly supports the nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places, so that this park will continue as a beacon of historic park design that is beautiful and highly functional for Californians. We urge the State Historical Resources Commission to protect, preserve, and celebrate this beloved historical park by approving this nomination of McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration of this important nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cindy Blain", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Cindy Blain
Executive Director

August 3, 2018

State Historical Resources Commission
1725 23rd Street
Sacramento, California

Dear Commissioners,

East Sacramento Preservation, a neighborhood association working for a livable community, strongly urges you to continue listing McKinley Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

Here are only a few facts about the park's historical roots:


As local lore has it, the sidewalk was originally laid by the Works Project Administration under President Roosevelt.

In 1902, the Tuesday Club social organization urged the City of Sacramento to purchase the park - then known as East Park - and to rename it in honor of President William McKinley who was assassinated in 1901.

In 1913, the nation's first transcontinental highway was established and mapped. To provide travelers with an overnight place to stay, an auto camp was established in the panhandle area of McKinley Park in 1916.

Thank you for your consideration of the important facts that make McKinley Park a valued historical resource.

Sincerely,


Janet Maira, President

East Sacramento Preservation

The features we wish to see preserved at McKinlev Park include:

1. The historic main building with its banquet and smaller meeting rooms used by large and small groups daily.
2. The library where highly professional and friendly staff help patrons through worlds of digital and print materials.
3. The newly refurbished duck pond and the swimming pool (both popular - at this time of the year in particular).
4. The perennially busy tennis and basketball courts.
5. The walk-jog path that encircles the park and is enjoyed by hundreds of people every day.
6. The (name?) baseball field.
7. The Rose Garden--which over the years, has been the site of countless outdoor nuptials for beaming brides and grooms.



July 11, 2018

State Historic Preservation Officer, Julianne Polanco
State Historical Resources Commission
William Burg at William.Burg@parks.ca.gov
Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Subject: Support Nomination by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park

Dear Ms. Polanco, Chair McKay, Commissioners and Mr. Burg:

As a California Registered Professional Forester with considerable experience in both urban and forested landscapes, I recognize the great wisdom of protecting trees in Sacramento's McKinley Park. This diverse palette of trees adds significant value in terms of natural beauty, shade, and wildlife habitat. Many of the larger trees that were established from the late-1800s through 1950, with their massive trunks and full crowns, are still present and will continue to define the character of the park.

Sacramento's McKinley Park provides a transformative opportunity for children to step out of their street-filled urban landscape and into a real urban forest with well managed ancient trees. It allows them to run safely through a forest in search of adventure—without having to worry about a speeding car or inattentive driver. The nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Place by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park helps further the health and safety of the community.

The State Historical Resources Commission will study nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places on August 3, 2018. I am writing to ask that you support this nomination for the reasons stated by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park.

Sincerely,

ARBORSCIENCE

Kent R. Julin, Ph.D.
ISA Certified Arborist WE-8733A
ISA Tree Hazard Assessor Qualified
California Registered Professional Forester

From: ssmith3@surewest.net
To: [Burg, William@Parks](mailto:Burg_William@Parks)
Subject: McKinley Park Historical Preservation
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 2:11:27 PM

Sate Historical Resources Commission

Mr. William Burg

I write to express my enthusiastic support for providing preservation and protection to McKinley Park in Sacramento by adding it to the National Register of Historic Places.

As a thirty year resident of Sacramento living across from the park and availing ourselves of its great benefits to urban living I, my spouse, and our two sons have enjoyed this park continuously, while becoming increasingly

concerned that the care, maintenance, and preservation of it appears to be at increasing risk.

Please support this effort to raise McKinley Park's recognition as one of the jewels of Sacramento that benefits the state and the nation as a whole as well.

Thank you,

Stephen R. Smith

733 33rd Street

Sacramento CA 95816

Melinda Johnson

600 34th Street Sacramento, CA 95816

Tel 916 + 248-3569

melindasusanjohnson@gmail.com

State Historic Preservation Officer, Julianne Polanco

State Historical Resources Commission

Attention: Mr. William Burg at william.Burg@parks.ca.gov

Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

July 10, 2018

Re: In Support of Nomination by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park

Dear Ms. Polanco, Chair McKay, Commissioners and Mr. Burg:

I am writing you in support of the nomination of McKinley Park in Sacramento, California for the National Register of Historic Places.

As a 47 year resident of the McKinley Park Neighborhood, and as the Director of a performing arts organization located in the McKinley Park Neighborhood for the past 15 years, I full-heartedly encourage this grass roots effort to nominate Sacramento's McKinley Park for the National Historic Register of Historic Places.

McKinley Park is deserving of this nomination because the integrity of the landscape design and function still timelessly follows the Parks original design, form and purpose.

The naturalistic tree plantings, the free natural flowing form of Lake Kiesel and the spacious, peaceful open meadows and dry marsh areas of the Baseball Diamond and Northwest Playfield continuously host concerts, performances, and sporting events just as they have since the Park's inception.

The Picnic areas are thoughtfully placed and benches, perfect for contemplation, grace the groves of heritage sized trees, many of which have witnessed the comings, goings and significant life events of generations of Sacramentans, as well as those of visitors to California's Capitol city.

Sincerely,

Melinda Johnson, Director, Sacramento Flamenco Arts

From: [Diane Edwards](#)
To: [Burg, William@Parks](mailto:Burg_William@Parks)
Subject: McKinley Park Preservation
Date: Monday, July 09, 2018 12:41:42 PM

I hope that the nomination by Friends and Members of McKinley Park and the listing of McKinley Park in the National Register of Historic Places will help preserve this important resource for the future and to allow the protection that will assure its conservation and preservation for many generations to come.

Sent from my iPad



July 31, 2018

State Historical Resources Commission
Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Dear Members of the State Historical Resources Commission,

I write on behalf of The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) to express support for the nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places. Recognized as America's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to the stewardship and documentation of cultural landscapes, TCLF is routinely asked to submit formal testimony and commentary on parks and other cultural landscapes throughout the nation. Having reviewed the nomination, it is clear that McKinley Park and its rich history deserve recognition in the Register.

Created in 1872 on land purchased one year earlier, McKinley Park is not only significant as Sacramento's first park developed in the wake of America's urban parks movement, it is also significant as one of the earliest parks in California, second only to San Francisco's Golden Gate Park (developed in 1870-1871), the nation's first large park west of the Mississippi River.

Moreover, McKinley Park represents a very early example of a "trolley park," having been developed by the Sacramento Street Railway Company as a means to increase ridership and spur economic growth along its route. While parks built along streetcar lines once numbered in the thousands, those that survive today as municipal properties still open for public use and enjoyment are comparatively rare. First conceived as a public "pleasure grounds" on the outskirts of Sacramento, the park was indeed successful in attracting visitors who made the trek to reach it along the H Street line, initially on mule-drawn streetcars. The park thus antedates its surrounding street grid and is therefore a salient reminder of the history and development of what would become East Sacramento.

McKinley Park's character-defining topographical features, namely Lake Kiesel and two large, open meadows, reflect the spatial organization of the park from its period of significance (1871-1958). The former is the park's primary natural feature, whose origin lies in Burns' Slough, which once carried flood waters from the American River. Designed in conjunction with plantings and curving pathways, the open meadows have been adapted to host sports fields. Indeed, as is clear from a map dated 1908, the park had soon transitioned to provide myriad recreational activities in the reform era, boasting a running track, a basketball court, a baseball field, and an area for lawn tennis. Thus, in addition to the Clunie Memorial Clubhouse and pool (1936) and the Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden (1928), which also retain their integrity from the period of significance, the park's overall spatial organization is essentially unchanged. I therefore urge you to support the nomination of McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places, thereby helping to ensure that its rich history and cultural patrimony will remain intact.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR, President and CEO
The Cultural Landscape Foundation

State Historical Resources Commission
c/o Mr. William Burg

Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

July 10, 2018

Dear Preservation Commission,

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historical Places. I have lived across from this magnificent park since 1975. Many of my neighbors were the original home owners when I first moved into East Sacramento. They have told me many stories about the beautiful roses in the McKinley Park rose garden, feeding the ducks in the pond, swimming in the pool, baseballs flying over their house and especially my house which faces the left field area of the baseball diamond. My next door neighbor watched many baseball games in McKinley Park while sitting in his chair on the front porch.

McKinley Park is well known for its availability of many recreational activities due to its well maintained green grassy areas with large shade trees. Such activities include -jogging, walking the dog, baseball, soccer, tennis, swimming, picnicking, horseshoes, garden club meetings and weddings. Even Bill Clinton was seen jogging around the park when he was President. The character of this park has not changed over the years - it has always been a meeting place for families, organizations and special events. The integrity of the park remains as it was 100 years ago. Anyone from that era could easily recognize the park as it has the same naturalist landscape with mature trees, rose garden, club house with pool, baseball diamond, tennis courts and garden center.

I look forward to living across from one of the nicest parks in Sacramento for many years to come. You have my full support in making this a National Historic treasure.

Sincerely,

Ann Broderick
609 33rd Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

State's Historical Resources Commission
% Mr. William Burg
Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Historic Reservation
1725 23r St. Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Dear Mr. Burg,

I am writing to express my opinion that McKinley Park in Sacramento California should be granted inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The reasons why this should happen have been well itemized in the Nomination of McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places.

On a more personal level this has been my own experience with this very unique, beautiful and valuable location.

I live in Southern California and have happily had the occasions many times through the decades of visiting McKinley Park. It is always among the highlights of each trip. A dear friend from college days owns a lovely home in the McKinley Park neighborhood and we would frequently visit this lovely oasis....and still do! It has always been a time to slow down, enjoy the moment and take in the many interesting and calming aspects of this magical spot. Through the years we have enjoyed the pool with young children in tow. This was a godsend on the hot summer days. The tennis courts were of great interest to even the most novice of players. The library was right at hand for a myriad of projects and information including assistance with the workings of a cell phone...when they were still a new and challenging invention.

We have always enjoyed a stroll around Lake Kiesel with the ducks and geese and especially knowing that the lake was once connected to a natural slough which connected to one of the nearby major waterways. And the Rose Garden has always been a constant delight with endless activities that produce the most beautiful roses imaginable. And an exquisite array of evergreens found throughout the park, creating the sense of permanence, grandeur, beauty and shade.

It is quite amazing that McKinley Park offers so many current activities to all ages, games, sports, that are full of energy and life and yet the park always maintains it's aura of peace, calm and timelessness and history...so valuable and priceless.

Parks can, and at best should become a very important part of what a city "is", it's essence. Being the "City of Trees" one would think that parks would be a natural extension of this idea. I applaud Sacramento in it's efforts to provide trees and places for trees to it's citizens. McKinley Park is among the most important....the second oldest park, and well maintained, in the state of California.

Please give this long overdue accolade to McKinley Park, a park that captures historical richness, variety of current activities, and sheer, natural beauty. The citizens of Sacramento love and use this exceptional location....and visitors love to be there... visit after visit.

Best regards, Nancy Deleray
1193 W. 19th St.
San Pedro Ca 90731

From: [Lis Hori](#)
To: [Burg, William@Parks](mailto:Burg.William@Parks)
Subject: Trees for Sacramento
Date: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 11:28:18 AM

Trees for Sacramento Trees4sacto@sbcglobal.net
State Historic Preservation Officer, Julianne Polanco
State Historical Resources Commission
Attention: Mr. William Burg at William.Burg@parks.ca.gov Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation 1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Re: Support Nomination by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park

Dear Ms Polanco, Chair McKay, Commissioners and Mr. Burg:

Trees for Sacramento is a citizen advocacy group with a focus on preserving and increasing the tree canopy in Sacramento. The nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Place by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park is an important element in this effort. This nomination is a grassroots effort to acknowledge the core values embodied by the Park. These values include the Park's contribution to Sacramento's urban forest. These trees are highly significant not only to historic preservation, but also to today's climate challenges, Sacramento's sustainability, and the comfort and attractiveness of surrounding neighborhoods.

On August 3, 2018, the State Historical Resources Commission will consider the nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places. We are writing to ask that you support the nomination for the reasons stated by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park.

McKinley Park was established as East Park in 1872, and is the second oldest community park in California, after San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. The naturalistic landscape, including many mature, large canopy trees, is a living example of the value of preserving the urban forest.

I support trees for Sacramento,
Lis Hori

Trees for Sacramento

Trees4sacto@sbcglobal.net

July 5, 2018

State Historic Preservation Officer, Julianne Polanco
State Historical Resources Commission
Attention: Mr. William Burg at William.Burg@parks.ca.gov
Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Re: **Support Nomination by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park**

Dear Ms Polanco, Chair McKay, Commissioners and Mr. Burg:

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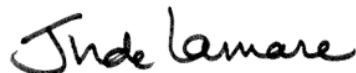
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You may communicate with us at trees4sacto@sbcglobal.net.

Sincerely,



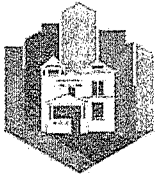
Luree Stetson
lstetson2@earthlink.net



Jude Lamare
judelam@sbcglobal.net

From: [Joan Volkblack](#)
To: [Burg, William@Parks](#)
Subject: Nomination of McKinley Park
Date: Wednesday, August 01, 2018 1:43:05 PM

We are e-mailing to request that the State Historical Resources Commission favorably consider the nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places. We love the trees and the park and the joy it brings to our neighborhood. This park needs to be preserved for all.



PRESERVATION
SACRAMENTO

PO Box 162140, Sacramento CA 95816 – preservation.sacramento@gmail.com – PreservationSacramento.org

July 16, 2018

State Historical Resources Commission
P.O. Box 942896,
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: Letter of Support for the McKinley Park Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

The Board of Directors of Preservation Sacramento strongly encourages the State Historic Resource Commission to support and approve the above-mentioned nomination and listing of McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places.

Preservation Sacramento overwhelmingly supports the McKinley Park Nomination to the National Register to help preserve and to protect this important resource for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Guy D. Guarige,
Vice President, Preservation Sacramento Board of Directors

Preservation Sacramento – Founded in 1972 as Sacramento Old City Association

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places. I am 14 years old, was born and raised in Sacramento and have visited McKinley Park since I was a baby. I love the play structure, feeding the ducks, and the rose garden.

Until recently, I didn't know that McKinley Park is the second oldest community park in California. McKinley Park is very special and deserves to be on the National Register.

Respectfully,

RJ
Vargo

Blaine Vargo

This letter is to support
McKinley Park as a
historic site. I'm 10 years old
and believe that McKinley is
a very important part of
Sacramento. Respectfully Blaine

Rosemary Hart
3808 Walnut Avenue
Carmichael, CA 95608

State Historical Resources Commission
c/o Mr. William Burg
Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

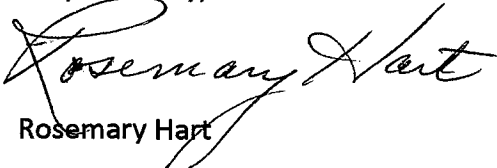
Dear Mr. Burg:

I am writing regarding McKinley Park in East Sacramento. This has been an important and historic park not only the neighborhoods of East Sacramento, but for the entire City due to the charm and beauty of the building, swimming pool, sports areas and wonderful shade trees. A number of generations have learned to swim, dance, play baseball and have used the facilities of the large library to acquire information for term papers in school. The Rose Garden of McKinley Park has long been an event center for elegant parties and beautiful weddings.

I would really appreciate your consideration in the placement of McKinley Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your deliberation of this important park.

Very sincerely,


Rosemary Hart

From: [Judy Mc](#)
To: [Burg, William@Parks](mailto:Burg.William@Parks)
Subject: Nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places
Date: Sunday, July 15, 2018 7:20:19 PM

Mr. Burg:

I sincerely apologize for this being late but I did not know about the deadline until a couple days before and it was not enough time for me to write you. I strongly support McKinley Park being added to the National Registry.

I have volunteered for years in this park working to make it safer, preserve the pond, and save the trees. I am one of the advocates for the wildlife and not allowing it to be used as a place to abandon unwanted pets (ducks, geese, turtles, etc.).

I know you have probably heard and read the history of this park so I won't reiterate much about it.

This park has a long history with its original building (Clunie Club House); the pond that has gone from an alligator pond (1914) to a place to enjoy wildlife and nature; plus the recreational uses: pool, tennis courts and ball field, or the beauty of roses in the garden. It was originally and still is a destination park for family gatherings to have picnics; kids to use the playground; and for community events both inside and out (e.g. POPS in the Park).

We, the neighbors, advocated for not removing the Frederick Birdsall Kiesel Rock Drinking fountain when the City Parks Department was ready to remove it during the recent pond renovation/clean up. Also the City has a habit of saying CEQA does not apply to most of their projects, but when they said that about issues recently surrounding the pond renovation neighbors pointed out that it did. Thus, a historic designation would also help with CEQA issues for any plans City Parks may implement in the future. Also given how many trees the City has allowed developers to remove, this park is one of the few naturally shady places in the Sacramento. This urban forest needs to be preserved.

This park needs to be preserved as a pride to Sacramento and California showing its history and preserve its architectural designs and uses. The "club house" is still in use today as it was originally designed for. We, neighbors, have made efforts to preserve/restore it over the years and it should be made official that this is a place worth showing a designation of historic significance in California so it can be preserved in decades to come.

I sincerely ask that you support this nomination for the reasons expressed by Friends and Neighbor of McKinley Park and for the ones I have added.

Thank you for listening and considering this application.

Judy

"Kindness feels the same to all creatures. >^..^< ')<"

If you forward this email please delete the forwarding history, which includes my email address. It is a courtesy to me and others who may not wish to have their email addresses sent all over the world! Erasing the history helps prevent Spammers from mining addresses and viruses. Thank you.

KAREN A. HUTCHINSON, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychology & Medical Psychology

Please Correspond Only with the Sacramento Office
730 Alhambra Blvd., Suite 205, Sacramento, CA 95816

Licenses & Degrees
MPH (Public Health)
Psychology (PSY-15768)

July 28, 2018

Honorable Chairperson of McKinley Park to The National Register
Dept. Of Parks and Recreation
1725 23rd Street
Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Dear Honorable Chairperson:

My husband and I have been long term residents of East Sacramento and greatly appreciate the historic value of McKinley Park. It originally served as a place of respite for newcoming residents who utilized it as a campground. Now it provides many pleasures to our large and growing Sacramento area.

We strongly support this park becoming part of the National Register of Historic Places. It has a pastoral and picturesque park design featuring random planting of now very mature trees and plantings that emulate nature. The glorious pond is enjoyed by the many birds who have found their home in nature. It is so rewarding to sit on one of the numerous park benches and enjoy the quiet and pristine sound of birds splashing in water. The park provides a sense of history and substance that is so appreciated in a culture that is moving so fast and has become so technological. Being one with nature in this beautiful park enriches all of our lives and it deserves to be honored with its nomination to the registry.

Sincerely,


Karen Hutchinson, Ph.D.


Grant Hutchinson, Ph.D.

February 2, 2018

Office of Historic Preservation
Registration Programs
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Re: National Register Nomination for McKinley Park, Sacramento

Registration Unit Staff:

Enclosed please find submittal materials for a National Register nomination for McKinley Park in Sacramento:

- Archival grade CD with nomination report in Microsoft Word format, nomination color photographs in TIFF format and compiled in PDF format, this cover letter (MS Word), sketch map (PDF), location map (PDF), photo locations key map (PDF).
- Cover letter printed.
- Two printed paper copies of nomination forms.
- Location map printed.
- Sketch map printed.
- Photo locations key map printed.
- One set of 12 photographic prints of the nomination color photographs.

Property Owner: City of Sacramento
 Department of Parks and Recreation
 915 I Street, 3rd Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted on behalf of: Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park LLC

Contact Person: Douglas Nelson
 225 Miller Ave.
 Mill Valley, CA 94941
 415-360-2853
 doug@rhaa.com

Sincerely,



Douglas Nelson

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS OF MCKINLEY PARK

A neighborhood organization promoting historic preservation in Sacramento

August 1, 2018

Chairperson Marshall McKay and Members of the Commission
State Historical Resources Commission
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks and Recreation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Re: Support for the Nomination of McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places

Honorable Chairperson McKay and Members of the Commission:

As the sponsor of the nomination, I respectfully request that the Commission recommend the McKinley Park nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

McKinley Park is not only the oldest park in Sacramento, but also one of the oldest parks in the West. The purchase of the land dates from 1871, prior to Sacramento's becoming the permanent capital of California in 1879.

Located east of the city limits, the park was created in 1872 by the Sacramento Street Railway Company as East Park. Envisioned as a destination park, pleasure ground, and trolley park, the streetcar company transported families and individuals from the city to enjoy the natural environment for healthful recreation, including picnicking, music, dancing, baseball, and other outdoor activities. The park provided a rural respite away from the bustling life of the burgeoning state capital.

Renamed McKinley Park in 1902 as a memorial in honor of President William McKinley, it continues as a living legacy. The park reflects the influence of the naturalistic design of the 19th century American Urban Parks Movement with landscapes featuring trees with large canopies, open meadows, expansive lawns, a naturalistic lake, informal plantings, and winding pathways to evoke and to emulate nature. Many of the trees established during the period of historic significance, 1871 to 1958, exist today. The park also reflects the 20th century Reform Parks Movement with the addition of recreational and sports facilities promoting public health. Throughout the decades and into the 21st century, with its benefits to human health* from the mature canopy of large shade trees, the 33-acre McKinley Park continues to provide for outdoor enjoyment and the well-being not only of residents from East Sacramento's residential neighborhoods, but also of visitors to the park from near and far.

*Sacramento Tree Foundation research, published in a peer-reviewed journal, found that the health of city residents is directly linked to the proximity and to the amount of tree canopy in its neighborhoods. A 10% increase in tree canopy cover (from 23% to 25.3%) is associated with a 19% reduction in overweight/obesity, and type 2 diabetes, as well as a 10.4% reduction in asthma. The study was funded by the USDA Forest Service, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. *J.M. Ulmer et al, Multiple health benefits of urban tree canopy: The mounting evidence for a green prescription. Health & Place August 2016*

It has been my privilege to have grown up—and grown old—in the shade of the trees of this much beloved park. I have been a life-long beneficiary of its beauty and its bounty.

During the last several years, while preparing for this day, I have become more aware and appreciative of the work of the State Historical Resources Commission for its service and selection process based on measurable criteria and merit.

I especially thank the Commission for its stewardship in selecting many of our best and most beloved properties and places from generations past to be remembered, protected, and preserved for the enrichment of generations to come.

I am grateful to many friends and neighbors for their support and stewardship.

Stewardship, I find, is inspired in the presence of significant architecture and landscapes, as well as by those meaningful moments that we experience in these historic places which become etched in our memories. As we grow and mature, we remember with gratitude all that others have created and entrusted to us to pass forward.

It is my honor to put forward McKinley Park for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

It is my hope and trust that its listing will serve to preserve the living legacy of Sacramento's historic parks, park-centered neighborhoods, and tradition of trees with expansive canopies lining our streets.

I am trusting that the historic designation of McKinley Park will continue to support, to sustain, and to celebrate its contribution to our living history and our heritage as the City of Trees.

With your approval, I believe that the listing of McKinley Park in the National Register not only will contribute to its conservation and preservation, but also will inspire the nomination of other parks, properties, and places to the local, state, and national registries of historic preservation.

On behalf of *Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park*, with appreciation,



Maria Nicholas Kelly

With gratitude to Helen Pappas Nicholas Goulart, and to Robert Ewing Kelly

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS OF MCKINLEY PARK
Invite You to Support
**The Nomination of McKinley Park to the
National Register of Historic Places**

On August 3, 2018, the State Historical Resources Commission will consider the nomination of Sacramento's McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places. Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park is asking community groups and individuals to write letters in support of this important nomination.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

McKinley Park was established as East Park in 1872, and is the second oldest community park in California, after San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. It was established as a destination park by the Sacramento Street Railway Company to allow Sacramento city dwellers a natural and peaceful escape from crowded city life. It became a City park in 1902, and was renamed in honor of President William McKinley, who had been assassinated a year earlier. When conceived, the park included a streetcar line that brought visitors to the original clubhouse, and a zoo (closed in 1927). Although McKinley Park's development by the



Early view of Lake Kiesel



Official Sacramento City Map, 1908

streetcar company was intended to gain ridership, it contributed to the development of residential areas around the park and in East Sacramento beyond the former city limits. It also provided residents a place for Sunday outings, picnicking, music, dancing, and outdoor recreation.

The park has evolved over time but remains true to its mission to provide a naturalistic landscape and respite from urban life for residents in East Sacramento's neighborhoods and beyond. Some of the park's most historic features include:

- Pastoral and picturesque park design featuring a random planting of now mature trees and plantings that emulate nature.
- Lake Kiesel, one of the original park features from 1872, formed from the remnants of Burns' Slough, which had previously connected to the American River.
- The Frederick Birdsall Kiesel Monument and Drinking Fountain with Plaque was installed in 1912.

- **The Tennis Courts** were constructed about 1920. The tennis courts are significant as one of the park's recreational facilities from the early decades of the twentieth century, and for its association with an historic recreational activity.
- **The Baseball Diamond** was moved from its original location at the northwest corner of the park to its current location on the east side in the park's center in 1927 and contributes to the park's significance as a facility hosting historic sporting activities that date to the nineteenth century.



Young Men's Institute baseball team, 1906

- **The Frederick N. Evans Memorial Rose Garden and Rose Garden Building**, planned in 1928 by Frederick Noble Evans, the city's first parks superintendent, was constructed in 1929. It was created in the oval shape of the running track that previously had existed at that location. The rose garden is the most significant horticultural feature of McKinley Park.



Rose Garden in McKinley Park, circa 1930

- **The Clunie Memorial Clubhouse**, built in 1936, houses an auditorium, a branch of the Sacramento Public Library, and meeting rooms, along with a pool and pool house. The Clubhouse retains integrity as one of the park's signature features and contributes to the park's significance for its architectural qualities, and as a legacy of the reform parks movement.



The Garden & Arts Center architectural rendering, 1953

- **The Garden & Arts Center** was designed by Raymond R. Franceschi of the firm Franceschi & Mullen in 1953, and built in 1958. It is a low, ranch-style building with stone accents, wood panels and beams, and large expanses of glass.



Clunie Memorial Clubhouse, 1938

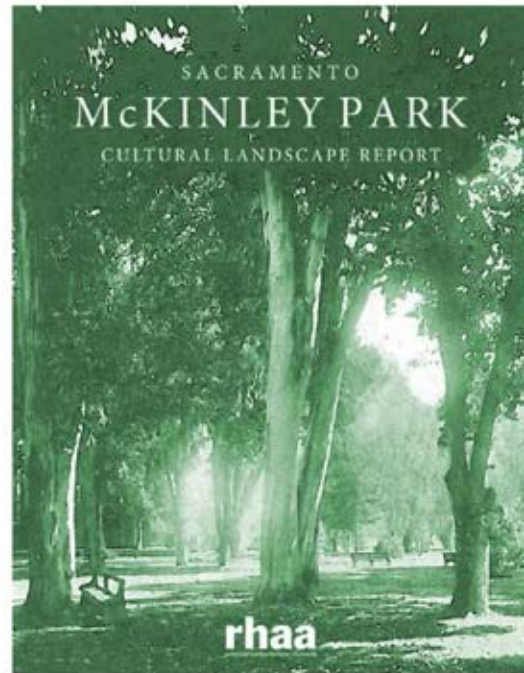
FOR MORE INFORMATION

McKinley Park holds state-wide significance as a fine example of the American urban parks and reform park movements.

The application for the nomination in its entirety can be viewed on the **Office of Historic Preservation** (OHP) website at http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24368.

The **Sacramento McKinley Park Cultural Landscape Report** is the basis for the application to the National Register. It documents the period of historic significance from 1872-1958, following guidelines from the National Park Service.

For additional information on historical significance and historic photographs, please access the Report through the **Trees for Sacramento** Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/trees4sacto>.



Sacramento McKinley Park Cultural Landscape Report, 2018

HOW, WHEN, WHERE TO SEND YOUR LETTER

The OHP has asked that letters of support be submitted by July 11, to be included in the Commissioners' packets. If you are unable to send your letter before July 11, please submit prior to the Commission's Hearing on August 3.

VIA MAIL:

State Historical Resources Commission
c/o Mr. William Burg
Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

VIA EMAIL:

Alternatively, letters may be addressed to the Commission and emailed to Mr. Burg at William.Burg@parks.ca.gov.

We hope that the nomination by Friends & Neighbors of McKinley Park and the listing of McKinley Park in the National Register of Historic Places will help us to preserve this important resource for the future and to allow the protection that will assure its conservation and preservation for many generations to come.

Thank you for your participation and support.

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS OF MCKINLEY PARK

A neighborhood organization promoting historic preservation in Sacramento

HistoricMcKinley@historicmckinley.org



**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



August 30, 2018

Joy Beasley
Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C St., NW
Room 3316
Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject: **McKinley Park
Sacramento, Sacramento County, California
National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of nomination for McKinley Park to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in Sacramento, Sacramento County, California. On August 3, 2018, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C at the state level of significance, with a period of significance of 1871-1958.

The property is nominated by a third party, the Friends and Neighbors of McKinley Park. The property owner, the City of Sacramento, provided two letters from its Preservation Commission indicating support for the nomination, and one letter from its Parks Department that did not specify a position of support or objection. Twenty-one letters of support and one letter of objection were received from the public, including a letter of support from the nominating party.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Enclosures