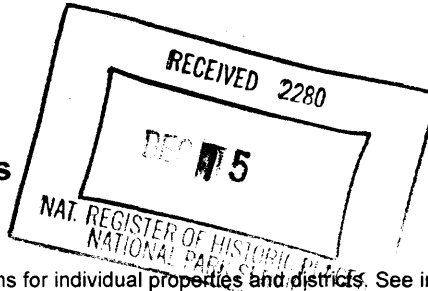


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Monument Valley Park

other name/site number 5EP613

2. Location

street & number Approx. bounded by Monroe, Culebra, Westview, Bijou streets, BN&SF, and W. edge of main N/S trail, N. of Del Norte. N/A not for publication

city or town Colorado Springs N/A vicinity

state Colorado code CO county El Paso code 041 zip code 80903

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Severiana Couteyeglia 11/30/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Edson H. Beall 1.25.07
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Monument Valley Park
Name of Property

El Paso County, Colorado
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 5 | 3 | buildings |
| 4 | 3 | sites |
| 26 | 19 | structures |
| 4 | 0 | objects |
| 39 | 25 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LANDSCAPE/park
- RECREATION/outdoor recreation
- RECREATION/sports facility
- RECREATION/music facility
- AGRICULTURE/horticultural facility
- RECREATION/monument/marker

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LANDSCAPE/park
- RECREATION/outdoor recreation
- RECREATION/sports facility
- RECREATION/music facility
- AGRICULTURE/horticultural facility
- RECREATION/monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements
- OTHER/Rustic
- OTHER/WPA Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation CONCRETE
- walls STUCCO
- STONE/sandstone
- roof CERAMIC TILE
- other

Narrative Description

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

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- RECREATION
- ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1904-1956

Significant Date

1935

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Palmer, William Jackson

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

Leavitt, Charles W., Jr.

van Diest, Edmond C.

MacLaren & Thomas

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository:

Starsmore Center for Local History, Colo. Spgs.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 147.7 acres

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1. 1/3 5/1/4/5/7/0 4/3/0/1/7/0/0
Zone Easting Northing (NAD 27)

2. 1/3 5/1/5/1/7/0 4/3/0/1/7/0/0
Zone Easting Northing

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

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, historians (see Continuation Sheet)
organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc. date 1 September 2006 (Revised)
street & number 3635 West 46th Avenue telephone 303-477-7597
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80211

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

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

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

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

Property Owner

name/title City of Colorado Springs
street & number 30 S. Nevada Ave. telephone _____
city or town Colorado Springs state CO zip code 80901

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

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

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

Narrative Description

Overview

Monument Valley Park is a nearly two-mile-long ribbon of public greenspace extending through the heart of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Intended by its developer to serve as a taste of the country in the center of the city, the park is a much-utilized urban amenity that accommodates a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. Miles of gravel trails and concrete walks within the park are traversed by walkers, joggers, and bicyclists. Verdant open spaces contain fields for organized sports, such as baseball, volleyball, and soccer, courts for tennis and basketball, and manicured lawns for picnics and other less structured amusements. Playgrounds are the scene of children's activities, and the city's first public swimming pool draws visitors of all ages. Elaborated entrances, scenic overlooks, and curvilinear lakes are picturesque elements of the park (Photograph 1). A few small buildings shelter visitor activities. Demonstration gardens, formal planting areas, and the park's nearly three thousand trees of varied species embellish the landscape. The 147.7 acres of the nominated area of the park occupy both sides of Monument Creek, from West Bijou Street on the south to West Monroe Street on the north. The east-west width of the park varies considerably along its length, with a maximum of approximately 1,333 feet at the alignment of Washington Street to a minimum of about 216 feet at San Miguel Street.

The southern end of the park lies about two blocks east of downtown Colorado Springs. The tracks of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad and Interstate 25 are to the west, while residential areas adjoin it on the east. Monument Creek, a tributary of Fountain Creek, dominates the park and divides its east and west portions with a wide channel flanked by slanting retaining walls of flat sandstone riprap. Flowing from north to south, the creek falls approximately 72 feet within the park, from 6,060 feet at the northern boundary to 5,988 feet at the railroad bridge at the southwestern corner. Typically a shallow, placid stream, winding through the center of the channel, Monument Creek can become a muddy torrent following summer rains, filling the channel from toe wall to toe wall. Smaller Mesa Creek, whose banks are also riprapped within the park, joins Monument Creek from the west in the northern area of the park.

West of Monument Creek the park is flatter and lower in elevation than the eastern portion. The east bank features a level area of varied width terminated on the east by slopes that rise abruptly toward residential neighborhoods. The highest point in the park (approximately 6,090 feet) is at the northeast corner, north of Boddington Field. The higher ground along the eastern edge of the park inspired park planners to provide a series of entrance features directing visitors to overlooks opening onto vistas of the valley and mountains.

Monument Valley Park contains both formally laid out and naturalistic areas. The portion of the park lying south of Uintah Street generally exhibits more designed features, including the Formal Gardens, the Bijou Entrance, two artificial lakes, concrete sidewalks shaded by mature trees, two demonstration gardens, park buildings, recreational facilities, and a number of entrances along the eastern boundary (Photograph 2). Elements of formal design extend into the northern portion of the

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

park, which includes three formal entrances, the Geologic Column and associated features, recreational facilities, stone pedestrian bridges, and the Serpentine Wall, a long curving wall adjacent to the main park trail. The northernmost quarter of the park, lying north of the Geologic Column and west of Boddington Field, retains a more densely vegetated, naturalistic landscape, with the principal improvement being a network of narrow gravel trails (Photograph 3).

The park's architecture primarily juxtaposes Classical Revival and Rustic styles, a duality present since the 1910s. The first pedestrian bridges across Monument Creek (no longer extant) were Rustic spans of unpeeled logs. In the northern area of the park an idealized Rustic landscape was created in which to feature the Geologic Column, a structure displaying the geologic history of the Colorado Springs area. The design also included a cobblestone bridge above an artificial waterfall and two circular overlooks with low, fieldstone walls (Photograph 4). A 1917 baseball stadium and the Willamette Street Entrance featured Rustic designs in quarried rhyolite and inset areas of granite cobblestones with beaded mortar joints. The Bijou Street and the St. Vrain entrances relied on fieldstones and cobblestones to carry out the Rustic theme. The Works Progress Administration projects in the park during the period 1935-40 continued to use a Rustic style in its construction of retaining walls, entrances (including the impressive Columbia Street Entrance), and decorative features, such as the Serpentine Wall. By contrast, the park's early buildings reflected a City Beautiful preference for the Classical Revival style, as adapted to Colorado Springs through the inclusion of Mediterranean Revival influences. The Bandstand (1916) and Shelter Pavilion (1924) feature classical columns, stucco walls, and hipped, red tile roofs. The Penrose Bathhouse associated with the swimming pool (1916) incorporates stucco walls, arched entrances, and a hipped red tile roof. Later architecture in the park also employed these design elements.

A principal feature of the original design of the park was the inclusion of several opportunities for contemplating views of Pikes Peak, Cheyenne Mountain, and other portions of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains to the west. Fine views of the wide Monument Creek channel, with its vegetation and wildlife, are available from the adjacent trails and the entrances and overlooks along the eastern edge of the park. Eastern overlooks in the southern portion of the park provide impressive views of Pikes Peak, with Shadow Lake and the Shelter Pavilion in the foreground. Looking south from the main trail in the northern portion of the park, visitors obtain excellent views of Cheyenne Mountain to the south (Photograph 5). From the southern area of the park, some of the tall densely sited buildings of downtown Colorado Springs are visible. Within minutes of entering the park the visitor experiences landscapes that belie the fact that this is the heart of a city of more than 380,000 population.

General Description by Quadrant

For descriptive purposes in this document, the park is divided into quadrants created by the intersection of Monument Creek and West Uintah Street. The Southeast Quadrant includes the east side of Monument Creek lying between West Uintah and West Bijou streets. The Southwest Quadrant lies west of Monument Creek and south of West Uintah Street and contains many of the park's principal activity centers and support buildings. The Northwest Quadrant is a narrow strip of

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

land lying on the west side of Monument Creek between West Uintah and West Monroe streets. The Northeast Quadrant is east of Monument Creek between West Uintah Street on the south and West Monroe Street on the north. The general character of each quadrant is summarized below, beginning at the park's formal entrance at Bijou Street and Westview Place in the Southeast Quadrant and moving in a clockwise direction through the other quadrants. Following this summary of resources by quadrant is a detailed description of each counted resource arranged by type and by contributing and noncontributing status and by resource type. An overview map appears at the end of this section.

Southeast Quadrant (Southern Portion)

The main entrance to Monument Valley Park, located within two blocks of Downtown Colorado Springs, is at West Bijou Street and Westview Place (Resource 1, Photograph 6) and consists of tall fieldstone gate piers and sidewalls supporting an arched metalwork sign bearing the name of the park. Beyond the gateway are the Formal Gardens (Resource 2, Photograph 33), which feature a sunken area with a maze of geometric flower beds, evergreen trees, and concrete sidewalks. The original design for the park, drawn in 1903 by Charles W. Leavitt, Jr., established formal gardens in this southeast corner, and the current gardens, created in the 1980s, acknowledge that precedent. A linear sidewalk leads to two bowling lawns, while a curving path toward the northwest leads to a modern walled rose garden and a curved overlook with a vista of the Monument Creek Valley and Pikes Peak. A block north of the main entrance is an access point in the low bluff along the east edge of the park, the modest Boulder Crescent Street Entrance (Resource 3), which has two short flights of concrete stairs bordering a rock garden. Continuing northwest for slightly more than two hundred feet, visitors encounter the modern Pedestrian Bridge (Resource 4, Photograph 7) across Monument Creek, a structure connecting to the west side of the park that replaced a foot bridge washed away by a flood in 1935. From this point the main crushed gravel trail along the east bank of the creek extends to the northeast and southwest. Roughly two hundred feet southwest along the trail is a Works Progress Administration (WPA) Monument (Resource 5, Photograph 7), acknowledging that agency's work in the park after the 1935 flood. The monument consists of a bronze WPA plaque embedded on a large slab of sandstone mounted on a concrete base. Beyond the monument the gravel trail continues southwestward and then turns southeast toward Bijou Street.

Southwest Quadrant

From the Pedestrian Bridge the Monument Creek Retaining Walls (Resource 6, Photographs 5, 25, 26, and 34) are visible on both sides of the stream. The slanting sandstone ripped walls atop concrete toe walls were constructed in the 1930s as a flood control measure and are a dominant feature throughout the park. Crossing the Pedestrian Bridge, visitors enter the Southwest Quadrant of the park, with its grassy meadows, water resources, trails, pavilions, and facilities for organized sports. Many of the principal resources associated with the development of the park prior to the 1935 flood are found in this portion of the park. A secondary gravel trail leads to the northwest while the main trail on the west bank of the creek heads to the northeast. There is a large open area of grass with a somewhat rolling terrain, large trees along the perimeter, and a crescent-shaped planting of lilacs. A Commemorative Tree Grove (Resource 7, Photograph 8) and a large boulder representing

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

Plymouth Rock are at the south end of the open area. Proceeding along the wide gravel trail beside the creek, visitors encounter the historic site of Tahama Spring (Resource 8, Photograph 9), the city's first identified natural mineral spring, today consisting of a concrete base, capped spring, and stone retaining wall. Looking east down into the creek a modern stone and concrete Drop Structure (Resource 9) is visible in the creek channel. The 1917 Baseball Stadium (Resource 10, Photograph 10) with its stone and concrete stands shaded by large trees, announcer's booth, and broad grass field with perimeter fencing is a short distance to the north. The ballfield and the area to the north, which includes a modern sand Volleyball Court (Resource 11) is one of the larger of the verdant open spaces in the park. At the northeast corner of the area is a stand of Cottonwood trees and a historic stone drinking fountain.

To the north lies Shadow Lake/Lake No. 1 (Resource 12, Photographs 1, 11, and 12), one of four picturesque lakes (two extant) created during the original construction of the park. The lake is bordered on the east by a Dike/Retaining Wall (Resource 13, Photograph 11). This area is one of the most densely developed sections of the park, containing resources representing several eras of development. On the north is the 1916 Penrose Bathhouse and Swimming Pool (Resource 14, Photograph 13), with a Mediterranean style bathhouse whose hipped red tile roof and stucco walls set architectural precedents for future construction in the park. On the northwest is the 1924 Shelter Pavilion (Resource 15, Photograph 1), an open building with red tile roof and grouped classical columns designed to provide refuge for park visitors during periods of inclement weather. A WPA Monument (Resource 16) is found to the northeast (next to the main trail). North of the swimming pool is the 1916 Carlton Bandstand (Resource 17, Photograph 14) designed by the Colorado Springs architectural firm of MacLaren & Thomas to harmonize with the bathhouse and swimming pool. A group of Tennis Courts (Resource 18) are to the west of the bandstand, on a site that has filled the same purpose since 1923. Northeast of the Tennis Courts is another Drop Structure in the creek bed (Resource 19). South of the Tennis Courts and west of the Bathhouse are some more recent additions to the park: two Basketball Courts (Resource 20), a playground (Resource 21), a Restroom (Resource 22), and part of a Pedestrian Bridge over Interstate 25 (Resource 23) (Photograph 35).

The area from Shadow Lake north to Mesa Road features curving concrete sidewalks bordered by mature deciduous trees (Photograph 2). Continuing north along the main trail, visitors reach a small paved Parking Lot (Resource 24) erected in 1950 on the south side of Mesa Road at the western edge of the park. Large cottonwood trees stand near the parking lot. In his gift of the park to the city, William Jackson Palmer stipulated that no motorized vehicles be allowed to traverse it, thus visitors park their cars and experience the park as the great playground its founder originally envisioned.

At Mesa Road the Art Deco style Mesa Road/Cache La Poudre Street Bridge (Resource 25, Photograph 15), erected by the PWA in 1936, spans the creek. The main gravel trail continues along the west bank of the stream. Immediately to the west is the 1967 Demonstration Garden (Resource 26, Photograph 31), an area with gravel paths, planting areas, and a fountain maintained by the Horticultural Arts Society (HAS). North of the garden is a support/services area containing the oldest building in the park, the half-timbered Caretaker's Cottage (1904) that originally served as General Palmer's construction office (Resource 27, Photograph 16). A complex of historic and modern

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

greenhouses (Resources 28 and 29), a stucco Horticultural Center Building with red tile roof (Resource 30), and an Electric Power Substation (Resource 31) are immediately north and northeast of the cottage.

Further north is Duck Lake/Lake No. 2 (Resource 32, Photograph 17), one of the artificial lakes considered essential to the park's original design. Northeast of Duck Lake is the 1967 Heritage Garden (Resource 33), which includes metal pergolas and a walled plaza with a sundial. To the northeast, adjacent to the main trail, is another WPA Monument (Resource 34). The presence of the 1908 Van Briggles Pottery building (now owned by Colorado College) prevents the main trail from continuing along the bank of the creek. Visitors must pass around the building to the west and proceed north across Uintah Street to continue on the west side of the park.

Northwest Quadrant

At Uintah Street is the recent Uintah Street Bridge (Resource 35, Photograph 34), a four-lane, three span concrete bridge faced with sandstone. With the erection of the City Service Center on a portion of the park land in the early 1960s, the park in this quadrant now primarily consists of a crushed gravel path along the west bank of Monument Creek. Just north of Uintah Street is the small San Miguel Street stone entranceway (Resource 36) to the park. Proceeding north along the trail, one finds a small picnic shelter just north of the confluence with Mesa Creek. The Monument Creek Retaining Wall (Resource 6) ends on the west bank of the creek about 3,100 feet north of Uintah Street, at a point opposite a northern baseball field on the east bank of the creek. Continuing along the main gravel trail pedestrians pass the screened area of the City Service Center on the west and two additional drop structures in the creek (Resources 38 and 39) before reaching the north boundary of the park at the alignment of Monroe Street.

Northeast Quadrant

To reach the Northeast Quadrant of the park, visitors continue north on the gravel path to the Van Buren Street Bridge (outside the park), cross to the east bank of the creek, and proceed down the path to the north boundary of the park at Monroe Street. The widest portion of the Monument Valley is found in the northern part of the quadrant. The wide main gravel trail extends along the east bank of Monument Creek the entire length of the quadrant, as does the Monument Creek Retaining Wall (Resource 6). Dozens of Ponderosa Pine trees and a number of low, curved, WPA era stone retaining walls border the trail along its eastern edge. Opportunities for excellent views of Cheyenne Mountain to the south are available from the trail in this area (Photograph 5). At about the midpoint between the northern boundary and Uintah Street is the WPA era Main Trail Underpass and Pedestrian Bridge (Resource 40, Photograph 18).

Just inside the north boundary of the park a secondary path splits off the main trail to the east and then branches into two north-south trails, one proceeding along the eastern edge of the park and the other through the center of the section, which retains a wilder, natural appearance contrasting with the manicured lawns and planting beds of the southern part of the park. Proceeding south along the

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

eastern trail, visitors reach Boddington Field (Resource 41, Photograph 32) at Jefferson Street. The soccer field, on the original site of the park reservoir, is substantially lower than the surrounding terrain and features a Palmer era stone and concrete Water Diversion Chute (Resource 42) which carried water from the El Paso Canal to the reservoir. The trail curves southward along the east edge of the grass field (while a branch encircles the western edge of the field) and then proceeds southeasterly to a historic Rustic style stone Pedestrian Bridge (Resource 43) and a stone-lined Ditch (Resource 44) at Fontanero Street (Photograph 19). West of this point is the Geologic Column complex (Resource 45, Photographs 4, 20, and 21), consisting of a wall composed of layers of stone illustrating the geologic strata in the Pikes Peak region, a waterfall, two stone overlooks, stone steps, and a stone footbridge, all original features of the park. To the west of the Geologic Column are two Pedestrian Bridges (Resources 46 and 48, Photograph 20) and a stone-lined Ditch (Resource 47). Continuing from Fontanero Street the eastern trail curves westward, splitting a short distance from the main trail, where one branch rejoins the main trail and the other passes through the trail underpass and provides access to the creek channel.

Southeast of the main trail underpass is a large, open, grass meadow containing a modern Baseball Field (Resource 49), Restroom (Resource 50), two Playgrounds, (Resources 51 and 52) and a picnic area. The slope of the bluff along the eastern edge of the park is kept in a naturalistic appearance that contrasts with the groomed appearance of the meadow. The Serpentine Wall (Resource 53, Photograph 23), a WPA era curving, undulating decorative stone feature, is at the south end of the open meadow. South along the main trail from the underpass is the historic Culebra Avenue Entrance (Resource 54), a stone overlook accessed by a gravel path from Culebra Avenue. The southern portion of the quadrant, between the Culebra Avenue Entrance and Uintah Street is fairly narrow. The massive stone Columbia Street Entrance (Resource 55, Photograph 24) to the park, erected by the WPA in 1938, is the most imposing feature in this section. The entrance has a path into the park from Columbia Street leading to a central stone overlook with a stone bench, high stone walls, and planter areas.

Southeast Quadrant (Northern Portion)

Crossing Uintah Street or using the underpass beneath the bridge (Resource 56, Photograph 34) visitors enter the northern end of the Southeast Quadrant. A pair of tennis courts (Resource 57) and the Pinetum (Resource 58), a historic grove containing examples of conifer trees, lie to the southeast. The main trail proceeds south along the east bank of the creek. West of the Colorado College campus, the park is comprised of a narrow strip of land containing the gravel path, reflecting the transfer of park land to the College in 1937 for athletic fields. College tennis courts and Washburn Field lie behind a chainlink fence to the east. The park broadens slightly just before Cache La Poudre Street. Between Cache La Poudre Street and Mesa Road (west of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center) is an open grass meadow bordered by tall trees. The main trail along the creek bank continues south of Mesa Road. A WPA Monument (Resource 59) is located adjacent to the trail just south of the Mesa Road Bridge. Especially fine views of the 1930s Monument Creek Retaining Wall (Resource 6, Photograph 26) are possible along this segment of the creek. As the trail turns

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

southward a short distance north of Monument Street, a portion of the retaining wall has been replaced with poured concrete.

The historic Monument Street Entrance (Resource 60), one of several park entrances in the Southeast Quadrant, is located at the terminus of Monument Street, where a low curving sandstone wall with piers borders the western end of a vehicle turnaround. A short distance south of Monument Street the trail splits to pass on either side of a row of mature Willow trees (Photograph 25). At Willamette Street a path leads up the bluff to the 1917 Willamette Street Entrance (Resource 61, Photographs 27 and 28), which features upper and lower stone overlooks joined by a sloping asphalt path with flanking cobblestone gutters. A block south, at St. Vrain Street, a gravel path joins the main trail from the east. The side trail leads to the historic St. Vrain Entrance (Resource 62, Photograph 29), a gravel switchback path with battered stone retaining walls and cobblestone gutters. A block further south, is the historic Boulder Street Entrance (Resource 63), which provides access to the park by means of two flights of concrete stairs with a center metal pipe railing. The main trail turns southwestward and proceeds to the east end of the Pedestrian Bridge (Resource 4). The remaining portion of the Southeast Quadrant was described above.

Resource Count

There are sixty-four resources within the Monument Valley Park Historic District, of which 39 (61 percent) are evaluated as contributing and 25 (39 percent) as noncontributing. Only resources of sufficient size and significance are included in the count. For example, sizeable designed plantings are called out, but not smaller flowerbeds or groupings of shrubs or trees. The park site is considered as one resource with paths, small-scale plantings, less significant retaining walls, and other smaller resources considered as features of the site. Contributing and noncontributing resources are discussed in the following sections organized by resource types and are identified on the included sketch maps by the resource number in a square—black for contributing resources and gray for noncontributing resources. Dates of construction for park resources were determined from published sources, historic maps, and aerial photographs for various years. Photograph numbers refer to views described in the Photographic Log, while resource numbers refer to locations of resources on the accompanying sketch maps. A table of all resources included in the resource count appears at the end of this section.

Contributing Resources

Park Site

Monument Valley Park Site, 1904 (Resource 64, all quadrants). The Monument Valley Park site is counted as one contributing site, with integral or smaller park elements considered as features of the site and not included in the count of contributing and noncontributing resources. Monument Creek with its wide channel, which forms a swath though the center of the park, is never far from any point within the park. The channel, widened and riprapped during the 1930s as a flood control measure, occupies roughly 31 percent (46 acres) of the nominated area of the park. Bordering the creek in the

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

channel is a dense growth of wild riparian bushes. A variety of wildlife makes its home within the park, including waterfowl, foxes, and raccoons; on one occasion, an errant moose ventured into the urban greenspace.

The trail system within the park is a unifying element which brings visitors into the park and connects various activity areas. The long gravel trails on either side of Monument Creek are the spine of pedestrian and bicycle travel within the park and emphasize its linear nature. The north-south trail on the east side of the creek is part of a larger regional trail system. Narrower trails (mostly gravel, but some concrete or asphalt) connect park entrances to the main trails and encircle the two lakes. The northern area of the park contains a network of secondary trails (especially west of Boddington Field), including several informal social trails. Concrete sidewalks are found in the more formal areas of the park, in the Southwest Quadrant between the parking lot and the Bath House and Swimming Pool and in the Southeast Quadrant in the Formal Gardens area.

The open grassy areas of the park, several of which contain athletic fields, also contribute to its character. These areas are generally level and feature trees and shrubs on their perimeter. The largest of these (about 3.5 acres) is located in the Southwest Quadrant and houses the baseball stadium and a volleyball court. Another athletic facility, Boddington Field, occupies approximately 2.6 acres in the northern area of the park. Originally a reservoir, the soccer field is about ten feet below the surrounding terrain and is encircled with a gravel path. Two other open areas in the northern end of the park, west of the Geologic Column and northwest of Boddington Field, each occupy more than two acres. These areas present an unmanicured, naturalistic aspect, and do not appear to be mowed or watered with a permanent irrigation system. Smaller open areas include the space in the northern area of the park containing a baseball field and two playgrounds and a large field immediately west of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. The latter feature is a more intimate grassy area (about 1.2 acres) surrounded by tall Ponderosa Pine, White Fir, Rocky Mountain Juniper, and Blue Spruce trees.

Monument Valley Park contains more than 2,900 trees, of which 40 percent are coniferous (evergreens) and 60 percent are deciduous (broadleaves). The most prevalent species of coniferous tree in the park is the Ponderosa Pine, followed by Rocky Mountain Juniper, Blue Spruce, and White Fir. A long band of pines extends along the eastern edge of the park, from the high land near Boddington Field south to about Caramillo Street. Principal deciduous species in the park include Japanese Lilac, Cottonwood, American Elm, Siberian Elm, White and Green Ash, and Willow. There are stands of Cottonwoods of significant diameter south of Shadow Lake and a row of large Willows along the main trail (east side) just south of Monument Street. A magnificent American Elm tree is located in the northern part of the Heritage Garden.¹

The park landscape incorporates numerous small features which contribute to its overall design, including small stone retaining walls, drainage structures, drinking fountains, benches, picnic

¹ A comprehensive tree inventory does not exist for the park. The information above is based on geographic information provided by the Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department in August 2006. Tree locations were identified by GPS or from aerial photographs. All trees were identified as coniferous or deciduous, but only 41 percent (mostly in the northern part of the park) were identified by species.

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benches, bushes, small beds of flowers and shrubs, a picnic shelter, exercise stations, and small parking areas. For example, a stone WPA-era drinking fountain is located in a stand of Cottonwoods south of Shadow Lake. A drainage structure with stone sidewalls lies southwest of Plymouth Rock. Many low curvilinear WPA-era retaining walls are located adjacent to the main trail in the northern part of the park. These smaller features were documented in a comprehensive 2004-05 survey performed by members and supporters of the Friends of Monument Valley Park but are not included in the resource count.

Buildings

William Jackson Palmer hoped that only a few essential buildings would be constructed in Monument Valley Park, and his wishes have been fulfilled. All of the contributing buildings date to the first three decades of the twentieth century and are located in the Southwest Quadrant.

Penrose Bathhouse and Swimming Pool, 1916 (Resource 14, Southwest Quadrant, 5EP613.7, Photograph 13). In 1916, wealthy Colorado Springs residents Spencer and Julie Penrose donated funds for the construction of the city's first public swimming pool and an associated bathhouse in the park. The couple examined similar buildings in other cities to determine what features and architectural style would be appropriate. The simple stucco bathhouse with a hipped red tile roof established precedents for the design of future buildings in the park.

The south-facing one-story, 63' X 34' bath house and the swimming pool are located on the west side of Monument Creek, north of Shadow Lake and south of the Carlton Bandstand. The bathhouse has a hipped roof and overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. The walls are stucco, and there is a projecting beltcourse above the raised basement. The facade features a large central arched entrance with an inset door surmounted by a divided transom. Two sets of paired six-over-two-light double-hung sash windows with shared sills flank the entrance on the first story, and there are three two-over-one-light windows on each side of the basement level. Wide concrete steps accessing the entrance have stucco sidewalls and metal railings. The sidewalls have arched openings.

On the west is a full-height stucco chimney with curved shoulders elaborated with tile flanked by six-over-two-light windows. The north window is covered up. The rear wall has an arched, central entrance flanked by one set of paired windows and blind inset panels. There is also an arched basement level entrance. There is a "bridge" with stucco sidewalls leading from the rear of the building on the first story to the swimming pool area. The east wall of the bathhouse has two windows on the first story set in panels and two small wood doors accessing the raised basement. The interior has been remodeled.

The rectangular swimming pool to the north is approximately 44' X 83' and is surrounded by a wide concrete apron. The pool area and a large grassy area to the north are enclosed by a six-and-a-half-foot metal fence with stucco piers. The pool was expanded in 1998.

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Carlton Bandstand, 1916, MacLaren & Thomas (Resource 17, Southwest Quadrant, 5EP613.5, Photograph 14). Located north of the Penrose Bathhouse on the west bank of the creek is the Carlton Bandstand. Ethel F. Carlton donated the bandstand, which was planned by the Colorado Springs architectural firm of MacLaren & Thomas to harmonize with the Penrose bathhouse while displaying Classical Revival elements favored in the City Beautiful era. The one-story bandstand is an open pavilion with a pyramidal hipped, red clay tile roof supported by twelve full-height classical columns. The raised concrete deck, which has a low balustrade composed of concrete piers connected with a concrete rail, projects beyond the area sheltered by the roof. The pavilion is accessed by concrete steps with stucco sidewalls with slanted tops on the north and south.

Shelter Pavilion, 1924 (Resource 15, Southwest Quadrant, 5EP613.6, Photograph 1). The Shelter Pavilion is located between Shadow Lake and the western boundary of the park. A building to shelter visitors during periods of inclement weather was considered a necessity for the park long before its completion in 1924. Although architects MacLaren and Thomas prepared a design for the resource more than a decade earlier, the actual building was erected in a "less artistic" manner due to financial constraints. The one-story open pavilion has a hipped red clay tile roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafters. The roof is supported by grouped full-height classical columns. The main portion of the building is rectangular (about 36' X 86') and is oriented southwest-northeast. On the southeast, facing Shadow Lake, is a projecting hipped roof entrance porch with concrete steps with fieldstone sidewalls.

Palmer Construction Office/Park Foreman's Cottage, 1904 (Resource 27, Southwest Quadrant, 5EP613.2, Photograph 16). Located immediately south of the greenhouses in the support area, this building is the oldest extant building in Monument Valley Park. Originally built as a construction office by William Jackson Palmer during the initial creation of the park, the building was subsequently used as the park foreman's cottage. The one-story house has a hipped roof clad with wood shingles and a center brick chimney with a corbelled top. There are gabled dormers with battered, shingled walls and louvered vents. The walls of the house have stucco and half-timbering. There is an enclosed shed roof porch on the north, facing the greenhouse area, and a shed roof hood above an entrance on the south. The original windows are one-over-one light double-hung sash, and the enclosed porch has two-part sliding windows and a four-light window.

Greenhouses, 1907, additions in 1935 and 1975 (Resource 28, Southwest Quadrant, 5EP613.2). A greenhouse was erected originally to grow flowers planted throughout the park in order to supplement the existing plants on the site. The existing greenhouse complex consists of three connected components: an original 1907 greenhouse (the section furthest west); a 1935 greenhouse built with WPA labor (middle section); and a 1975 greenhouse (the section furthest east). The oldest component has stucco sections to the north used as potting sheds.

Entrances/Overlooks

Entrances into the park from intersecting streets and associated overlooks were an important part of the original park design. Due to budget constraints these improvements were completed over time.

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Many of these resources were Rustic style designs incorporating native stone. These entrances led visitors from the urban environment immediately into the pastoral park via narrow descending trails through naturalistic vegetation, some of which ended at stone overlooks featuring magnificent vistas.

Bijou Street Gateway, pre-1944 (Resource 1, Southeast Quadrant, 5EP613.13, Photograph 6). Erected between 1923 and 1944, the formal park entrance at W. Bijou Street and Westview Place faces southeast (at an angle to the intersection) and consists of two ten-foot variegated fieldstone piers, supporting an arched wrought iron sign bearing the name of the park. Two curving stone sidewalls (about four feet tall) incorporate tinted concrete benches; the entire entrance is about forty-three feet in width. The metal sign was fabricated within the last fifteen to twenty years by Park employees; it is not known if it replaced an earlier sign.²

Columbia Street Entrance, 1938, WPA (Resource 55, Northeast Quadrant, 5EP613.16, Photograph 24). The largest and most elaborate representative of this resource type is the entrance and overlook at Columbia Street in the northern portion of the park. The features were completed by the WPA laborers in the first six months of 1938. The entrance is centered on a gravel path leading into the park from Columbia Street and extends four hundred feet north-south along the east side of the creek. Curving four to five feet high stone walls, composed of rocks and boulders taken from Monument Creek, extend north and south from the entrance path. At the center is a stone overlook with a stone bench flanked by low stone walls featuring planter areas. On the creek side of the overlook wall is a shallow arched niche containing a bronze WPA plaque. The steps and floor of the overlook are composed of Manitou greenstone. Associated with the resource is a twenty-five-foot-long horseshoe-shaped stone drainage feature to the southeast.³

Willamette Street Entrance, 1917 (Resource 61, Southeast Quadrant, 5EP613.14, Photographs 27 and 28). The Willamette Street Entrance is comprised of two stone overlooks connected by an asphalt path. The upper overlook, at the western terminus of Willamette Street, is semi-circular and consists of a series of stone piers with buff sandstone caps atop a stone base. The piers and base are composed of variegated dressed rhyolite. The base features a number of small areas of reddish granite fieldstones. A ten-foot-wide asphalt path is flanked by shallow gutters made of small reddish granite cobblestones set in concrete and slopes westward to the main level of the park. At the western end of the path is a second curved stone overlook that has a stone bench capped with a layer of concrete. The walls of the lower overlook feature the same type of stonework as the upper overlook, including beaded mortar joints. There is a shallow arched niche on the creek side of the overlook wall. Access to the main park trail is via curving stone steps with stone sidewalls to the south and an asphalt ramp to the north.

St. Vrain Street Entrance, pre-1935 (Resource 62, Southeast Quadrant, Photograph 29). The St. Vrain Street Entrance to the park descends approximately twenty feet to the main level of the park from the end of St. Vrain Street by means of a gravel path with three switchbacks. The upper two

² Chris Lieber, Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department, telephone interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 11 July 2006.

³ *Colorado Springs Gazette and Telegraph*, 17 July 1938.

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switchbacks have an angled stone retaining wall (three to six feet in height) and an adjacent shallow stone gutter composed of small rounded stones set in concrete. The lowest switchback has a lower stone retaining wall. A flight of four tinted concrete steps connects the first and second switchbacks and is bounded by a short section of concrete blocks. The total length of the feature is about 133 feet. The gutter detail is similar to those on the 1917 Willamette Street Entrance, suggesting that this entrance may date to that era.

Culebra Avenue Entrance, pre-1942 (Resource 54, Northeast Quadrant). The Culebra Avenue Entrance consists of a curving fieldstone retaining wall measuring about six feet tall adjacent to the main trail. The wall partially encloses an overlook with a concrete deck. The overlook is open to the east, where a gravel path leads to Culebra Avenue. Stone steps with low stone sidewalls curve along the north and south walls of the overlook and connect with the main trail.

Boulder Street Entrance, 1914 (Resource 63, Southeast Quadrant). This entrance consists of two flights of wide concrete steps with concrete sidewalls and a center metal pipe railing. The concrete for the steps appears to be newer than the concrete for the sidewalls; the railing appears to be original.

Monument Street Entrance, pre-1942 (Resource 60, Southeast Quadrant). This L-shaped park entrance is placed at the terminus of Monument Street and consists of a low wall of roughly quarried, coursed red sandstone with a series of square sandstone piers which have slightly projecting sandstone caps. At the south end of the wall there is a vehicle opening into the park that is blocked by a cable attached to the southmost pier of the wall and a similar pier a few feet to the south.

San Miguel Street Entrance, pre-1942 (Resource 36, Northwest Quadrant, 5EP613.15). This modest park entrance, northwest of the Uintah Street Bridge, consists of a semicircular low wall (open to the west) composed of coursed split sandstone, enclosing an overlook with a view to the east. The wall has piers with caps at each end and in the center. A metal utility box is located in the center of the overlook.

Walls

To deal with the threat of flooding by Monument Creek, the original park design included retaining walls with stone riprap. The riprap was continuously damaged and replaced before the 1935 flood that washed it away. The park's WPA era resulted in the construction of new walls along the creek, as well as a variety of Rustic style stone retaining walls throughout the park.

Monument Creek Retaining Walls, 1936-40, WPA (Resource 6, all quadrants, 5EP613.1, Photographs 5, 25, 26, and 34). The wide Monument Creek streambed and the concrete and stone retaining walls along both sides of the creek are dominant features throughout most of the park. In a monumental flood control project, WPA workers first widened the creek channel to nearly two hundred feet. Trenches along the edge of the channel were excavated and concrete toe walls were poured that were reinforced with sections of rail hammered into the underlying shale by a steam-

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driven pile driver. The stream banks above the toe wall were graded at a 1.5 to 1 slope and then covered principally with twelve inch thick, irregularly-shaped slabs of Manitou greenstone that were dry laid or mortared into place. Portions of the east retaining wall in the northern part of the park are riprapped with a white sedimentary stone. The tops of the banks on either side of the channel are about fifteen feet above the streambed. Approximately 3.5 miles of channel retaining walls were constructed in the park, on the east bank for the entire length of the park (approximately 10,767 feet) and on the west bank from the southern boundary to north of Mesa Creek (approximately 7,781 feet). Nearly all is extant. Roughly 450 feet of retaining wall on the east side of the channel lying north of Monument Street was replaced in the 1960s with poured concrete panels. Sections of the retaining walls have been reconstructed adjacent to the new Uintah Street Bridge.⁴

Shadow Lake Dike/Retaining Wall, 1936, WPA (Resource 13, Southwest Quadrant, 5EP613.4, Photograph 11.). The widening of the Monument Creek streambed following the 1935 flood required that Shadow Lake be decreased in size. This 307-foot-long dike/retaining wall was erected by WPA workers to form an eastern shoreline and protect the lake from future floods. The top of the wall is flush with the main trail and has two stepped levels (18" to 20" deep) facing the lake. The wall is composed of variegated reddish granite cobblestones mortared in place and curves southwestward at its southern end.

Monuments/Decorative Features

Geologic Column, c. 1907, Edmond C. van Diest (Resource 45, Northeast Quadrant, 5EP613.3, Photographs 4, 20, and 21). The Geologic Column with its associated features is the principal educational/decorative resource in the northern end of the park. Located west of the Fontanero Street entrance to the park, the Geologic Column consists of a wall of stone on a low southeast-facing hillside that exhibits the various geologic strata present in the Pikes Peak region. A bronze plaque placed on the wall at its re-dedication in 1965 states that the column was a gift of Gen. William Jackson Palmer in 1907. Associated features include: to the north, a circular overlook (eighteen feet in diameter) with a low stone wall; to the northeast, an artificial waterfall with a stone-lined channel and a wrought iron gate at its lip; to the northeast, a stone footbridge with a concrete deck and reddish cobblestone concave walls, and cobblestone end piers (the walls and piers are capped with slabs of sandstone); to the southeast, a smaller circular overlook (ten feet in diameter) with a low stone wall; and to the west, a stone retaining wall that curves around the side of the hill. The features are situated at varying heights on the hillside and are accessed by curving flights of red sandstone steps and gravel paths.

WPA Monuments, 1936-40, WPA (Resources 6 and 59, Southeast Quadrant, Photograph 7; Resources 16 and 34, Southwest Quadrant). The park contains four Works Progress Administration (WPA) monuments commemorating the projects sponsored by that Depression era agency to

⁴ There are some retaining structures on the west side of the creek north of the confluence with Mesa Creek, but they are less substantial and do not reflect the design elements of the riprap walls previously described. *The WPA Worker* (December 1936); Works Progress Administration, "Work Program: Colorado Works Progress Administration Projects," looseleaf, n.d., in the files of the Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver, Colorado.

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improve the park in the 1930s. Each monument consists of a slab of sandstone with the face of the slab featuring the standard one-foot by two-foot WPA bronze plaque with an eagle atop a shield and the following text: "Erected through the cooperation of federal, state and local governments by Works Progress Administration. Dedicated to the enrichment of human lives. A record of permanent achievement." Two of the monuments are located in the Southeast Quadrant along the trail on the east side of Monument Creek (one at the south end, Resource 6, and one just south of the Mesa Road Bridge, Resource 59), while two are located in the Southwest Quadrant (one near the northeast corner of the Heritage Garden, Resource 34, and one southeast of the Penrose Bathhouse, Resource 16). The monument adjacent to the Bathhouse consists of a vertical slab of sandstone that is roughly rectangular (about six feet high and four feet wide), which rests on a raised base of pieces of irregular flat sandstone. The slab near the Heritage Garden is roughly triangular in shape.

Serpentine Wall, late 1930s, WPA (Resource 53, Northeast Quadrant, Photograph 23). Another product of WPA work in the park, the Serpentine Wall is a 390-foot-long decorative stone wall located adjacent to the main trail on the west edge of an open grassy area in the northern part of the park. The undulating wall is composed of rubble stone of varying shades. The wall has a thin concrete mortar cap and tapers to ground level at each end.⁵

Water Features

Water features were built both as picturesque elements of the park landscape and as part of the elaborate irrigation and water storage system created to provide water for the plantings and fill the designed water structures.

Lake No. 1/Shadow Lake/Willow Pond, 1904-05 (Resource 12, Southwest Quadrant, Photographs 1, 11, and 12). This 1.3-acre artificial lake was created during the original construction of the park. Originally much larger at the east end, the lake was reduced in size following the 1935 flood to accommodate the widened channel of Monument Creek. A dike and stone wall (see Resource 13) were constructed along its east shoreline adjacent to the main trail and creek channel. The lake has an oblong-shaped island near its center that is densely landscaped with trees and shrubs. The edge of the lake is bounded by a low concrete wall capped with fieldstones. Adjacent to the lake on the north is a gravel path and a curving stone retaining wall topped with plantings. At the northeast corner of the lake is a short flight of stone steps leading to the level of the main trail.

Lake No. 2/Duck Lake, 1904-05 (Resource 32, Southwest Quadrant, Photograph 17). This one acre artificial lake built during the original construction of the park is located on the west side of Monument Creek between the support building area and the Van Briggles Pottery building. The lake features a small island near its south end, and its bank is edged with large stones. The lake is encircled by a narrow gravel path.

⁵ A specific date was not found for this resource, but other WPA stone features in the northern end of the park which are documented (the Columbia street Entrance and a small stone wall adjacent to the main trail) date to 1938.

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Tahama Spring and Retaining Wall, 1926 and 1930s, WPA (Resource 8, Southwest Quadrant, Photograph 9). The first mineral spring identified within the city was discovered in 1880, improved by Palmer, and became a popular amenity of the park that drew many healthseekers in Colorado Springs during the early twentieth century. To celebrate Colorado's fiftieth birthday, the Park Commission enclosed the spring with an octagonal pavilion designed by local architect Elmer E. Nieman in 1926. During the 1930s, the WPA placed a stone cap on the spring in the center of the concrete base and erected the curving stone retaining wall immediately to the east. The pavilion was damaged or destroyed in a June 1965 flood and is no longer present, but the octagonal concrete foundation, stone cap, and retaining wall remain.

Stone Lined Ditch, 1904-09 (Resource 44, Northeast Quadrant, Photograph 19). Extending from Fontanero Street west to the Geologic Column for about 188 feet is a shallow ditch with angled sidewalls and a concrete bottom. The ditch walls are lined with flat field stones of varied sizes placed in concrete. The structure originally carried water from the El Paso Canal (to the east) to the waterfall feature in the Geologic Column complex.

Stone Lined Ditch, 1936-40, WPA (Resource 47, Northeast Quadrant). This shallow ditch curves gently southwesterly from the stone bridge west of the Geologic Column (Resource 46), passes under a second stone bridge (Resource 48), and continues to near an underpass adjacent to Monument Creek. The 570-foot-long ditch is lined with stones mortared with concrete and is overgrown with vegetation at many places along its length.

Water Diversion Chute, 1904-09 (Resource 42, Northeast Quadrant). This stone and concrete chute at the northeast corner of Boddington Field once carried water from the El Paso Canal into the reservoir located at the site of the field. The twenty-five-foot-long chute is about six feet wide and has mortared polygonal stone walls. Near the center of the chute are two angled stone projections that partially block the chute's channel; their apparent purpose was to slow the water in its twelve foot drop into reservoir and reduce erosion of the reservoir bottom.

Bridges/Underpasses/Parking Lots

Mesa Road/Cache La Poudre Street Bridge, 1936, PWA (Resource 25, Southwest and Southeast Quadrants, 5EP974, Photograph 15). A bridge across Monument Creek at this spot was destroyed by the flood of May 1935. This 232-foot-long Art Deco style replacement bridge was constructed through Public Works Administration funding and opened to traffic in the spring of 1936. The two-lane bridge is a continuous concrete I-beam structure with two concrete piers in the creek bed and angled concrete abutments. The sides of the deck and abutments feature Art Deco chevron detailing; the walls of the bridge are composed of sections of ornamental metal railing placed between concrete piers. Short metal streetlights with acorn-shaped globes are located atop the railing piers in the center of the bridge and at the east and west ends. Union Metal of Canton, Ohio, manufactured the lights.

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Main Trail Underpass and Pedestrian Bridge, 1936-40, WPA (Resource 40, Northeast Quadrant, Photograph 18). This sixty-eight-foot underpass beneath the main pedestrian trail, located west-southwest of the Geologic Column, provides access to the streambed of Monument Creek. The walls of the underpass beneath the bridge and the tapering sidewalls to the west are formed with layers of poured concrete; the tapering sidewalls to the east are composed of sandstone. Atop the underpass is an eighteen-foot-long pedestrian bridge with a concrete deck and fieldstone walls with a thin concrete cap.

Pedestrian Bridge (east of the Geologic Column near Fontanero Street), 1936-40 (Resource 43, Northeast Quadrant, Photograph 19). Three stone pedestrian bridges for park trails are located in the northern section of Monument Valley Park, west and east of the Geologic Column complex. The upper bridge (Resource 43), lying between Fontanero Street and the Geologic Column, is a sixteen-foot-long bridge with flat fieldstone walls with fieldstone caps. The bridge rests upon a concrete pipe culvert with angled concrete sidewalls. A stone-lined ditch (Resource 44) flows beneath the bridge.

Pedestrian Bridge (immediately west of Geologic Column), c. 1907 (Resource 46, Northeast Quadrant, Photograph 20). A second bridge is located immediately west of the Geologic Column and is a twelve-foot-long structure with concave reddish cobblestone walls and square end piers. The walls and piers have larger fieldstone caps. The bridge carries a secondary trail over a ditch which once carried water from the waterfall at the Geologic Column to Monument Creek.

Pedestrian Bridge (east of the Main Trail Underpass and Pedestrian Bridge), 1936-40 (Resource 46, Northeast Quadrant, Photograph 20). A third bridge lies to the west, a short distance east of the underpass for the main trail. The roughly seventeen-foot-long bridge carries a secondary north-south trail over a drainage ditch (Resource 47) and has low walls composed of field stones which curve outward at each end; the walls have a cap of sandstone slabs (some of which are missing).

Parking Lot, 1950 (Resource 24, Southwest Quadrant). This 0.4-acre paved parking lot south of Mesa Road near the western edge of the park was created in 1950. Roughly rectangular in form, it has angled parking spaces for about fifty vehicles and has tubular metal parking stops around its perimeter.

Designed Plantings

The Pinetum, est. 1909 (Resource 58, Southeast Quadrant). The Pinetum is a 0.4-acre arboretum within the park, located southeast of Uintah Street and Monument Creek and immediately east and south of the tennis courts. A pinetum is defined as an arboretum that specializes in growing conifers. The Monument Valley Park Pinetum presently includes approximately sixteen trees. The resource contains the Colorado State Champion Lacebark Pine. A rarity outside of its native China, the Lacebark Pine was planted in about 1933 and is the only known example of the species in Colorado. There is a small parking area along the eastern edge of the area.⁶

⁶ City of Colorado Springs, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Forestry Division, *Notable Trees, Colorado Springs, Colorado* (Colorado Springs: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Forestry Division, January 1997), 16.

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Daughters of the American Colonists Commemorative Tree Grove ("Plymouth Rock"), 1948 (Resource 7, Southwest Quadrant, Photograph 8). This memorial tree grove on about 0.3 acres of the park lies near the south end of the Southwest Quadrant, just northwest of the pedestrian bridge over Monument Creek. It was donated by the Daughters of the American Colonists (DAC) and originally consisted of thirteen trees honoring the founders of the original colonies. The trees were provided to the DAC by the Pike National Forest from a nursery near Monument. A large granite boulder with a bronze plaque symbolizing Plymouth Rock was placed at the site. The boulder and eight of the original trees still remain, including two blue spruce, three junipers, and three bristlecone pines.⁷

Recreational Facilities

Baseball Stadium, 1917 (Resource 10, Southwest Quadrant, Photograph 10). The 1917 baseball stadium features an arc of grandstands with tiered seating composed of stone and concrete, a two-story stucco announcer's/concessions booth, a chainlink backstop, and a perimeter fence enclosing a field. The stone wall of the seating area is composed of rock-faced rhyolite with occasional areas of reddish granite cobblestones (similar to the Willamette Street Entrance, Resource 61); a course of rock-faced flat pieces of rhyolite form a cap for the wall. Covered with sand by the 1935 flood, the stands were dug out and the backstop replaced. The widening of the Monument Creek streambed after the 1935 flood necessitated reducing the depth of right field. It is not known if the announcer's booth was original or added later.

Tennis Courts, 1923 (Resource 18, Southwest Quadrant). In 1923, a complex of six concrete-surfaced tennis courts were donated to the park by the Quackenbush family. The tennis resource now has five tennis courts (in groups of three and two on a slight northwest-southwest alignment), which have hard surfaces, a ten-foot chainlink perimeter fence, and lights on poles for nighttime play. The three courts to the north have a concrete curb, while the two courts to the south are slightly lower and do not have a curb. The courts are located west of the Carlton Bandstand.

Tennis Courts, pre-1955 (Resource 57, Southeast Quadrant). Located west of the Pinetum adjacent to Uintah Street are two hard-surface tennis courts surrounded by a tall chainlink fence. The longer axis of each court is oriented north-south.

Noncontributing Resources

Buildings

Horticultural Center, 1999 (Resource 30, Southwest Quadrant). This one-story irregularly-shaped building has stucco walls, a widely overhanging hipped roof clad with red clay tiles, and a tall brick chimney near its south end. Short classical columns atop stucco piers (some engaged) ornament the

⁷ City of Colorado Springs, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Forestry Division, *Notable Trees, Colorado Springs, Colorado*, 10.

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front of the building. The building, which may include parts of older buildings, is noncontributing due to its extensive alteration/construction after the period of significance.

Greenhouses, 2001 (Resource 29, Southwest Quadrant). Two joined rectangular greenhouses with gabled roofs and one bow roof greenhouse are located in the support area east of the Horticultural Center. The greenhouses are noncontributing due to their erection after the period of significance.

Restrooms (South), late 1970s (Resource 22, Southwest Quadrant, Photograph 35). There are two nonhistoric restroom buildings within the park. The small one-story square buildings have pyramidal roofs clad with red tiles. The south restroom is a one-story square building with a pyramidal roof clad with red tiles, stucco walls, and an inset entrance area on the east flanked by paired classical columns. The restroom is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

Restroom (North), post-1975 (Resource 50, Northeast Quadrant). The north restroom is a small one-story square building with a pyramidal roof clad with red tiles with concrete block walls and with an inset entrance area on the southeast with concrete block piers. The restroom is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

Entrances/Overlooks

Boulder Crescent Street Entrance, 1983 (Resource 3, Southeast Quadrant). This entrance consists of two short flights of concrete steps flanking a rock garden with small trees. The steps have metal railings. The entrance is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

Water Features

Monument Creek Drop Structures, 1990s, (Resources 9 and 19, Southeast and Southwest Quadrants, and Resources 37, 38, and 39, Northwest and Northeast Quadrants, Photograph 15). Along its length within the park, Monument Creek contains a series of five concrete and stone drop structures to slow water flow in Monument Creek and reduce channel erosion. Three are located north of Uintah Street and two are situated to the south. The drop structures are noncontributing due to their erection after the period of significance.

Bridges/Underpasses

Uintah Street Bridge, 1999, (Resource 35, all quadrants, Photograph 34). The 1935 flood washed out a bridge at this site, and a concrete replacement (a twin of the current Mesa Road Bridge) was completed in 1936. This 1999 four-lane concrete vehicular bridge that replaced the 1936 structure has concrete traffic lanes and flanking sidewalks. The bridge is composed of three sections: the sections adjacent to each bank are clad with thin layers of sandstone, while the center section has sandstone clad piers topped by metal streetlights with acorn globes and metal balustrade railings. The bridge is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

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Monument Creek Pedestrian Bridge, c. 1990, Continental Custom Bridge Co. (Resource 4, Southwest and Southeast Quadrants, Photograph 7). This 235-foot-long and 12-foot-wide span is the only pedestrian bridge over Monument Creek in the park. The steel truss bridge has a wood deck, concrete abutments, and two concrete piers. The bridge is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

Interstate 25 Pedestrian Bridge, 2003-04 (Resource 23, Southwest Quadrant, Photograph 35). The eastern access ramps to the pedestrian bridge over Interstate 25 are located in the park west of the Penrose Bathhouse and north of the Restroom. The concrete ramp, with a metal railing and piers clad with sandstone, forms a long loop to the north to maintain a gentle grade to access the east-west bridge over the freeway. The bridge is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

Uintah Street Pedestrian Underpass, 1999 (Resource 56, Northeast and Southeast Quadrant, Photograph 34). This pedestrian underpass permits users of the main trail to avoid a surface crossing of busy Uintah Street. The underpass is approximately one hundred feet long and twelve feet wide and is surfaced with concrete and asphalt, with a metal pipe railing on the creek side. The sloping surface of the underpass is supported by gabions composed of stones encased in wire mesh. The underpass is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

Designed Plantings

Horticultural Arts Society Demonstration Garden, 1967 (Resource 26, Southeast Quadrant, Photograph 31). The Demonstration Garden, measuring approximately 125' X 220', is located south of the support area at the northeast corner of Mesa Road and Glen Avenue. The Giddings Fountain is situated at the center of a lozenge-shaped layout of gravel paths. The area features a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers in thematic beds. The garden is noncontributing due to its creation after the period of significance.

Formal Gardens, 1982-83 (Resource 2, Southeast Quadrant, Photograph 33). The 1980s era Formal Gardens are located in the southeastern corner of the park and cover approximately 3.4 acres. A network of concrete sidewalks cuts through the area and define numerous geometrically-shaped planting beds. The gardens are noncontributing due to their erection after the period of significance.

Horticultural Arts Society Heritage Garden, 1967 (Resource 33, Southwest Quadrant). Located just south of the former Van Briggles Pottery building on the west side of Monument Creek, the Heritage Garden covers approximately 0.7 acres, and includes gravel paths, two metal pergolas, low brick and stone walls encircling a terra cotta clock face and a sundial. The garden is noncontributing due to its creation after the period of significance.

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Recreational Facilities

Baseball Field, post-1985 (Resource 49, Northeast Quadrant). Located southwest of the Geologic Column complex, the baseball field faces southwest and has a dirt infield, chainlink backstop and sideline fences, and metal bleachers. The field is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

Volleyball Court, post-1955 (Resource 11, Southwest Quadrant). The rectangular (50'X90'), sand-filled volleyball court is located south of Shadow Lake. The court is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

Boddington Soccer Field, 1978 (Resource 41, Northeast Quadrant, Photograph 32). This location once held an oval reservoir. In 1978, the area was graded and a soccer field was constructed. The field is lower than the surrounding terrain and consists of a flat grassy field with spectator stands and concrete stairs to the east and a vehicle access ramp to the north. The field is noncontributing due to its creation after the period of significance.

Basketball Courts, c. 1984 (Resource 20, Southwest Quadrant). West of Penrose Bath House and Swimming Pool are two concrete basketball courts, each measuring about 50'X83'. The courts are noncontributing due to their erection after the period of significance.

Playground (South), 1997 (Resource 21, Southwest Quadrant, Photograph 35). The park contains three nonhistoric playgrounds. The irregularly-shaped playground constructed northwest of the Penrose Bath House is bounded by concrete sidewalks and features a sand-filled play area with metal and plastic play equipment. The playground is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance.

Playgrounds (North), post-1975 (Resources 51 and 52, Northeast Quadrant). The two post-1975 playgrounds in the northern end of the park are located northeast of a baseball field on opposite sides of a secondary trail; both are filled with sand and are edged with a concrete curb. The playgrounds are noncontributing due to their erection after the period of significance.

Other Resources

Electrical Substation, post-1955 (Resource 31, Southwest Quadrant). This electrical power substation operated by the Colorado Springs Utility Department includes a two-story metal framework and is surrounded by a chainlink fence. The substation is noncontributing due to its erection after the period of significance and its lack of historical associations with the park.

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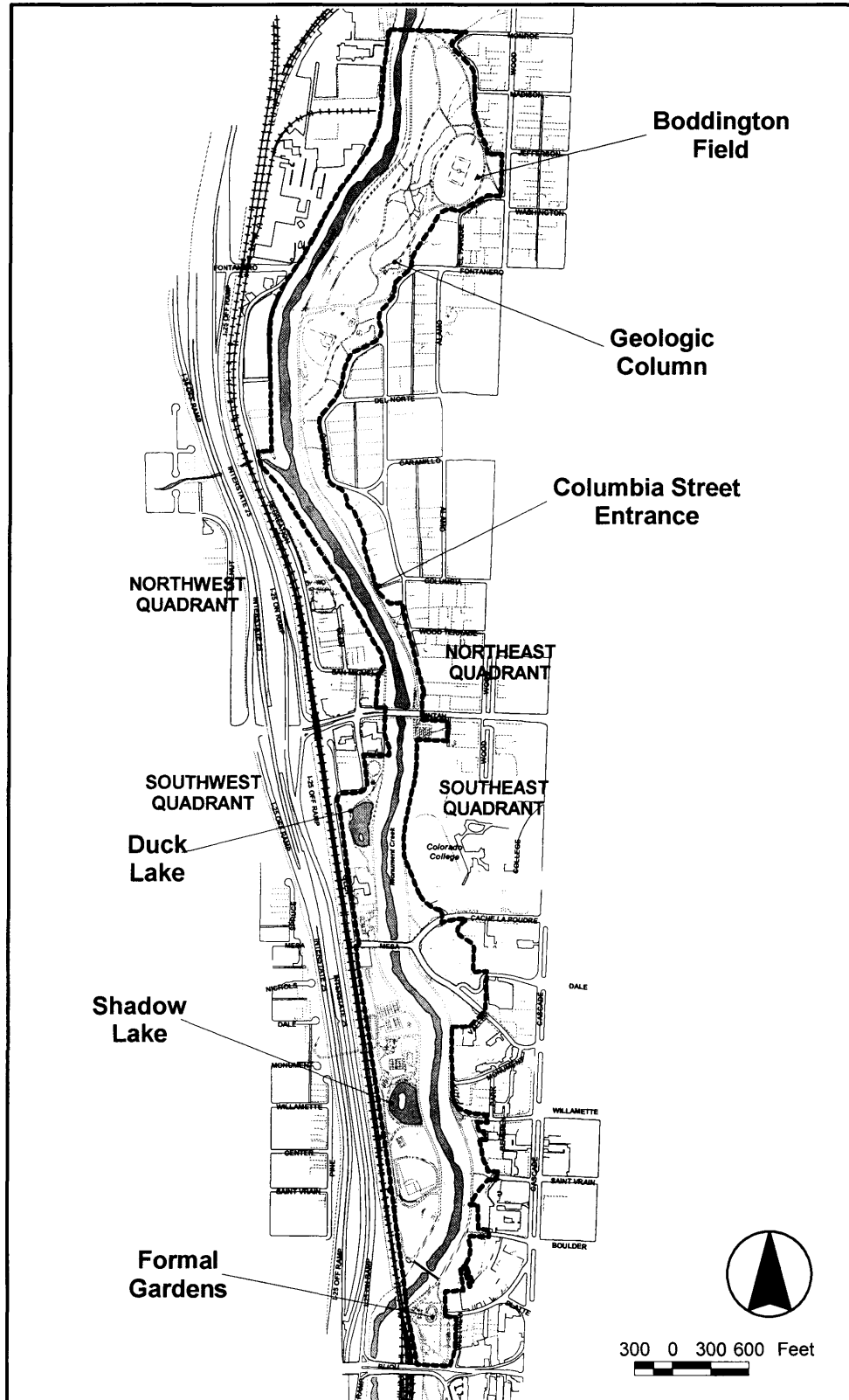


Figure 1. Overview map of Monument Valley Park showing selected features for orientation. Dashed line is the boundary of the nominated area.

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LIST OF RESOURCES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

| RES. NUM. | RESOURCE NAME | STATE ID NO. | YEAR BUILT | RESOURCE TYPE | QUAD. | CONTRIBUTING STATUS |
|-----------|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------|---------------------|
| 1 | Bijou Street Gateway | 5EP613.13 | Pre-1944 | Structure | SE | Contributing |
| 2 | Formal Gardens | N/A | 1982-83 | Site | SE | Noncontributing |
| 3 | Boulder Crescent Street Entrance | N/A | 1983 | Structure | SE | Noncontributing |
| 4 | Monument Creek Pedestrian Bridge | N/A | c. 1990 | Structure | SE, SW | Noncontributing |
| 5 | WPA Monument | N/A | 1936-40 | Object | SE | Contributing |
| 6 | Monument Creek Retaining Walls | 5EP613.1 | 1936-40 | Structure | All | Contributing |
| 7 | Daughters of the American Colonists Commemorative Tree Grove ("Plymouth Rock") | N/A | 1948 | Site | SW | Contributing |
| 8 | Tahama Spring and Retaining Wall | N/A | 1926, 1930s | Structure | SW | Contributing |
| 9 | Monument Creek Drop Structure | N/A | 1990s | Structure | SE, SW | Noncontributing |
| 10 | Baseball Stadium | N/A | 1917 | Structure | SW | Contributing |
| 11 | Volleyball Court | N/A | Post-1955 | Structure | SW | Noncontributing |
| 12 | Lake No. 1/Shadow Lake/Willow Pond | N/A | 1904-05 | Structure | SW | Contributing |
| 13 | Shadow Lake Dike/Retaining Wall | 5EP613.4 | 1936 | Structure | SW | Contributing |
| 14 | Penrose Bathhouse and Swimming Pool | 5EP613.7 | 1916 | Building | SW | Contributing |
| 15 | Shelter Pavilion | 5E613.6 | 1924 | Building | SW | Contributing |
| 16 | WPA Monument | N/A | 1936-40 | Object | SW | Contributing |
| 17 | Carlton Bandstand | 5EP613.5 | 1916 | Building | SW | Contributing |
| 18 | Tennis Courts | N/A | 1923 | Structure | SW | Contributing |
| 19 | Monument Creek Drop Structure | N/A | 1990s | Structure | SE, SW | Noncontributing |
| 20 | Basketball Courts | N/A | c. 1984 | Structure | SW | Noncontributing |
| 21 | Playground | N/A | 1997 | Structure | SW | Noncontributing |
| 22 | Restroom (South) | N/A | Late 1970s | Building | SW | Noncontributing |
| 23 | Interstate 25 Pedestrian Bridge | N/A | 2003-04 | Structure | SW | Noncontributing |
| 24 | Parking Lot | N/A | 1950 | Structure | SW | Contributing |
| 25 | Mesa Road/ Cache La Poudre Street Bridge | 5EP974 | 1936 | Structure | SW, SE | Contributing |

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| RES. NUM. | RESOURCE NAME | STATE ID NO. | YEAR BUILT | RESOURCE TYPE | QUAD. | CONTRIBUTING STATUS |
|-----------|---|--------------|------------|---------------|--------|---------------------|
| 26 | Horticultural Arts Society Demonstration Garden | N/A | 1967 | Site | SW | Noncontributing |
| 27 | Palmer Construction Office/Park Foreman's Cottage | 5EP613.2 | 1904 | Building | SW | Contributing |
| 28 | Greenhouses | 5EP613.2 | 1907 | Building | SW | Contributing |
| 29 | Greenhouses | N/A | 2001 | Building | SW | Noncontributing |
| 30 | Horticultural Center | N/A | 1999 | Building | SW | Noncontributing |
| 31 | Electrical Substation | N/A | Post-1955 | Structure | SW | Noncontributing |
| 32 | Lake No. 2/Duck Lake | N/A | 1904-05 | Structure | SW | Contributing |
| 33 | Horticultural Arts Society Heritage Garden | N/A | 1967 | Site | SW | Noncontributing |
| 34 | WPA Monument | N/A | 1936-40 | Object | SW | Contributing |
| 35 | Uintah Street Bridge | N/A | 1999 | Structure | All | Noncontributing |
| 36 | San Miguel Street Entrance | 5EP613.15 | Pre-1942 | Structure | NW | Contributing |
| 37 | Monument Creek Drop Structure | N/A | 1990s | Structure | NE, NW | Noncontributing |
| 38 | Monument Creek Drop Structure | N/A | 1990s | Structure | NE, NW | Noncontributing |
| 39 | Monument Creek Drop Structure | N/A | 1990s | Structure | NE, NW | Noncontributing |
| 40 | Main Trail Underpass and Pedestrian Bridge | N/A | 1936-40 | Structure | NE | Contributing |
| 41 | Boddington Soccer Field | N/A | 1978 | Structure | NE | Noncontributing |
| 42 | Water Diversion Chute | N/A | 1904-09 | Structure | NE | Contributing |
| 43 | Pedestrian Bridge | N/A | 1936-40 | Structure | NE | Contributing |
| 44 | Stone Lined Ditch | N/A | 1904-09 | Structure | NE | Contributing |
| 45 | Geologic Column | 5EP613.3 | c. 1907 | Site | NE | Contributing |
| 46 | Pedestrian Bridge | N/A | c. 1907 | Structure | NE | Contributing |
| 47 | Stone Lined Ditch | N/A | 1936-40 | Structure | NE | Contributing |
| 48 | Pedestrian Bridge | N/A | 1936-40 | Structure | NE | Contributing |
| 49 | Baseball Field | N/A | Post-1985 | Structure | NE | Noncontributing |
| 50 | Restroom (North) | N/A | Post-1975 | Building | NE | Noncontributing |
| 51 | Playground | N/A | Post-1975 | Structure | NE | Noncontributing |
| 52 | Playground | N/A | Post-1975 | Structure | NE | Noncontributing |
| 53 | Serpentine Wall | N/A | c. 1938 | Structure | NE | Contributing |
| 54 | Culebra Avenue Entrance | N/A | Pre-1942 | Structure | NE | Contributing |

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| RES. NUM. | RESOURCE NAME | STATE ID NO. | YEAR BUILT | RESOURCE TYPE | QUAD. | CONTRIBUTING STATUS |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|--------|---------------------|
| 55 | Columbia Street Entrance | 5EP613.16 | 1938 | Structure | NE | Contributing |
| 56 | Uintah Street Pedestrian Underpass | N/A | 1999 | Structure | SE, NE | Noncontributing |
| 57 | Tennis Courts | N/A | Pre-1955 | Structure | SE | Contributing |
| 58 | The Pinetum | N/A | c. 1909 | Site | SE | Contributing |
| 59 | WPA Monument | N/A | 1936-40 | Object | SE | Contributing |
| 60 | Monument Street Entrance | N/A | Pre-1942 | Structure | SE | Contributing |
| 61 | Willamette Street Entrance | 5EP613.14 | 1917 | Structure | SE | Contributing |
| 62 | St. Vrain Street Entrance | N/A | Pre-1935 | Structure | SE | Contributing |
| 63 | Boulder Street Entrance | N/A | 1914 | Structure | SE | Contributing |
| 64 | Monument Valley Park Site | 5EP613 | 1904 | Site | All | Contributing |

NOTE: A word of explanation is needed concerning how a previous survey assigned state identification numbers: 5EP613.10 was assigned to all original stonework in the park; 5EP613.11 was assigned to all WPA-era stonework in the park; 5EP613.2 was assigned to the caretaker's Cottage and the older greenhouses; and 5EP613.8 was assigned to the Giddings Fountain, which this nomination treats as a feature of the Demonstration Garden.

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

Statement of Significance

Monument Valley Park is eligible to the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for its association with the history of park creation and development in Colorado Springs. The park was the most significant component of the system of open spaces donated by city founder William Jackson Palmer that formed the nucleus of the public park system. The park is also significant in the areas of Recreation and Social History. Lying in the heart of the city, Monument Valley Park has played an important role in the lives of the citizens of Colorado Springs, serving since its opening in 1907 as a place of quiet contemplation as well as a site for active recreation. The park has been the scene of activities important to the social and recreational life of the community, including sporting events such as baseball and football games, tennis matches, swimming contests and ice skating; children's programs, including an array of supervised playground activities in the 1910s; musical concerts and theatrical performances; and patriotic, commemorative, and civic ceremonies. The park was a major focus of Works Progress Administration efforts in the city following the Memorial Day flood of 1935. Projects such as cleaning flood debris from the park grounds, rechannelizing and riprapping Monument Creek, restoring the buildings and structures that survived the cataclysm, and erecting a variety of stone monuments and structures resulted from the federal program. The work undertaken at the park provided a major source of local employment during the Depression era.

The park is eligible under Criterion B for its association with William Jackson Palmer, the founder of Colorado Springs, who envisioned its creation in the Monument Creek Valley, acquired the land, provided direction for its development, and paid the immense cost of its initial improvement. Palmer donated an entire system of parks and parkways to Colorado Springs, arranged for a Park Commission to oversee their administration, and supplied funds for their continued maintenance. His gift of a linear greenspace through the heart of the city was considered the most significant of his park donations, and it was the most extensively planned and improved. Within Colorado Springs, Monument Valley Park most represents Palmer's philosophies of park use and development, including an emphasis on preserving and utilizing aspects of the existing topography, incorporating and enframing scenic views, employing and supplementing native materials and natural vegetation, and notably excluding motorized vehicles. Creation of the park by Palmer was one of the largest local employment projects in the city during 1904-07. He selected the original landscape architect for the park and worked closely with engineer Edmond van Diest to insure that the design and planting of the land proceeded according to his exacting standards and specifications. Through his improvement and donation of the park Palmer became an influential civic role model for other Colorado Springs citizens, most significantly evidenced in the donation of the Garden of the Gods by heirs of Charles Perkins and of the individual improvements in Monument Valley Park by Spencer and Julie Penrose and Ethel F. Carlton, wife of capitalist Alfred E. Carlton.

The park is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture, representing in its site, layout, plantings, and built resources several philosophical movements and eras in landscape design, including the influence of English and American landscape theorists, the nineteenth century concept of the park as a pleasure ground and its transition to the idea of the public urban park, the impact of

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the City Beautiful movement and the reform park era of the early twentieth century, the influence of National Park Service principals of design, and the improvement of parks as federally-funded public works projects during the Depression era. The park is significant for its representation of the work of landscape architects and planners, including Charles W. Leavitt, Jr., who produced the original design, and Charles Mulford Robinson, who evaluated the park in 1912 and suggested improvements. The park is also significant for its representation of the efforts of engineer Edmond C. van Diest, who was responsible for developing the original plan for rechannelizing Monument Creek and supervising the myriad of day-to-day details involved in construction and planting of the park and the creation of one of its most important features, the Geologic Column. Finally, Monument Valley Park is significant in the area of Architecture for its representation of the Rustic style as displayed in early twentieth century park resources and translated by the WPA in the 1930s into a number of native stone park features such as bridges, ditches, entrances, overlooks, retaining walls, monuments, and seating areas. The period of significance for the park begins in 1904, when construction of the park began, and ends in 1956, fifty years from the present, as the park continued to evolve in keeping with Charles Mulford Robinson's dictum: "With reference to the park as a landscape picture only, it must be recognized that a landscape of this kind, which is in constant use, is never really finished."⁸

William Jackson Palmer and the Founding of Colorado Springs and Its Park System

Almost everything affecting the future welfare of Colorado Springs and certainly everything here that has been done to strengthen the love for outdoor life, to promote the foundation of artistic, the love of the beautiful in nature, should bear somewhere the name of General Palmer.

--Edmond C. van Diest⁹

William Jackson Palmer, the father of Colorado Springs and one of Colorado's most prominent and influential pioneers, created Monument Valley Park. Palmer was born into a Quaker family on a farm in Kent County, Delaware, on 17 September 1836, and died in his Glen Eyrie mansion in Colorado Springs on 13 March 1909. At the age of seventeen, the man who played a foremost role in developing Colorado's railroad network and some of its most important cities, began his first job with a party surveying a railroad line in western Pennsylvania. In 1856 he traveled to England for the first time to study civil and mining engineering. As a young man Palmer expressed a romantic appreciation for the impact of nature on mankind, writing: "Man has to go to the mountains for health, and he must go there likewise if he would get a true insight into things."¹⁰

He returned to the United States to accept a position as secretary and treasurer of the Westmoreland Coal Company and a year later became private secretary to John Edgar Thompson, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Following meritorious service in the Civil War, during which he raised a

⁸ Charles Mulford Robinson, *A General Plan for Improvement of Colorado Springs*, May 1912, 54-55.

⁹ Edmond C. van Diest, "The Construction of the Monument Valley Park," *Colorado Springs Gazette Annual Edition*, 27 January 1907, 68.

¹⁰ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 14 March 1909, 8; John S. Fisher, *A Builder of the West: The Life of General William Jackson Palmer* (Caldwell, Id.: Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1939), 57.

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regiment of cavalry, was imprisoned as a spy, and rose to the rank of brigadier general, Palmer received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Thereafter commonly known as "the General," he returned to railroad work, demonstrating exemplary talent in supervising and financing large projects during the construction of the Kansas Pacific Railway, of which he became managing director. For that entity Palmer had charge of surveying southern routes to California and building the last division of the first railroad to enter Denver from the east. During this work he developed a friendship with an English doctor, William Bell, who became one of his closest business associates and provided important financial contacts in Great Britain. In 1869 Palmer met and became engaged to Queen Mellen, a wealthy and refined young woman from New York, whom he married the following year. He hoped that Queen would share his passion for the West and searched for a location where he could build a residence and a town whose beauty would eclipse the Eastern comforts to which she was accustomed.¹¹

On 27 July 1869, while working for the Kansas Pacific, Palmer first viewed the future site of Colorado Springs. Describing the area to his fiancée he wrote:

Near here are the finest springs of soda—and the most enticing scenery. I am sure there will be a famous resort here soon after the R.Rd reaches Denver. The scenery is even finer South of Denver than North of it, and besides, the grass is greener, there is more water, a little forest of pine occasionally, and the sight is gladdened by the rude but comfortable farm-houses, which are dotted almost continuously from the Arkansas to the Platte.

I somehow fancied that an exploration of the dancing little tributaries of the 'Monument' or the 'Fountain' might disclose somewhere up near to where they come leaping with delight from the cavernous wall of the Rocky Mountains, perhaps some charming spot which might be made a future home.¹²

The following month Palmer revisited the spot he felt was the most attractive for establishing a town in the Rocky Mountains. There he dreamt of creating a grand estate through the purchase of several thousand acres of government land that he and Queen would fashion and develop according to their tastes:

It seems almost finished now, so perfect is the distribution of grove and grass and rock, of hill, meadow, and slope but nevertheless every touch put to it would yield increased beauty and grace. . . . And I have been dreaming ever since of how I would treat my portion of it . . . how the Castle could be on one of the bold pine-topped hills near the mountain foot, and the farmhouses in the smooth rounded valley; how there should be

¹¹ United States Army, Center of Military, "History Medal of Honor Recipients, Civil War, M-Z," *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 14 March 1909; George Foster Peabody, comp., *William Jackson Palmer: Pathfinder and Builder* (Saratoga Springs, New York: George Foster Peabody, 1931); Marshall Sprague, *Newport in the Rockies* (Denver: Sage Books, 1961); Wilbur F. Stone, *History of Colorado*, vol. III (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918), 5-8.

¹² Quoted in Celeste Black, *Queen of Glen Eyrie* (Colorado Springs: BlackBear Publishing, 1999), 21.

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fountains and lakes and lovely drives and horse-back trails through groves—all planned and planted by ourselves How much better this would be than to find it made to our hand!¹³



Figure 1. Gen. William Jackson Palmer provided the vision and financial backing for the creation of Monument Valley Park. SOURCE: Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department, image number Z-310, Denver, Colorado.

Palmer felt “any town was the product of its physical setting,” according to Colorado Springs historian Marshall Sprague. Out of the wilderness he hoped to create a place that would attract cultured friends and like-minded people who would want to build houses in a location “where the air is fraught with health and vigour, and where life would be poetry—an idyll of blue sky, clear intense atmosphere, fantastic rock, dancing water, green meadow, high mountain, rugged canyon, and distant view of the kind that gives wing to the imagination and allows no foothold for it to halt upon, short of infinity.” In the shadow of Pikes Peak he would create a health and pleasure resort equal to the natural setting. In formulating his plans Palmer drew some inspiration from Newport, Rhode Island, which had become a popular summer destination for the wealthy. In March 1870, Palmer and his associates acquired ten thousand acres of land. The following year the original townsite was laid out to Palmer’s specifications, including exceptionally wide streets and two public parks, originally called North and South parks, but now known as Acacia and Alamo. Whenever possible, Palmer wanted to preserve the beauty of the natural setting and the outdoor spirit.¹⁴

The creation of Colorado Springs was but one accomplishment for Palmer and his associates, who founded the narrow gauge Denver & Rio Grande Railroad that incorporated in October 1870 and was the first north-south railroad in the state. As his rail system spread throughout Colorado and beyond, Palmer was involved in the creation of other cities, including Salida, Alamosa, and Durango, but he was most actively associated with the planning and development of Colorado Springs, his chosen home. He hired men who had been active in creating the successful Greeley Colony in the northeastern part of the state to find settlers for his Fountain

¹³Quoted in Black, *Queen*, 21-23.

¹⁴Sprague, *Newport*, 6, 36, 46; Black, *Queen*, 22-23 and 27; *Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph Annual Edition*, 20 January 1915, 1.

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Colony at Colorado Springs. Above the town, Palmer erected his own elegant estate, known as "Glen Eyrie."¹⁵

Palmer believed a temperance clause was essential for creating the right atmosphere for Colorado Springs, but that a variety of amenities would make up for its lack of stimulants. He expressed definite ideas about how the city should be developed and what civic features it should include: "My theory for this place is that it should be made the most attractive place for homes in the West, a place for schools, colleges, science, first class newspapers, and everything that the above imply." A first class hotel, the Antlers, and a respected institution of higher learning, Colorado College, were among the myriad elements of the city that the General helped establish. Palmer also started a newspaper, *Out West*, which urged those who had settled "to make Colorado Springs a place of beauty *par excellence*."¹⁶

Among the most notable of Palmer's accomplishments was his founding of the Colorado Springs park system, which became an increasing focus of his life after his retirement in 1901. As described by the *Colorado Springs Gazette*, "Love of nature was the fundamental characteristic of General Palmer." Appreciation of the scenic splendor of the Pikes Peak region led him to remain in Colorado Springs rather than reside in a larger, more established city, and it also dominated his views regarding its development. As one contemporary observer commented, "To this town which he had founded and fostered he presented parks and lands worth several million dollars—and it is typical of him that he disliked mention of their financial cost. It was not the money he spent on them but the care—the love—with which he planned them that make them so true a memorial of him."¹⁷

In addition to the park included in the original townsite, Palmer made a series of gifts of land for civic improvement, including acreage for Colorado College and the Deaf and Blind School in 1874, Antlers Park in 1882, Prospect Lake and Mesa Reservoir in 1890, and Alamo Park in 1899. In 1901 he acquired Austin's Bluffs (named "Palmer Park" in 1902), an undeveloped area overlooking the city. As detailed by Marshall Sprague,

Thereafter his gifts poured in like flood tide: Thorndale Park to the west, Dorchester Park (improved), roads and lands around Bear Creek and North Cheyenne Canyon, the right-of-way of today's Municipal High Drive, Manitou, Palmer Lake and Paseo Boulevards, Cascade Avenue's center parking, endless hiking trails to Cutler Mountain and Crystal Park. The capstone was his Monument Valley Park¹⁸

¹⁵ Palmer was also an organizer of the Rio Grande Western railroad, the Mexican National Railroad, and the Central Colorado Improvement Co. (later the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co.).

¹⁶ Quoted in Fisher, *A Builder*, 200; *Out West*, 6 April 1872, 1.

¹⁷ Stone, *History of Colorado*, vol. 3, 8; Fisher, *A Builder*, 304.

¹⁸ Sprague, *Newport*, 150-151.

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Early History of Monument Valley Park

William Jackson Palmer's concept of endowing the city with a system of parks, parkways, and boulevards developed over many years. Uppermost in his mind was the concept of creating something significant and lasting for future generations: "Let it not be for present delight nor for present use alone; let it be for such works as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think . . . that a time is to come when men will say, 'See! This our fathers did for us.'" He believed the creation of a linear park along Monument Creek would fulfill several goals, including adding a place for public enjoyment in the center of the city, preserving some of the area's scenic landscape and views, creating an attractive entrance to Colorado Springs through which tourists on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad passed, and providing employment for hundreds of local workers. Over the course of more than two decades, Palmer made his vision a reality.¹⁹

Willow Park

The first efforts to create a park along Monument Creek were undertaken prior to 1882, when a map of the city prepared by Civil Engineer W.P. Jewett showed a greenspace designated "Willow Park" at a bend in the waterway lying north of Boulder Crescent. The sheltered location contained a number of cottonwood and pine trees on adjoining slopes. Although picturesque, the site gradually evolved into an eye-sore of overgrown vegetation supplemented by dumped rubbish. As described by Sprague it was ". . . the last resort of tin cans, sarsaparilla bottles, worn-out bed springs, cracked pots, and all other urban has-beens."²⁰

Hoping to see improvement in the area, in 1886 Palmer deeded several tracts consisting of about twelve acres of land to the Willow Park Association headed by Dr. B.D.F. Adams. A few homeowners whose property abutted the land also donated the adjoining slopes of their yards to the association.²¹ Due to lack of funds the group's plans stalled, and the area was subsequently deeded to the city with the provision that it become part of the park system. In 1894 the city council set aside a proposal for a \$200 survey of the donated land after some skeptical city councilmen asserted "that a more God-forsaken place than the proposed park could not be found." In response, Edgar T. Ensign, former Forest Commissioner of Colorado, noted that Willow Park possessed "much natural beauty, which if preserved, would in future years greatly enhance the value and desirability of neighboring properties and materially promote the fair fame of our city." The city's *Annual Report* for 1901-02 described Willow Park as a twenty-five acre strip of land along the east and west banks of Monument Creek. The document stated, "It has not been improved, but a movement in that direction has taken shape. No doubt in time it will become a very attractive drive."²²

¹⁹ Park Commission, *Report of the Park Commission for the Period 1 July 1907 through 31 December 1908* (Colorado Springs: The Commission, 1909), 17; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 30 August 1903, 11.

²⁰ Mrs. Lester Griswold, "History of Colorado Springs Parks," in the files of Special Collections, Clippings File, Colorado Springs Parks, Penrose Library, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Sprague, *Newport*, 151.

²¹ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 27 January 1907, 68.

²² Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 17; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 3 October 1894, 4; Judith R. Finley, "A Little Taste of Country: The Story of Monument Valley Park" *Cheyenne Mountain Kiva* 8(Spring 2004)1: 8; City of Colorado Springs, *Annual*

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Planning Monument Valley Park

William Jackson Palmer understood both the potential of Willow Park and the difficulty any civic group or the city would have in securing the immense funds necessary to create the large park he envisioned. As Monument Creek was the centerpiece of the site, any improvement of the land would require a massive engineering project to insure that the flood-prone waterway was effectively channeled. By the early 1900s the size of Palmer's fortune enabled him to finance the construction of the park single-handedly.

Palmer conceived of a linear park along the creek that would be laid out much in the manner of the large pleasure grounds created during the nineteenth century, with a priority placed on incorporating the area's natural features and scenic vistas. Elements of naturalistic design that combined the beautiful and the picturesque, popularized by English landscape theorists and Andrew Jackson Downing, were readily applicable to the terrain of the Monument Valley. The park was to take advantage of the existing natural formations and vegetation, supplemented with similar plants. An emphasis would be placed on utilizing species already recognized as growing successfully in Colorado in order to reduce costs of maintaining plantings. The park would provide a pastoral experience within the city by offering a series of shaded walks free from dust, where visitors could enjoy the area's remarkable sunshine and fresh air. At the time, walking was seen as an important form of exercise, as well as a means of psychic renewal. Rustic benches would be placed at appropriate locations for rest and contemplation; some would be located in overlooks which exploited the available vistas. Palmer wanted a park that could be enjoyed safely by everyone from small children to those with physical infirmities. Due to the narrowness of the tract along the banks of the creek, he regarded the driving of motor vehicles and horses through the park as undesirable. According to engineer Edmond van Diest, Monument Valley Park ". . . was intended primarily as a place to walk in, hitherto the most notable lack in Colorado Springs."²³

Writing a letter intended for future generations of Colorado Springs residents in 1901, the General asserted that "the real development of the parks of Colorado Springs may be said to have begun with the present year." He reported that before the end of the year he hoped to

. . . put into effect my original plan of setting aside the ground for a frontal park along the immediate Monument Valley, from near the Antler's Hotel northward to the upper confines of the town some two miles or more. When undisturbed, shrubbery and wild flowers grow naturally in these creek bottoms without irrigation—making it easier to carry out the purpose of affording an open and verdurous space removed from the dust and noise of the streets and roads, yet readily accessible from all parts of the town—where the citizen can come to walk (not ride or drive as that means dust) and his

Reports and Financial Statements to the City Council, 1901-02, in the files of Starsmore Center, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum.

²³ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 14 March 1909, 8; Galen Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America* (Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1982), 8; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 27 January 1907, 68.

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children to play—and all be refreshed by a little taste of the country, without going too far afield.²⁴

To accomplish this plan Palmer pursued the difficult work of acquiring acreage until he owned all that would constitute the park. Much land critical to carrying out the design, principally that located on the slopes adjoining the valley, was still to be purchased when work on the park began. Colorado Springs resident and former park commissioner Stuart Dodge reports that a number of people donated portions of their lands for the project.²⁵

A January 1902 newspaper article about the city's parks announced that during the year Palmer would begin improvement of a new park along Monument Creek. The article noted that the General had created private parks on three sides of his Antlers Hotel and had acquired extensive landscaping experience while turning Glen Eyrie into a country estate. The Monument Creek area was described as "little improved" and "in the natural state." In August of the following year, the *Colorado Springs Gazette* carried the report that Palmer would immediately begin work on a park (for the first time identified as "Monument Valley Park") along Monument Creek, the surveying of which had already been completed. ". . . General Palmer now plans to make an immense playground along Monument creek, which will be more easily accessible than any of the other parks about the city." The newspaper observed that land around the creek "has been little better than a dumping ground, where weeds have been allowed to grow in profusion, and has detracted not a little from the appearance of that section in addition to forming a dividing line between the main part of the city and the northwestern part." The plan for the park was described as laying out on the banks of the creek walks, trees and shrubs, lawns, and other improvements. The *Gazette* judged, "This will provide the city with a picnic ground at its very doors, and will greatly add to the appearance of that section of the city." The proposed park was called "the most important of the many benefactions of General Palmer, in that it will open an immense highly-improved playground for the city's residents at their very doors, and provide a beautiful park for many who can but rarely get out" to other parks in the city.²⁶

Charles Wellford Leavitt, Jr.

Palmer hired Charles Wellford Leavitt, Jr., a distinguished landscape architect of New York, to create a plan for the park's improvement.²⁷ Leavitt was born in Riverton, New Jersey, in 1871, educated in private schools, and began a career in engineering in 1891. He gained experience in design, construction, planning, and subdivision layout during the next few years. In 1897 Leavitt opened his own office in New York City, calling himself a "landscape engineer," a title which referred to his

²⁴ William J. Palmer, Glen Eyrie, Letter to the Colorado Springs Century Chest, 1 August 1901, retrieved from Special Collections, Colorado College, "Century Chest Transcription 2," at www.coloradocollege.edu/library/SpecialCollections/CenturyChest on 7 July 2006.

²⁵ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 16 August 1903, 1 and 27 January 1907, 68; Stuart Dodge, Colorado Springs, Telephone Interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 24 August 2006.

²⁶ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 1 January 1902, 16 August 1903, 1 and 17 August 1903, 5.

²⁷ F.W. Dawson also had responsibility for laying out the flower beds.

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previous background in engineering and planning. His successful and wide-ranging practice included the design of city plans, cemeteries, country clubs, college campuses, race courses, estate grounds, and parks and parkways. A characteristic of his work was an emphasis on “connections to urban areas and provision of recreational facilities.”²⁸



Figure 2. The original construction of the park ripped the banks of Monument Creek, but the channel was still sufficiently narrow to be spanned with this Rustic bridge of unpeeled logs. SOURCE: Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department, L.C. McClure image number MCC-809, Denver, Colorado.

Leavitt's plan for Monument Valley Park was ready by November 1903, when local residents were invited to attend a meeting at Colorado College to discuss the proposed designs. The *Gazette* favorably described the elaborate scheme: "The grounds will be ornamented with terraces, trees, shrubs, bridges, lakes, fountains, gardens, walks and driveways and with numerous new buildings including an art gallery, bath-house, horticultural building and club house for the athletic department of Colorado college." When actual construction began, Leavitt's plans were substantially scaled back; the immediate cost to carry out his original design was estimated at \$300,000 and the total build-out of the project was anticipated to reach \$750,000. The *Gazette* judged that the scale of the proposed work was such that it could only be accomplished by "a public-spirited citizen of large means," such as William Jackson Palmer. Essentially, Leavitt's detailed design was carried out only

²⁸ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 14 March 1909, 8; Charles A. Birnbaum and Robin Karson, *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (New York: McGraw-Hill, c. 2000), 223-27.

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in the area up to Mesa Road by the time the park opened in 1907. Apparently even Palmer's wealth could not support the completion of the entire plan. Buildings for public use would be left for future construction projects. Nonetheless Leavitt's concepts, which also reflected Palmer's vision, provided direction for improvement of the park in subsequent years.²⁹

Construction of Monument Valley Park

In preparation for the work to be undertaken, gangs of laborers had cut the underbrush and weeds that covered the banks of the creek during the summer of 1903. The area previously known as Willow Park was to be developed first, with other sections improved gradually. Basic plans called for several acres of land to be seeded with bluegrass and permanent shade trees to be planted to replace more perishable ones already on the site. An irrigation system would be built to insure that the plantings would be sufficiently watered. The ground was graded, and a system of walks and paths were designed to "open up to the visitor an entrancing vista of woodland and sylvan beauty." Existing flowers and shrubs were utilized and supplemented with other vegetation. Eventually, pavilions and rest retreats would be built at advantageous locations.³⁰

At the time the park was created, Palmer's plan to exclude vehicles and driving roads was applauded. The *Colorado Springs Gazette* noted that the General thought of the site as "a great playground," and asserted that the area's proximity to a streetcar line made roads unnecessary. The broad walks and winding paths were seen as enhancing the seclusion that was considered a chief attraction of the park. As the popularity of automobiles expanded in later years the roadless aspect came under fire, but in 1903 the *Gazette* praised the plan stating, "The park, when completed, will be a great credit to the city, as well as of untold benefit to the people. It will be an ideal place for picnics, close at hand as well as a delightful retreat for the thousands of visitors who come here every year."³¹

Palmer employed hundreds of skilled and unskilled workers using horses to modify and enhance the landscape at Monument Valley Park. One biographer stated that for years the General's payroll for work in his parks was as much as \$15,000 per month. Monument Valley Park construction and landscaping provided an important source of employment within the city, and the General was known for paying the highest wages. Despite the large workforce and the influence of professional landscape gardeners, one observer wrote that "one can see, in every foot of road or park, his [Palmer's] own desire to keep unspoilt and unhidden the natural features of the land. Particularly in Monument Park and in his own great gardens at Glen Eyrie, attention was paid to the planting and displaying of native Colorado trees and shrubs." Palmer's attentiveness also extended to wildlife. According to engineer M.R. Reid, the General had an extreme concern for all animals: "I have been ordered many a time to change my survey on a trail or road rather than to destroy a bird's nest."³²

²⁹ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 24 November 1903, 4-5, 1 January 1904, 32, 9 December 1904, 5; and *Gazette Annual Edition*, 27 January 1907.

³⁰ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 30 August 1903.

³¹ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 16 August 1903, 1 and 30 August 1903.

³² Fisher, *A Builder*, 305-6 and 309; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 14 March 1909, 8.

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Edmond Cornelius van Diest and Park Engineering

Edmond Cornelis van Diest (1865-1950) oversaw the construction and planting of the park for William Jackson Palmer and subsequently served as a member of the Park Commission. Van Diest was born on the island of Java in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) in 1865. In 1872 his family immigrated to the United States, where his father accepted a position at the fledgling Colorado School of Mines and opened a Denver assay office. Van Diest attended Denver public schools and the School of Mines. He moved to Colorado's San Luis Valley to serve as manager of the Sangre de Cristo Grant from 1886 to 1904. In the latter year he developed a close friendship with William Jackson Palmer and became closely associated with Palmer's interests, serving as the General's principal construction engineer, supervising the remodeling of Glen Eyrie and the creation of Monument Valley Park. Following Palmer's death, van Diest was involved in projects throughout the West and participated in social and civic groups in Colorado Springs.³³

The first major element of construction in the park was the rechanneling of Monument Creek. As van Diest described it, "in order that as nearly as possible the disastrous effects of floods might be prevented, the work of protection to be practically permanent but within a reasonable limit of expense." The original channel was partially abandoned, and a new one was built with "easy curves," a bottom width of sixty feet, and riprapped slopes of eight to twelve feet in depth. The riprap along the entire channel had a concrete toe wall at the bottom, and cross walls of concrete were also constructed "at suitable intervals" between the stone. Fifty teams of horses and one hundred men were employed in riprapping the banks of the creek. Despite all of the effort, a sizeable flood in the spring of 1905 destroyed some of the completed work, including the riprap and the toe wall. Following the flood, the original plan of bringing the channel to a uniform gradient was abandoned. Van Diest foresaw, ". . . it is still possible that a flood may come of such size as to do some damage." The engineer noted that the completed channel should be regarded as similar to a railroad grade, requiring continued attention and maintenance.³⁴

After completion of the creek channel, the focus shifted to providing a water system for the park. Near the north end of the reservation a suitable site for a reservoir site was located. The completed structure had a capacity of 1,400,000 cubic feet and was supplied from the El Paso Canal (also known as the "City Ditch") that flowed from the north. The city council assigned for the park one cubic foot per second of the night flow of the canal's appropriation, which was stored in the reservoir for distribution. In 1904 the city also passed an ordinance that granted the park a certain amount of its water supply in times of scarcity. The north end of the park and a small waterfall could also be irrigated by small ditches branching from the El Paso Canal. Four lakes that were created could be directly fed from Monument Creek and partially supplied by underground water. As van Diest commented, the lakes were created to provide a place for ice skating in the winter, as well as "the

³³ Colorado Press Association, Inc., *Who's Who in Colorado* (Boulder: Colorado Press Association, 1938), 7; Colorado College, Tutt Library, "Edmond C. (Cornelis) van Diest Papers, Ms0233," Retrieved from www.coloradocollege.edu/library/SpecialCollections/Manuscript/VanDiest on 6 July 2006.

³⁴ Van Diest Collection, Box 79, Copybook A, Letter to W.J. Palmer, 22 November 1905, 425-26; Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 17 and 19; *Colorado Springs Gazette Annual Edition*, 27 January 1907.

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pleasant prospect always presented by a sheet of water with the growth its presence stimulates around it, and particularly in a semi-arid climate.”³⁵

Van Diest’s records document the extent to which Palmer was involved in even the smallest details of planning and construction of the park. At the General’s direction seeds were ordered from a variety of sources to test the suitability of plants for the local environment. Van Diest cautioned suppliers that only the choicest trees meeting specific criteria were acceptable for the park: “All trees must be perfectly sound healthy trees, with the very best possible root formation only, the branches as much as possible left on and tops not trimmed back so as to leave less than nine feet” The engineer instructed that shortcuts were not to be considered in acquiring specimens: “It is only the very best trees that General Palmer desires In order to get these trees they should be taken from more or less isolated points, and not places where these trees grow in dense clumps.”³⁶

Landscape Tradition and the City Beautiful Influence

Monument Valley Park was much in keeping with the precedents for comprehensive large scale park design established by Olmsted and Vaux for Central Park in 1858 and supplemented by American landscape theories in subsequent years. Palmer’s belief in the positive impact of nature on human behavior and its ability to alleviate the problems of city life motivated his desire for the park to serve as a refuge from the noise and pollution of the urban environment. The park’s strong sense of place was exhibited in its relationship to the city and the mountains and in the use of the natural topography and vegetation. Its inclusion of Monument Creek symbolized the importance of water in the semi-arid environment. Other key elements of the design were: contemplative rockwork overlooks facing Pikes Peak and the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains; Rustic style construction of elements such as bridges and benches; areas designed for active recreation, such as winding footpaths, tennis courts, and places for wading and ice skating; a playground for children; large stretches of open meadows; formal and wild gardens; beautified entrances; and a plan to erect buildings to house recreational and cultural activities in the future.

The World’s Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893 had stimulated public interest in designed landscapes through presentation of an idealized vision of what cities might become by adopting an integrated planning approach. Important elements of the City Beautiful landscape included water features, open spaces with inspiring vistas, and civic buildings of neoclassical architecture. The philosophy stressed that an ordered and beautiful environment positively influenced society and it encouraged good urban design and programs to clean up and fix up local communities. In its New Year’s edition for 1904, the *Colorado Springs Gazette* reviewed what it felt were Palmer’s efforts to turn Colorado Springs into “the City Beautiful” through the design of parks, boulevards, and a college campus:

And now comes a park greater than all these, the culmination of a plan that the public-spirited Father of the City formed the first time he traveled down the bed of Monument

³⁵ Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 21; *Colorado Springs Gazette, Annual Edition*, 27 January 1907, 68.

³⁶ Van Diest Collection, Colorado College, Copy Book B.

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creek: a gigantic plan to park the sides of this stream from the northern limits of the city to the Antlers, to transform an eye-sore into a paradise of beauty."³⁷

With much of the park remaining to be completed, the *Gazette and Telegraph* judged in January 1904, "Monument Valley park already assumes the aspect of a veritable fairyland during the spring, summer and fall months, with its graveled walks, its broad expanse of grass, interrupted here and there with a tranquil lake, a gurgling spring, a bed of delicate Colorado flowers or larger botanical gardens, huge shade trees and clumps of willows and shrubs." Winding footpaths and a children's playground had already been laid out. The *Colorado Springs Gazette* boasted, "Three years at most will see the park finished. Colorado Springs will then have as delightful a play ground and pleasure garden as could be found anywhere in the world. Its beauties cannot be foretold. It remains for the eye to see."³⁸

Original Features of the Park

Following the completion of the water system, further improvement of the site, including the grading of the ground, addition of soil and fertilizer, graveling of walks, planting of additional trees and shrubs, and the construction of drains proceeded. Pedestrian bridges were built over Monument Creek at Boulder Crescent, Willamette Street, and Del Norte Street. The latter two were described as being of the "rustic type," composed of large pine logs with the bark left on and supported by concrete abutments faced with lichen-covered stone.³⁹

Mineral Spring

One of the early projects in Monument Valley Park consisted of improving the spring of mineral water that had been discovered several years earlier. In the fall of 1880 Dr. Charles Gatchell had located a natural mineral spring, the first above-ground spring discovered in the city, while strolling along the west side of Monument Creek. The water drew much local attention and was examined and pronounced to have qualities similar to the spring at Carlsbad, Germany. By 1882 a stone basin was provided and large numbers of people visited the spring. According to one account, "the community cup was a rusty and ragged tomato can which lay beside the spring, and as no one had ever heard of germs in those days, all drank with perfect immunity." Taking a stroll to the spring became a popular daily occurrence. In 1884 the city considered improving the grounds in the vicinity of the spring, but reasoned that any overflow of Monument Creek would destroy such work. Instead, the Denver & Rio Grande enclosed the spring with a cement vault and its water was piped to the railroad depot for drinking purposes. Subsequently, a flood washed out those improvements and the waters were not accessible until work undertaken in the park during 1904 uncovered the spring. The water was tested and found to be extremely pure and with medicinal qualities. A wall of concrete enclosed the spring and a pump was placed over it. Local families brought jugs and cups to fill with the spring water, and invalids were transported to the site to partake of the beneficial effects of the liquid. By 1923 a

³⁷ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 1 January 1904, 32.

³⁸ *Colorado Springs Gazette and Telegraph Magazine*, 31 January 1904, 7; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 1 January 1904, 32.

³⁹ Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 21; *Colorado Springs Gazette, Annual Edition*, 27 January 1907.

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reported three- to five-hundred persons were using the mineral waters daily, and the Colorado Springs Health Seekers club organized to fill bottles with its water.⁴⁰

Gardens, Greenhouse, and Caretakers' Cottages

Leavitt's plan for formal gardens was followed at the southeast end of the park, where beds were laid out geometrically, and the area was landscaped with flowers, arbors, trellises, and trees. About one-and-a-half acres were set aside for "as many varieties as possible" of native wild flowering plants and shrubs. Palmer designated this piece of land "The Colorado Wild Garden." The plants were arranged so that parts of each flower bed would be in bloom throughout the growing season. Stuart Dodge recalls that the gardens were influenced by English traditions and were "fantastic." He also remembers the many lilacs planted throughout the park.⁴¹

In order to grow flowers for the Colorado Wild Garden and other areas in the park, a greenhouse and cold frames were erected about 1907, north of Mesa Road. Some histories indicate that the greenhouse came from Glen Eyrie as a donation by Palmer. In 1908 van Diest noted that the greenhouse had supplied 40,000 plants (mostly perennials) each year since its completion. The park planners hoped that the plantings and natural distribution of seeds would turn the park into a "veritable garden of wild flowers." They envisioned that the greenhouse would later be used for experimental purposes and the development of hardier plants, as well as for rare varieties.⁴² Located near the greenhouse was a cottage used as the construction office for the park and then employed as the residence of the park caretaker. A second caretaker's cottage in the northern part of the park was later destroyed by the 1935 flood.⁴³

Four Lakes and the Geologic Column

Before Palmer's improvement of the park, the sites of the four lakes had been "unsightly marshy areas in the uninviting bottom land along the crumbling banks of Monument Creek." Tranquil lakes and other water features were important elements for enhancing the pastoral qualities of pleasure grounds. The formerly unattractive wetlands were turned into beautiful lakes at the hands of Palmer's workers. Mrs. Lester Griswold described the lakes as "unsurpassed beauty spots, havens for family picnic groups." The smaller, southern lake (No. 1, or Shadow Lake) was planted with water lilies and other aquatic plants and was popular with ice skaters. Lake No. 2, located north of the greenhouse, was more popularly known as "Duck Lake." Lake No. 3 (destroyed by the 1935 flood) was designed

⁴⁰ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 24 October 1880, 4, 16 August 1884, 6, 27 August 1882, 4, 26 July 1884, 6, 26 December 1904, 5, 8, 14 March 1909, 8, April 1923, sec. 14, 13, 26 July 1923, 12, and 27 December 1925, sec. 2, 1; Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 21; *Colorado Springs Telegraph*, 26 December 1904, 5.

⁴¹ Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 23; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 14 March 1909, 8.

⁴² Until 2004 the greenhouse grew the flowers for all of the medians on downtown streets, as well as for a few special improvement districts.

⁴³ Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 23; Jan Butters, City of Colorado Springs, "Historical Reflections Colorado Springs City Greenhouse," ca. 1997, in the files of Colorado Springs Planning Office.

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as a wading pool for children, and two sand courts and swings were added nearby, as well as a tennis court near Uintah Street.⁴⁴

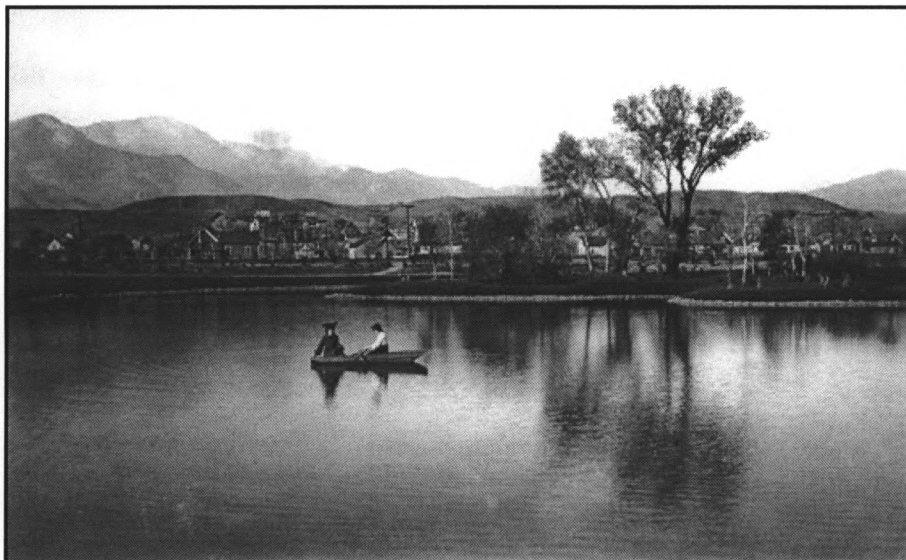


Figure 3. Monument Valley Park originally featured four artificial lakes for the enjoyment of visitors. This view toward the west of Lake No. 1 dates to before the 1935 flood. SOURCE: Pikes Peak Regional Library District, Special Collections, call number 001-2250-di-72, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Lake No. 4, the northernmost lake (no longer extant), was a large water feature with an island. The lake was part of a complex system designed by van Diest that included a stone-lined ditch off the El Paso Canal that carried water that splashed over an artificial waterfall and then flowed into the lake. Van Diest proposed to Palmer that the masonry near the waterfall be constructed in the form of a “column” representing the geologic history of Colorado Springs. In a November 1905 letter to Palmer the engineer noted the geologic section would be “a unique and most instructive feature.” Professor George L. Finley of the Colorado College Department of Geology provided the technical information necessary for accurate placement of the layers of stone of the column. The base of the structure was Pikes Peak granite of the Precambrian period, and its successive strata represented the order and thickness of the rock formations of Colorado Springs, ending with limestone and sandstone of the Late Cretaceous period. Many of the rocks for the structure were removed from Queen’s Canyon above Glen Eyrie. Two overlooks were provided where visitors could view the geologic column, the waterfall, the lake, and the northern part of the park.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Griswold, “History;” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 24 December 1904, 5; Finley, “A Little Taste,” 9; Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 23.

⁴⁵ Van Diest Collection, Box 79, Copybook A, Letter to Palmer, 22 November 1905, 425-26; Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation Department, “Monument Valley Park Geologic Column,” in the files of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, Colorado Room Files, “Colorado Springs Parks;” Finley, “A Little Taste,” 9; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 21 July 1965, 26; Springs Beautiful Association, “Monument Valley Park Geologic Column,” 8 October 1965 in files of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Planning.

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Palmer Deeds the Park System to Colorado Springs

William Jackson Palmer suffered a life-threatening accident while horseback riding on 27 October 1906. Despite the efforts of the best medical specialists, Palmer, whose neck was broken, was thenceforth paralyzed from the waist down. The accident did not diminish the General's love of the outdoors, and he had a large steam-powered car fitted with a special bed so that he could be driven into the mountains and enjoy the scenery in the vicinity of Colorado Springs. He continued to follow the progress of improvements to Monument Valley Park, trusting Edmond van Diest to manage the day-to-day operations.

In May 1907 Palmer announced that he was prepared to donate to the city Monument Valley Park, then consisting of 164.52 acres, as well as other park acreage. By 1907 the General had spent approximately \$750,000 on Monument Valley Park improvements. The Palmer deed contained specific provisions regarding the use and development of the parks. No intoxicating liquor could be sold or consumed in the parks, which were to be "maintained in proper condition as pleasure grounds." Automobiles and other motorized vehicles, as well as horses, were banned from Monument Valley Park, as were roads crossing it. Palmer disliked the noise and dust produced by motorized vehicles and wanted the park to be entirely safe for women and children. Only "invalid chairs, baby-carriages, and bicycles propelled by human beings" were permitted. Palmer also desired that the number of buildings be limited to a few serving as lavatories, restaurants, curio shops, or for dancing. The deed stipulated that if its provisions were broken the land would revert back to Palmer's heirs. The General also provided yearly maintenance funds in descending amounts between 1908 and 1917. He also arranged for the creation of an independent Board of Park Commission to direct development of his gift.⁴⁶

Only one member of the city council voted against accepting the donation. The city created a special park tax to help fund maintenance activities. The *Colorado Springs Gazette* proclaimed that Palmer's gift gave the city one of the finest park systems in the country. The first Park Commission (whose members were named by Palmer) was appointed on 1 July 1907. The commission produced its first report on the state of the city's park system at the end of 1908. The group noted that local residents had long been aware of the importance of creating public parks for "breathing places, recreation, and healthful resorts." They applauded Palmer's early recognition of the necessity of securing sites for public parks before they were sold to private interests or became too expensive. The commission called Palmer's plan for a park system "bold, far-sighted and comprehensive." The group showed itself to be squarely aligned with the City Beautiful movement in regard to parks, which were described as a "force for more rational living, for healthful outdoor exercise and quiet and restful

⁴⁶ Palmer suggested prominent local citizens Irving Howbert, Horace Lunt, Edmond C. van Diest, Kurnal R. Babbit, Charles B. Seldomridge, and Joseph F. Lilly as the first commissioners. *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 16 June 1907, 1-2; 14 March 1909, 8; Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College, "History of Parks and Recreation in Colorado Springs," 1976 in the Colorado Room Files, "Colorado Springs Parks;" William Jackson Palmer, Deed to City of Colorado Springs, 18 June 1907, Copy on File at Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department; Clarence Stewart, "City's Magnificent Parks System Almost Entirely Given by Region Benefactors, *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 8 August 1937, 5; Finley, "A Little Taste," 10.

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enjoyment . . . [Palmer's donation] constitutes a legacy which we must cherish and enlarge for those who shall occupy the land after us."⁴⁷

In the report, Park Commission Secretary Edmond van Diest summarized the work completed in Monument Valley Park and discussed priorities for future improvement. As a park in the heart of the city, intended to be used by people of all backgrounds and ages, it was considered of great importance that "more provision be made for the amusement of young and old" and that entrances be improved. The commission proudly noted that Colorado Springs boasted more park acreage than other larger cities such as Kansas City, Seattle, Buffalo, and Omaha.⁴⁸

A January 1909 map of Monument Valley Park prepared by van Diest showed the formal, geometric layout of the flower gardens extending from the Bijou Street entrance at the south end of the park to the vicinity of Boulder Crescent, where a large overlook for viewing Monument Creek Valley and the Front Range was indicated. From the formal garden area a pedestrian bridge crossed the creek and a curvilinear trail led to Tahama Spring. Four lakes, a reservoir, and a canal were shown, as well as the waterfall in the geologic column area. A trail on the east side of the park closely followed the curving path of the creek, branching into curvilinear and geometric paths where the park widened. Pedestrian and vehicular bridges crossed the creek. Structures indicated on the map included a greenhouse north of Cache la Poudre Street, two sand courts and a tennis court, and two caretaker cottages. An inventory of trees in the park at the time indicated that the most prevalent varieties planted were Maple, Elm, Locust, Poplar, American White Ash, and Catalpa, while the most numerous types of shrubs were lilacs, spireas, sumacs, roses, and evergreens.⁴⁹

Death of Palmer and His Continued Influence

When William Jackson Palmer passed away on 13 March 1909, Monument Valley Park was viewed as one of his greatest gifts to the city. The *Colorado Springs Gazette* judged, "This park in its present state represents nothing less than a triumph of skill, money and art over Nature" The newspaper summed up the General's life:

From a typical 'barefoot boy,' such as Whittier wrote of, in a modest country home in Delaware, to become the manager of railroads at twenty-one, the commander of troops and the confidant of the greatest military leaders of the Civil war at twenty-six, the pioneer of a new empire and the builder of railroads at thirty-five, the founder of cities and an international financier at forty, and the dispenser of millions to the cause of humanity in the evening of his life—this was the career of General Palmer.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 18 June 1907, 3 and 19 June 1907, 4; Park Commission, *Report 1909*.

⁴⁸ Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 24, 37-38.

⁴⁹ Park Commission, *Report 1909*, 37.

⁵⁰ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 14 March 1909, 8; *Colorado Springs Gazette* Quoted in Stone, *History of Colorado*, vol. 3, 8.

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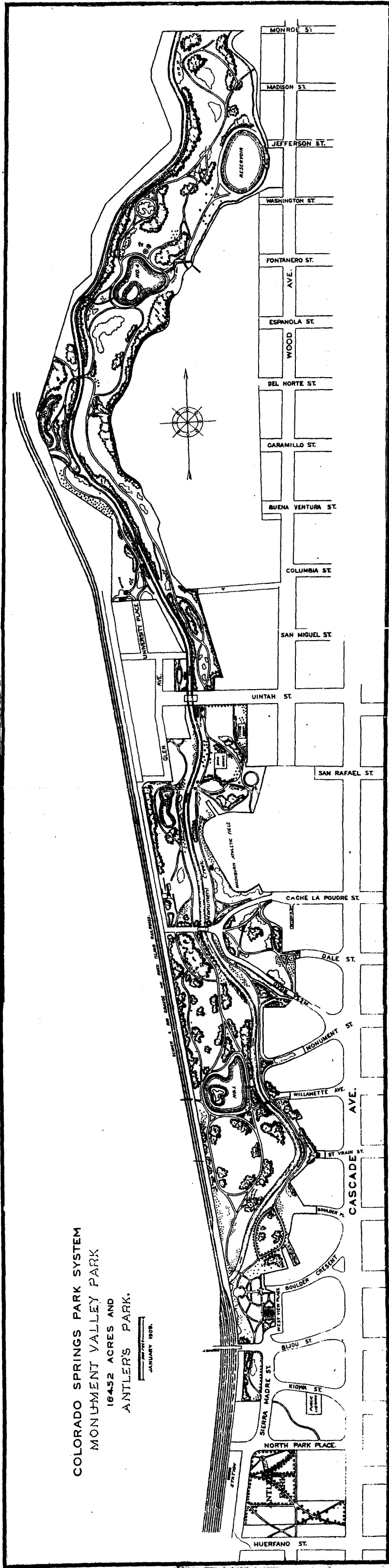


Figure 4. A Park Commission was created to oversee the park system that Gen. Palmer had decided to the city in 1907. This January 1909 map prepared by the commission shows the development of Monument Valley Park through 1908, including the four lakes and reservoir, the system of trails, and a waterfall and overlook in the Geologic Column area. North is to the right. SOURCE: Starsmore Center for Local History, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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The influence of Palmer on the park system of Colorado Springs continued after his death. In 1909 the heirs of Charles E. Perkins donated the magnificent Garden of the Gods to the city. Perkins, a friend of Palmer, indicated that he was impressed by the General's gifts and expressed his wish that such a contribution be made after his death. In subsequent years other wealthy citizens added to the improvement of the park system through donations.⁵¹

By the second decade of the twentieth century Colorado Springs residents were fully aware of the immeasurable value of the park system donated by Palmer. Indeed, the city judged that no other community had public parks that rivaled its own in terms of scenic beauty, variety, or extent. In the City Beautiful tradition, Colorado Springs believed the attractiveness of the park system represented the moral temperament and material achievement of the city and inspired nobler and greater thoughts through its contemplation. Building on its roots as a resort, the city saw itself as the "tourist terminal" for people living east and south of the state and "the distributing center for those who are seeking pleasure, health and recreation."⁵²

Robinson's 1912 Plan and Park Improvement During the 1910s and 1920s

In 1912 planner Charles Mulford Robinson (1864-1917) of New York, a principal proponent of the City Beautiful philosophy, prepared a comprehensive plan for Colorado Springs. In evaluating Monument Valley Park, he judged that parks were best valued in terms of their service to the community and praised the work done thus far: "The Monument Valley Park has been highly developed. From a landscape point of view, it is rich in beauty. Indeed, considering the original condition of the tract and the difficulties which beset its development, the amazing result deserves high praise." Robinson noted the value of the scenic vistas and asserted that recreation could be both active and passive, stating, "A beautiful view may recreate the mind." His analysis focused on what the city needed to accomplish to make the park more serviceable for its citizens, particularly children, the aged, invalids, and the poor. Robinson favored the creation of special areas for active recreation, such as tennis courts and playgrounds, and urged the celebration of special days with park activities. He recommended that each street intersecting the park become an entrance. Winter activities such as skating and sledding were also considered desirable. Nonetheless, the planner appreciated the passive qualities of the park: "The lovely ministry of Monument Valley Park lies so largely in its landscape beauty, in the varied charm of its planting, in its bloom, its birds, its alluring and quiet walks, in the restful views commanded by its seats . . ." Robinson advised that maintenance and design of the open space would require continuing attention: "With reference to the park as a landscape picture only, it must be recognized that a landscape of this kind, which is in constant use, is never really finished."⁵³

In the decades after Palmer's death the Park Commission gradually added improvements and the park attracted increasing numbers of users. As Palmer had hoped, children found the greenspace a desirable location for play, and parents felt safe allowing them to explore the grounds. Like other

⁵¹ Sprague, *Newport*, 151.

⁵² *Colorado Springs Gazette Annual Edition*, 12 February 1911, 69 and 23 February 1913.

⁵³ Charles Mulford Robinson, *A General Plan for Improvement of Colorado Springs*, May 1912, 45, 54-55.

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communities across the country, Colorado Springs reflected the impact of the Reform Park era, adding playgrounds and areas for organized sports that were believed to have an important role in positively shaping the health and character of urban children. In 1913 an association of volunteers offered their time and money to provide supervised playground activities in the park and a playground director was assigned to administer the program.⁵⁴

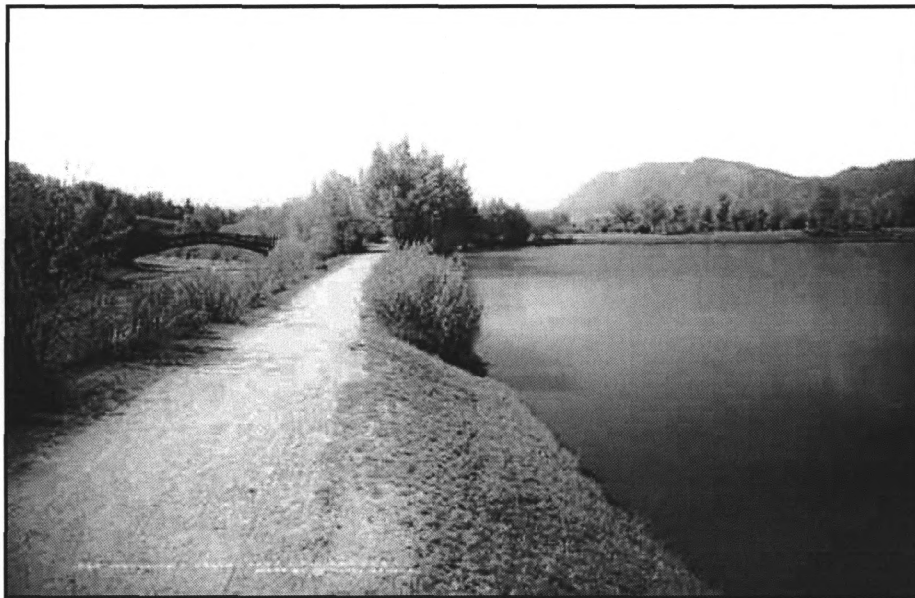


Figure 5. This early view (possibly pre-1920) of the park captures many of the elements for which it was noted: long gravel paths for strolling; rustic bridges over Monument Creek; placid lakes; and views of the mountains, in this case Cheyenne Mountain. SOURCE: Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department, L.C. McClure image number MCC-1862, Denver, Colorado.

In 1914 the Park Commission reported that the residents of the city had awakened to the fact that Monument Valley Park was a “most delightful recreation center,” utilizing the playgrounds and planning picnics and public addresses in the southern part of the reservation. Much of the northern part of the park remained wilder and more natural, awaiting further improvement. The commission encouraged use of every part of the park. By 1915, the city boasted having the third largest system of parks in the country, with 2,617 acres of greenspace. Monument Valley Park was pronounced “the most beautiful strip of land in the western part of the hemisphere.”⁵⁵

Charles Wellford Leavitt, Jr., who prepared the original design for Palmer twelve years earlier, paid a brief visit to Colorado Springs in 1915. After walking through Monument Valley Park, the landscape architect declared that he was generally pleased with its appearance. Leavitt, who was then laying out the grounds for the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, mentioned two regrets in regard to the park’s development: that the trees were not growing as quickly as he had expected and that he

⁵⁴ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 9 April 1915, 5.

⁵⁵ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 31 January 1914, 5; *Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph Annual Edition*, 20 January 1915, 1.

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hoped the Park Commission would continue to use stone paving on the banks of the creek instead of concrete.⁵⁶

The park continued to be impacted by periodic floods. As early as 1912 a city engineer reported that improvements were needed to protect against future flood damage. In July of that year a cloudburst resulted in Monument Creek rising an average of six feet throughout the length of the park, damaging riprap and causing washouts and failure of five cross and toe walls. Recommended improvements included reconstruction of damaged creek banks and repair of riprap and other protective features. The report noted that making the creek banks absolutely flood proof would be too costly for the city to undertake. Repair of the riprap was undertaken by the end of the year, but further work was required after flooding in the summer of 1914. In 1916 Park Commissioner Asa T. Jones noted that "We no sooner plan some notable improvement from our scanty resources than the water dragon of the north comes rolling down the river bed and with a huge gulp bites out a piece of the embankment and departs, leaving two sorry rents—one in the embankment and the other in the park board's finances." Torrential downpours in May 1922 and July 1925 caused high waters to sweep down the creek once more.⁵⁷

About 1915 a Colorado Springs architect, George Edward Barton, developed plans for improvement of the area in the vicinity of Lake No. 1 that testified to the extensive development the Park Commission hoped to see in the years before World War I.⁵⁸ The designs showed a central formal garden with an electric fountain at its center surrounded by a variety of buildings and structures, including a casino and meeting center; a building for women, children, and nurses; a shelterhouse with a tea room and a large room with an open fireplace for skaters in winter; a swimming pool; a bandstand; small shelters; a spring house; a small boat house; and a pavilion for a telescope. The plans were crafted so that any of the buildings could be erected alone or in concert with the other components. The grand vision never came to fruition, due to lack of funds and the constant requirement of spending improvement monies on creek protection. With private assistance a few of the proposed park buildings were erected.⁵⁹

To turn Monument Valley into the "people's park," the Park Commission continued to improve entrances and added amenities such as drinking fountains, rustic stone bridges, picnic benches, sports fields, and more playground equipment. During the spring of 1917 the first unit of the city's athletic stadium was constructed. The semicircular structure of stone and concrete was especially popular for baseball games. The *Colorado Springs Telegraph* reported, "Eventually it is hoped to have the entire field surrounded by the stadium and there stage football and baseball games, as well

⁵⁶ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 4 February 1915, 5.

⁵⁷ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 1 December 1912, 1, 12 November 1914, 5, 25 May 1916, 6, 26 October 1916, 5, 28 May 1922, 1, 22 July 1925, 1; *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, 2 February 1913, 5.

⁵⁸ Barton designed a building at the Myron Stratton Home in Colorado Springs, and later produced a drawing for the Cragmor Sanitarium (never built).

⁵⁹ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 13 June 1915, 11.

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as pageants and municipal affairs." Landscape architect Saco De Boer later judged, "Surrounded by the planting of the park it is one of the attractive ball parks in the country."⁶⁰

Penrose Swimming Pool and Bathhouse

The growing American desire for active recreational facilities in public parks was seen in Colorado Springs in the spring of 1915, when a group of local women began a campaign to collect \$2,000 for construction of a swimming and wading pool in Monument Valley Park. The proposed "plunge" was to be built at the north end of Lake No. 1 through the spreading of sand and gravel over a portion of the bottom of the lake. The Park Commission delayed considering the plan, and the effort was subsequently abandoned. Local entrepreneur Spencer Penrose then announced that he and his wife, Julie, would provide \$10,000 for a swimming pool and an associated bathhouse pavilion; it was hoped that other civic-minded citizens would follow their lead in supporting efforts to develop the park. The Penroses enjoyed Sunday morning walks through the park, and the swimming pool became their first gift to the community. They studied the designs of similar buildings around the country to determine what would be best suited for Colorado Springs.⁶¹

The city's first free public swimming pool opened on 24 June 1916. Although no formal ceremony dedicated the building, a concert was provided by the Colorado Midland band and swimming and diving exhibitions were presented. The bathhouse pavilion's design reflected Mediterranean influences, including reinforced concrete walls with a stucco finish, arched entrances, and a red tile roof. The building featured dressing rooms and lockers in the raised basement, while the main floor had showers and a waiting room and was finished in hardwood. The bathhouse was connected to the pool area by an ornamental bridge. The original pool was one-hundred-foot-long, with a floor and walls of reinforced concrete. The city hired a swimming instructor to provide classes and supervise swimming. Originally, women were allowed to use the pool in the morning and men in the afternoon; both sexes were permitted in the pool on Tuesdays. Concessions were offered and bathing suits could be rented at the bathhouse. Special days were held for the community to witness races and diving exhibitions. In the winter the facility was kept open for the convenience of ice skaters on the nearby lake.⁶²

Carlton Bandstand

As Spencer Penrose had hoped, another building within the park soon was donated by a wealthy patron. In August 1916, Ethel F. Carlton, wife of capitalist Albert E. Carlton, provided funds for a bandstand to be built just north of the swimming pool at a cost of \$2,171. Colorado Springs architects

⁶⁰ *Colorado Springs Gazette Annual Edition*, 21 February 1915; *Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph, Annual Edition*, 23 January 1918; S.R. De Boer & Co., *Report and Plans for Reconstruction of Monument Valley Park A Report Prepared for the City of Colorado Springs City Park Commission* (Denver: De Boer & Co., December 1944), 31.

⁶¹ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 18 April 1915, 1 and 16 May 1915, 12, 13 June 1915, 11; Sprague, *Newport*, 251, 292; *Colorado Springs Gazette, Annual Edition*, 20 February 1916.

⁶² *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 24 June 1916, 5, 11 March 1916, 5; *Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph Annual Edition*, 24 January 1917 and 29 January 1919, sec. 3, 1.

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MacLaren & Thomas designed the bandstand, which was completed in twenty days. The simple Classical Revival style building was constructed of reinforced concrete finished with stucco and was crowned by a red tile roof. The *Colorado Springs Gazette* noted the completed bandstand was intended to “harmonize in design and color with the [bathhouse] pavilion at the Penrose pool, nearby.” The building’s design was also influenced by that of a bandstand in Minneapolis favored by Colorado Midland Band director William W. Nelson, who noted: “There is plenty of elbow room for the largest-sized organizations and we can work out some interesting dances and music classes with the children.” During the 1920s the bandstand was the site of summer concerts provided by the Colorado Springs Municipal Band. The city’s Annual Report in 1925 stated, “These concerts are largely attended and afford delightful entertainment for citizens and visitors.”⁶³



Figure 6. The Penrose Bathhouse and Swimming Pool is pictured here in 1916, the year it opened. It survived the 1935 flood and continues to be a popular attraction. SOURCE: Pikes Peak Regional Library District, Special Collections, E.L. Fowler image, call number 001-2252-di-72, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Issue of Cars and Bridle Paths

Late in 1916 the Park Commission considered requests for opening part of the park to automobiles by constructing a road from Cache la Poudre street to a parking lot near the bandstand. The commission theorized that allowing cars in the park would lead to greater usage. Admitting cars would be in direct contradiction of William J. Palmer’s request that motor vehicles be excluded, and the *Colorado Springs Gazette* found it surprising that the commission would consider such an action: “Of all the places in the region that should be maintained for use of pedestrians, Monument Valley Park is the most important. It is one of the few spots remaining where one may go and get entirely

⁶³ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 26 July 1916, 1 and 5 August 1916; *Colorado Springs Evening Telegraph, Annual Edition*, 24 January 1917. City of Colorado Springs, *Annual Report of the City Auditor for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1925*, 11.

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away from the noises of the streets and highways.” The commission consulted with Palmer’s heirs and decided to allow automobile traffic only on special days when those who were not able to walk through the park could experience it. In 1922 the General’s daughter, Marjorie Palmer Watt, approved plans for a special “invalids’ day.” As Judith Finley described, “A motorcade of shut-ins, mostly from Glockner Sanatorium, was allowed through the park for a period of three hours one day in May to admire the blooming lilacs.” In 1926 the commissioners again confronted the question of providing increased access when the Colorado Springs Riding Club requested permission to build a bridal path the length of the park. Since Palmer’s deed specified that horses be kept out, and considering the safety of children using the park and the cost of maintaining such a trail, the commission denied the proposal.⁶⁴

Tennis Courts

In 1923 prominent attorney and former park commissioner W.D. Quackenbush donated funds for the construction of six concrete tennis courts in the park. The courts were fashioned so that they could be transformed into one large block for pageants, drills, dances, and playground purposes. The courts were built on the site of the original dirt courts and followed the specifications of the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association. Quackenbush reportedly wanted to provide courts “second to none in the country.” The courts were unusual in that the space behind the court lines extended eighteen feet, providing room for back court play without danger of collision. Construction of the tennis courts left the park needing only two things according to City Manager A.M. Wilson: a pavilion where people could gather during storms and suitable entrances, preferably artistic gateways, at Bijou Street and Mesa Road.⁶⁵

Picnic/Shelter Pavilion

In 1924 the Park Commission embarked on a “progressive program” of development that included the construction of a new shelter pavilion northwest of the lake in the vicinity of the pool and bathhouse. The building’s red tile roof, Tuscan columns, and stucco walls harmonized with the other facilities erected in the swimming pool area. A design for such a resource had been completed by architects MacLaren & Thomas in 1912, but the new shelter was to be erected in a “less artistic, but probably more substantial” manner due to budget constraints. The city’s *Annual Report* called the building a “handsome, substantial and artistic shelter pavilion for the protection of the public in inclement weather.”⁶⁶

⁶⁴ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 5 October 1916, 4, 12 October 1916, 1, 27 May 1922, 1 and 2 May 1926; Finley, “A Little Taste,” 10.

⁶⁵ Stuart Dodge recalls that the concrete of the tennis courts had an especially smooth surface, resulting in unpredictable bounces and difficult returns. Dodge, Telephone Interview, 24 August 2006; *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, 16 September 1923, 1.

⁶⁶ *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, 31 January 1924, 1 and 9 March 1924, 10; City of Colorado Springs, *Annual Report of the City Auditor for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1924*, 9.

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Tahama Spring

During the 1920s, some people regarded the spring water in the park as the city's greatest asset. In 1926 in celebration of Colorado's fiftieth birthday, the Park Commission named the site "Tahama Spring" in honor of a Sioux chief who befriended explorer Zebulon Pike, and erected a pavilion designed by Colorado Springs architect Elmer E. Nieman over it.⁶⁷ The pavilion's design was described as "Spanish type", and featured a tile roof, eight arches, benches, and bronze medallions with images of Tahama, Pike, and Palmer created by local artist Felix Cabello. The structure provided a shady spot to rest for park visitors who came to sample its waters. The pavilion survived the 1935 flood (the extent of its damage is unclear) and some WPA stonework was undertaken in the area, but the structure was not restored and the spring fell into disuse. The pavilion was removed in the mid-1960s.⁶⁸

Improvements in the Early 1930s

Monument Valley Park was a favorite of Colorado Springs residents during the 1920s and early 1930s, when it was considered fashionable for people to have organized picnics. In the early 1930s picnic tables, benches, and fireplaces were added to encourage such gatherings in the park. The original park designers had provided generous room for unstructured amusements and spontaneous activities organized by families and other groups. Although there were other parks in Colorado Springs, Monument Valley was considered the best for obtaining a city experience, according to Stuart Dodge. He remembers that during the Depression parents did not want their children playing in the wilder, northern part of the park because hobos often camped in that area. The first Palmer Memorial Day commemorating the creation of the park was held on 31 July 1932, with the Colorado Springs Municipal Band providing entertainment.⁶⁹

About 1930, Superintendent of Parks Gustav A. Hennenhofer created a rock garden near the Bijou Street entrance to the park. One hundred loads of rock from Palmer Park were hauled by truck to build the garden, which was three hundred feet long and ten- to fifteen-feet-high in some places. Pathways were created through the rocks, as were pools of water containing goldfish. Alpine flowers from Switzerland and Germany were planted between the stones. Hennenhofer passed away in 1934, and the following year the Colorado Springs Garden Club dedicated a bronze plaque on a boulder in his honor at the rock garden.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ General Palmer had been considering naming the spring "Tammaha" at the time of his death.

⁶⁸ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 4 August 1926, 5, 16 May 1926, 26 September 1926; City of Colorado Springs, *Annual Report of the City Auditor for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1926*, 13; Finley, "A Little Taste," 8; Judith R. Finley, "A Springless Colorado Springs," Special Collections, Penrose Library, Clipping File, "Colorado Springs Parks;" *Colorado Springs Sun*, 9 July 1972, 5D.

⁶⁹ City of Colorado Springs, *City of Colorado Springs Annual Report, Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1930* (Colorado Springs: City of Colorado Springs, 1930), 2, *City of Colorado Springs Annual Report, Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1932* (Colorado Springs: City of Colorado Springs, 1932), 9; Dodge, Telephone Interview, 24 August 2006; "Annual Palmer Memorial Day, 31 July 1932" in the files of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado Springs, "Colorado Springs Parks."

⁷⁰ Although it achieved widespread attention when constructed, the rock garden fell into disrepair due to lack of maintenance. City of Colorado Springs, *Annual Report of the City Auditor for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1931*, 3 and *Annual*

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During 1933, the availability of abundant public relief labor permitted more tasks to be accomplished within the park than would otherwise have been possible. The city's *Annual Report* for that year concluded that park maintenance "has been of a higher standard during the last year than at any time in the history of the Department." Monument Valley Park was given a "thorough cleaning," earlier flood damages were partially repaired, and a cable bridge was built over the creek at Willamette Street.⁷¹ By the spring of 1935, efforts to create new "beauty spots" within the park were in progress. Lake No. 2 was deepened and an artificial island was created. Sycamore and willow trees were planted on the island in the expectation it would become a sanctuary for water fowl. At the same time Lake No. 4 in the northern section of the park was filled in. According to the *Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, Lake No. 4 "has been visited by comparatively few people and the water there is inclined to become stagnant." Park workers planned to replant the area "so that where mud proved an offense to the eye and nose in the past, fields with daisies and buttercups will bloom in the future." In mid-May the Parks Department was busy constructing a nursery on the west bank of Monument Creek just north of Uintah Street. This record of progress and picturesque improvements came to an abrupt halt at the end of the month.⁷²

The Memorial Day Flood of 1935

Since its creation Monument Valley Park had experienced periodic damage caused by the creek overflowing its banks, but the Memorial Day flood of 31 May 1935 dwarfed earlier cataclysms. The *Colorado Springs Gazette* vividly described the disaster:

Racing down and across the Rock Island yards immediately north of Monument Valley park, the raging creek, boiling and tossing its muddy billows from 10 to 15 feet into the air, lashed out of its channel as it crossed the park boundary, roared to the eastward, hurtling everything before it. Clumps of trees, clumps numbering as many as 15 and 20, suddenly yielded to the lashing, debris-laden waters and fell over into the current, to be swept away across what a few minutes before had been one of the city's outstanding scenic spots.

Small hillocks, which had been set with lilacs and blue spruce, were washed away as the boiling flood surged over them. Large sections of grass land slid down into the water as the bounding stream cut an ever wider and wider swath.⁷³

The newspaper described the park as being "in ruins" as a result of the flood, noting that most of the area had been "covered by the bedlam of waters which roared down Monument creek thruout [sic] most of the day." With the exception of the upper slope of the park's eastern rim and the rock garden

Report of the City Auditor for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1932, 9; *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, 20 July 1985; Dodge, Telephone Interview, 24 August 2006.

⁷¹ *City of Colorado Springs Annual Report, Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1933* (Colorado Springs: City of Colorado Springs, 1933), 10.

⁷² *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 17 March 1935, 10 and 12 May 1935, 5.

⁷³ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 31 May 1935, 11.

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in the southeastern corner, all of Monument Valley Park was submerged by flood waters. All of the pedestrian and vehicular bridges across Monument Creek within the park were washed out. The creek cut a new and wider channel through the park, destroying trees, shrubs, and grassland and covering what remained with sand and silt. Prior to the flood, the park had staged an annual "Lilac Day," but the deluge ruined most of the bushes. Shadow Lake and Duck Lake were reduced to silt-filled "mud basins."⁷⁴



Figure 7. The Memorial Day flood of 1935 cut a new channel through Monument Valley Park and devastated the landscape. SOURCE: Pikes Peak Regional Library District, Special Collections, Stewarts Commercial Photographers image, May 1935, call number 001-4564-di-72, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The substantial buildings and athletic facilities in the southwestern area of the park escaped destruction but sustained damage: the Shelter Pavilion was filled with silt; the baseball field lost its backstop and the grandstand was buried under one to three feet of sand; the tennis courts were covered with silt and their surrounding fencing washed away; the swimming pool was filled with silt and debris; and the Tahama Spring pavilion was "badly wrecked" with mud and debris. The greenhouse and park foreman's house were flooded, while the other caretaker cottage, formerly occupied by Gustav Hennenhofer, was destroyed. Reporter C.S. Dudley walked through the park in early June and described the scene for newspaper readers: "Great piles of drifted trees lie about.

⁷⁴ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 31 May 1935, 11; *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 2 June 1935, 2 and 7, 16 June 1935, 12, and 16 May 1937, 2:2.

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Tangles of structural iron are strewn here and there. The river bed is filled with debris. There is scarcely a trace of the beautiful lawn which was a pride of the city. Everywhere there is sand, sand, sand."⁷⁵

City Manager E.L. Mosley announced that Monument Valley Park sustained an "extremely heavy loss." The *Annual Report* issued by the City at the end of the year would conclude that "the year 1935 was probably the most disastrous in the history of this [the parks] department." In early June the monetary damage to the park was estimated at \$300,000. Park Superintendent T.C. Kirkwood stated that "there is no possibility of restoring the park this year, and its restoration can be accomplished later only at tremendous expense." In addition to systematically assessing the damage, Kirkwood explained that a means of preventing a recurrence of the flooding would have to be devised prior to reconstruction. On 3 June the Park Commission discussed at length the possibility of abandoning that part of the park lying north of Mesa Road, and unanimously rejected the concept. James P. Shearer, the president of the commission explained the decision: "This beautiful central park is one of the most important assets owned by Colorado Springs. We cannot bring ourselves to abandon any part of Monument Valley park."⁷⁶

Local Boy Scouts, Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) workers, and city parks employees began the clean up of the park in the days following the flood. Work initially involved pumping water from park buildings, stacking driftwood, salvaging damaged trees, and removing silt from the swimming and wading pools. Early efforts also focused on restoring access, including building a new foot bridge across Monument Creek at Willamette Street and temporary timber vehicular bridges at Mesa Road and Uintah Streets. An engineering study was undertaken to determine a means of preventing future park flooding. By July the swimming and wading pools had been cleaned and reopened, the playground area had been cleared, sand and mud had been removed from several grass areas, and a substantial amount of driftwood had been cut and stacked. Work to clear sand and other debris from Shadow Lake, Duck Lake, and the baseball stadium was planned using FERA crews in August. The tennis courts were cleaned, the hard surface area was expanded on all sides, the fencing was replaced, and lights were installed for nighttime play.⁷⁷

Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Other Work Relief Activities in the Park

During the first part of June 1935, Colorado Springs officials pursued the possibility of securing federal funds for flood control and the restoration of vehicular bridges within the park. The *Colorado Springs Gazette* reported that a public works project to widen, straighten, and riprap the Monument Creek channel between Fontanero and Moreno streets was being considered that would turn the stream into "a huge storm sewer." As the city looked to federal FERA and Public Works

⁷⁵ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 31 May 1935, 11; *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 2 June 1935, 2 and 7, 16 June 1935, 12, and 16 May 1937, 2:2.

⁷⁶ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 31 May 1935, 9 and 11; 4 June 1935, 1 and 6; 12 June 1935, 1 and 2; City of Colorado Springs, *City of Colorado Springs Annual Report, Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1935* (Colorado Springs: City of Colorado Springs, 1935), 12.

⁷⁷ *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 2 June 1935, 7 and *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 31 August 1935.

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Administration (PWA) programs for money, the administrative organization of federal Depression-era work relief agencies was changing.⁷⁸

On 8 April 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act into law. The act created the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which replaced FERA as the principal federal work-relief program to combat the continuing joblessness and human misery of the Great Depression. The WPA has been described as “the most massive and comprehensive effort ever undertaken in the nation’s history up to that time to ensure that every able-bodied American male—and even some able-bodied American females—would be able to earn at least the basic needs of life for themselves and their families.” Between 1935 and 1943, the WPA spent more than \$11 billion on 1.4 million projects throughout the nation and employed more than 8.4 million people. WPA workers, whose wages averaged \$41.57 monthly, were employed on such projects as the construction or improvement of roads, bridges, parks, public buildings, and airports; creation of public art and theatrical productions; completion of economic and other professional studies; and various other activities. Local government applicants for WPA funds were required to put up matching amounts generally equivalent to one-sixth of the total project, a proportion that was increased to one-fourth in 1939 and later years. The Colorado office of the WPA was operational by the summer of 1935 and began receiving project applications. Colorado Springs quickly moved to take advantage of the WPA and other federal public relief work programs. Such projects were important in providing jobs for out-of-work residents and in stimulating the local economy through purchases of goods and materials, as well as improving national, state, and local parks.⁷⁹

General Park Cleanup, Channel Widening, and Retaining Wall Construction

A \$36,814 WPA project for general clean up work in Monument Valley Park was approved in November 1935; the city share of that undertaking was just \$250. WPA workers were quickly on the job and by the end of the month had removed thousands of yards of sand from Lake No. 1 and the baseball field. By the time the project (WPA No. WP-447) was completed in January 1936, approximately 650 men had worked on the clean up task. WPA workers continued refurbishing the park; in April 1936, the baseball field was finally cleared of sand and ready for use. By May Tahama Spring was accessible to those desiring its mineral waters.⁸⁰

Channel Widening and Creek Retaining Walls

In July 1935 the city completed field surveys for “the proposed realignment, straightening and widening of Monument creek.” Plans called for enlarging the creek’s channel to enable it to carry 50,000 second feet of water, more than 40 percent greater than the estimated volume of the Memorial Day flood. In early September the city submitted a request to the WPA for funding the channelization project. The total cost was estimated at \$303,151, with the city’s share being \$21,315;

⁷⁸ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 12 June 1935, 1-2.

⁷⁹ T.H. Watkins, *The Great Depression: America in the 1930s* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1993), 248-49; Linda McClelland, *Building the National Parks* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 328.

⁸⁰ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 13 December 1935, 5 and 26 April 1936, 7.

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the project would provide three hundred men full-time employment for one year. The Monument Creek project, described by the *Gazette* as “by far the most important” of El Paso County WPA tasks, was approved by the WPA Washington office in late November.⁸¹



Figure 8. The WPA widened the channel of Monument Creek and created slanting walls riprapped with sandstone as a flood control measure following the deluge of Memorial Day 1935. The effort spanned five years and cost at least \$1.2 million. SOURCE: City of Colorado Springs, *Annual Report, Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1936* (Colorado Springs: City of Colorado Springs, 1936).

Following final approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the creek channelization project (WPA No. WP-811) got underway in January 1936, with Terry J. Owens, the WPA district engineer, in overall charge. The task called for substantially widening the channel of Monument Creek and edging its banks with a concrete toe wall topped by a slanting wall covered with thick, irregularly-shaped pieces of sandstone riprap. The toe wall was reinforced with steel rails driven into bedrock, using a portable truck-mounted pile driver designed by WPA engineers and built by the city street department. The new channel measured about 187 feet wide from toe wall to toe wall and over 200 feet wide at the tops of the retaining walls, which were about 15 feet above the level of the creek. Hundreds of trees and countless shrubs located within the new channel were removed and transplanted to other sites within Monument Valley Park or to other parks.⁸²

⁸¹ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 5 September 1935, 1 and 21 November 1935, 1 and 6.

⁸² The new channel was three to four times as wide as the one that existed prior to the flood. *WPA Worker* (November 1936 and December 1936); Works Progress Administration, “Work Program: Colorado Works Progress Administration Projects,”

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The project employed an average of 250 men and 40 to 50 trucks, although in April 1936 a force of 600 men and 60 trucks were on the job. At the request of engineer Owens, the city council authorized the use of a municipal steam shovel on the project. The heavy equipment was needed to clear bottlenecks in the channel before the spring runoff began. Work proceeded and, by year's end, the channel widening and riprap was complete in the southern part of the park below the Mesa Road Bridge. Between Mesa Road and Uintah Street, the channel had been expanded and the toe walls were complete, but no riprapping had been installed. North of Uintah Street, excavation for enlarging the channel was still under way.⁸³

In February 1937, the WPA announced that funding for continuing the channelization of Monument Creek had been approved by its Washington headquarters. The agency authorized a crew of three hundred men to work on the project. In late April WPA workers were at work on the toe wall north of Uintah Street. In December 1937, President Roosevelt authorized a \$189,360 application to continue the channel widening project from San Miguel Street to the Rock Island Railroad tracks, just north of the northern park boundary. Although a March 1939 newspaper article reported that the project was complete within the boundary of Monument Valley Park, an August 1940 report still showed construction underway on the west bank of the creek at the north end of the park.⁸⁴

Other WPA Work in the Park

In 1936, repairs were undertaken on Lake No. 1 (Shadow Lake) by WPA workers who removed sand and debris from the lake and constructed a new eastern shore, bounded by a long rubble stone dike and stepped retaining wall. The lake was reduced to about half its former size due to the widening of the Monument Creek channel; the island in the lake was correspondingly cut in size the following year. The reconstruction of the lake, which had to await completion of the Monument Creek channel retaining wall to the east, was finished by mid-November 1936. Work on restoring Lake No. 2 (Duck Lake) started in late 1936 with WPA crews removing sand from the area.⁸⁵

During late 1935 and early 1936, WPA workers built a new greenhouse and cold frame in the support area north of Mesa Road. The 1936 *Annual Report* of the city noted that the "increased size, number and variety of flower beds" throughout the center parkways of streets and in the parks was made possible by the increase in growing capacity provided by the new greenhouse.⁸⁶

n.p., n.d., loose leaf, in the files of the Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver, Colorado; *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 15 March 1936, 3 and 10 May 1936, 3; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 30 April 1937, 1.

⁸³ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 6 March 1936, 7, 11 March 1936, 3, and 6 January 1937, 2.

⁸⁴ It is not clear if the retaining wall was ever completed on the west side of the creek at the northern end of the park. The sandstone riprapping is not present in this section. *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 20 February 1937, 1, 30 April 1937, 1, and 18 December 1937, 7; *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 19 March 1939, 2:1 and 11 August 1940, 8.

⁸⁵ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 26 April 1936, 7, 17 November 1936, 1, and 19 February 1937, 3.

⁸⁶ City of Colorado Springs, *City of Colorado Springs Annual Report, Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1935* (Colorado Springs: City of Colorado Springs, 1936), 12; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 14 April 1936, 3.

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WPA workers also built a variety of stone features within Monument Valley Park, some functional and others purely decorative. These projects varied in scale as well as in the masonry techniques employed. Most appear to have been undertaken in the late 1930s. The National Park Service reviewed and supervised WPA improvements in state and local parks, incorporating its principals of master planning, landscape naturalization, and Rustic design. The WPA stone construction in Monument Valley Park reflected the National Park Service preference for the use of stone materials in a simple manner that harmonized well with the Rustic Style construction employed during the original development of the park. One of the largest of the WPA projects created the massive Columbia Street Entrance to the park, which was completed in July 1938. Rounded stones and boulders for the walls were obtained from the creek bed, while steps and decks were composed of Manitou greenstone. Smaller stonework projects included: the Serpentine Wall, a decorative winding stone feature in the northern section of the park; a stone and concrete vehicle underpass providing access to the creek bed topped by a stone pedestrian bridge; two stone pedestrian bridges over ditches; small stone retaining walls adjacent to the main trail in the park; stone sidewalls for a drainage feature; and a curving retaining wall at the Tahama Spring site.⁸⁷

Uintah Street and Mesa Road Bridges

The two other major construction projects in the park during the 1930s were the replacement of the Uintah Street and Mesa Road bridges which had been washed out by the Memorial Day flood. The city received a Public Works Administration (PWA) loan and grant totaling \$99,133 to cover the cost of the bridges. Each Art Deco style bridge was a 242-foot, three span, concrete and steel structure with concrete abutments and two concrete piers in the streambed. Given the widening of the Monument Creek channel, the new bridges were considerably longer than the bridges they replaced. Plans for the two identical bridges were developed by O.O. Phillips of the city engineering staff, and the Thomas Bate Construction Company of Denver was the general contractor. Work on the bridges began in late 1935, and both were opened to traffic the following May.⁸⁸

Cession of Park Land for Washburn Field

Even with federal work-relief assistance, the city found that it did not have the funds to pursue the restoration of all of the pre-flood area of the park. The portion in the area west of Colorado College, commonly known as "the jungles" due to its wild appearance, was abandoned in terms of maintenance. In July 1935, the College proposed that the city give it this land for the creation of additional student playing fields and a baseball diamond. The City Council approved the transfer in March 1936, and the college took over the four acres in 1937 and turned it into athletic fields.⁸⁹

⁸⁷ *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 17 July 1938, 2:2.

⁸⁸ The Mesa Road Bridge was PWA project Colo. 1019-R. *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 20 October 1935, 1 and 10 May 1936, 3; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 30 May 1936, 1. City of Colorado Springs, *Annual Report, Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1936* (Colorado Springs: City of Colorado Springs, 1936).

⁸⁹ *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 13 July 1935, 1 and 11 March 1936, 3; Finley, "A Little Taste," 11.

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By 1939 Depression-era public work relief programs had pumped considerable sums of money into Monument Valley Park projects and great strides toward recovering from the 1935 flood had been made. Nearly \$1.2 million of federal and local money had been spent on flood control alone. While reducing the possibility of future floods, the new, wider channel absorbed a large amount of park land. A July 1939 article in the *Colorado Springs Gazette and Telegraph* noted that the park had “regained in large part its former appeal as a recreational center,” pointing to the popularity of the tennis courts, baseball field, and swimming pool complex. The article viewed the rock garden “as one of the finest in the west,” and the park as a whole was assessed as “still a beauty spot,” and a favorite place to stroll. Noting the ban on vehicles and the variety of trees and vegetation, the article concluded that “Monument Valley park is one of the most unique playgrounds in the west.”⁹⁰



Figure 9. The replacement of the Mesa Road (above) and Uintah Street bridges in the park were achieved through Public Works Administration funding. Due to the widening of the streambed the new bridges were considerably longer than the ones they replaced. SOURCE: City of Colorado Springs, *Annual Report, Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 1936* (Colorado Springs: City of Colorado Springs, 1936).

Despite the progress described above, many areas of Monument Valley Park remained barren of grass. In early 1940, a WPA project was approved for beautifying the park, beginning at the southern end. The \$69,696 project included regrading some areas and installing a new irrigation system.⁹¹ In July 1940 the Park Commission announced a trial plan to reserve the Monument Valley Park

⁹⁰ *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 2 July 1939, 2:8.

⁹¹ *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 26 November 1939, 2:2; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 4 February 1940, 3.

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swimming pool for the use of "colored people" each Wednesday. The commission stated that its move was in response "to requests from various negro organizations and individuals for the right to use the pool one day a week." The experiment was intended to see if there was sufficient patronage to support opening the pool to a more diverse group of swimmers.⁹²

The De Boer Plan for Monument Valley Park and the Postwar Era

Although the community's focus shifted to world events at the outbreak of war, by 1944 the city was beginning to plan for the postwar era. In that year the Park Commission hired the noted Denver landscape architecture firm headed by Saco Rienk De Boer to prepare a plan for the refurbishment of the park. After comprehensively surveying the existing conditions, De Boer found that the flood damage and the widened channel resulted in a more open area through the middle of the park and some of the features of the park were destroyed by the flood. However, he determined that most of the more permanent improvements were not harmed and were still in operation. The recommendations provided in De Boer's *Report and Plans for Reconstruction of Monument Valley Park* contained innovative suggestions, such as creating a deer park at the north end of the reservation, introducing sheep to control weeds, establishing a pinetum, and constructing a community center with a children's theater and an indoor gymnasium. Most of De Boer's plan for adding new facilities and treatments to areas of the park was not enacted, but his inventory of existing features provided important documentation about the nature and condition of the park resources.⁹³

By the 1940s the plantings in the Formal Garden area consisted only of plots of grass surrounded by hedges, and the shade of the large trees in the area made it difficult for flowers to grow. De Boer described the rock garden as "beautiful," but suggested simplifying it to make it easier to maintain. The swimming pool was still the only public facility of its kind in the city in 1944. The desire to create additional recreational opportunities in newly-created residential areas after World War II drew the city's focus away from Monument Valley Park, which still contained areas not reclaimed from flood damage. In 1947 a city charter revision replaced the Park Commission with a City Park and Recreation Department and an advisory board.⁹⁴

The park gained a new improvement in 1948, when the Colorado Springs Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Colonists contributed the Plymouth Rock memorial. The memorial consisted of a large boulder embedded with a plaque that honored the founders of the thirteen original colonies. Trees surrounding the boulder represented the colors of the flag, including blue spruce, red cedar, and white fir.⁹⁵

In the 1950s further efforts to refurbish and add to the park included constructing a new parking area on Mesa Road, renovating the pool and bathhouse, resurfacing of the tennis courts, and redesigning

⁹² *Colorado Springs Sunday Gazette and Telegraph*, 21 July 1940, 4.

⁹³ De Boer, *Report*; Finley, "A Little Taste," 11.

⁹⁴ "Self Perpetuating Board of Six Over City Parks," November 1946, in the files of Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College; De Boer, *Report*, 19;

⁹⁵ Dru Wilson, "Trail of History."

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the baseball diamond. In the mid-1950s, the Parks & Recreation Department restored the area between Uintah Street and the Bijou overpass. A focus of the effort was the repair of parts of the irrigation system. In 1957 William Penn Mott, Jr., superintendent of parks in Oakland, California, praised the foresight of the city's planners for its downtown parks, calling them a major asset for the business district.⁹⁶

A city service center erected in the postwar period on the west bank of the creek utilized what had been park land. In 1962 one thousand yellow pine trees were planted on the east side of the park to screen out the service center area. The six- to eight-foot evergreens were acquired from the US Forest Service in the Manitou Park area. A flood on 17 June 1965 resulted in the destruction of some of the WPA stonework and the pavilion over Tahama Springs, and diverted city funds once again to flood repair. The Springs Area Beautiful Association (SPABA) rededicated the geologic column in that year and urged the city make improvements to Monument Valley Park. In 1967 the Colorado Springs Horticultural Arts Society created a Demonstration Garden in the park to show newcomers what grew best in the local climate. The garden's plantings included a variety of trees and shrubs and flowers divided into thematic groups. Other later improvements included the construction of Boddington Soccer Field on the site of the old reservoir in 1978.⁹⁷

In the 1970s the city purchased the Palmer deed reversionary rights from the General's heirs, and a proposal was considered that would extend Fontanero Street across the park to the Interstate 25 interchange. Public outcry and a lawsuit brought by opponents of the plan quashed the threat, and a 1974 declaratory judgment required the city to fulfill its obligation as trustee and not to violate the restrictions set forth in the Palmer deed or "engage in any activities that will result in the sale, disposition of, loss of or diminished use of said park lands solely as parks." The provisions of the deed continued to protect the park from threatened alterations in subsequent years.⁹⁸

Projects stemming from celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the park in 1982 resulted in a redesign of the Formal Gardens, the erection of a new playground structure, and the initiation of a parks volunteer program. Following the Memorial Day flood the gardens had fallen into disrepair due to the intensive labor required to water and weed the area. Gene Fuhlrodt, a landscape architect with the Department of Parks and Recreation, provided a new design with geometrically-arranged flower beds and concrete walkways, a fountain with pool, two daises for events, a sprinkler system, and new trees, lawns, and hedges.⁹⁹ Another project of the era was the creation of a fitness trail with eighteen exercise stations with wood and pipe benches and bars in the northern part of the park.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁶ *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, 21 May 1950, 1 and 16 February 1957; "Tri Focus, 1956, Parks, Recreation and Forestry," in the files of Colorado College Special Collections, Colorado Springs Park & Recreation Department, 10. .

⁹⁷ *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, 12 January 1962, 1; Monument Valley Park, Colorado Springs, Colorado," in the Files of Special Collections, Penrose Library, Parks, Colorado Springs; Dru Wilson, "Trail of History;" Finley, "A Little Taste," 12.

⁹⁸ *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, 9 September 1970, 30 December 1971, 20 February 1974, and 9 February 1977; *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 17 September 2000.

⁹⁹ Flowers in the formal gardens included zinnias, begonias, roses, and perennials, and tree varieties included Russian Olive, Ponderosa Pine, White Fir, Blue Spruce, Hackberry, Maple, Green Ash, Honey Locust, Red Oak, and Cottonwood.

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Renewed focus on the importance of Palmer's gift came in 2000, when a Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified Monument Valley Park as the most popular park in Colorado Springs. The Friends of Monument Valley Park formed in the same year to enhance and improve the park's natural and cultural environment. The group inspired the planting of new lilac beds and reinstated the General Palmer Day, a celebration of the creation of the park. Members of the Friends also devoted volunteer hours to survey park features and the Historic Preservation Alliance of Colorado Springs sponsored preparation of this nomination. Monument Valley Park is now one of the most heavily utilized open spaces in Colorado Springs and continues to fulfill William Jackson Palmer's goal of creating a park for the people in the heart of the city.



Figure 10. This circa 1915 view of the Monument Valley Park illustrates the role it has played as a haven for quiet contemplation in the center of a bustling urban area.
SOURCE: Pikes Peak Regional Library District, Special Collections, call number 102-2249-di-72, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

¹⁰⁰ Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation, Monument Valley Park files, "Formal Gardens Plan;" Dorothy Aldridge, "Gardens to Blossom with New Look," *Gazette Telegraph Leisuretime Magazine*, 24 April 1982, 14; Dru Wilson, "Trail of History"; Finley, "A Little Taste," 13.

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N.p., n.d. Loose leaf, in the files of the Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy
Department, Denver, Colorado.

WPA Worker.

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Geographic Information

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the district is indicated on four eleven by seventeen inch sketch maps at a scale of at least one inch equals two hundred feet. Polygon 1234 on the included USGS map is the bounding polygon within which the nominated area is wholly contained. The park is located in the City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado.

Boundary Justification

The nominated area of the park includes all those lands associated with the park during the period of significance which are still used as park land or park entrances and which still maintain historic physical integrity. Not included within the boundary are former park lands on the west now used as the City Service Center and on the east which were transferred to Colorado College in the 1930s and now used as athletic fields. The small portion of the park lying south of Bijou Street, which is isolated from the bulk of the park by the street's four traffic lanes and median and which contains no extant historic resources in their original locations, is also not included in the nomination.

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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

Form Preparation

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Many individuals provided assistance with the research, fieldwork, and preparation of the nomination. Timothy J. Scanlon, Senior Planner, Comprehensive Planning Division, City of Colorado Springs, conducted a walking tour of the park, provided comments and suggestions on the proposed boundary, and answered numerous questions about the park and its resources. Bill Barns served as project manager for the project for the Historic Preservation Alliance of Colorado Springs (HPACS). Anne McCleave, Historic Preservation Specialist, Colorado Historical Society, State Historical Fund, provided technical administrative assistance. Holly Wilson, National and State Register Historian, Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, reviewed the nomination and provided guidance about its composition. Barbara Norgren, Dawn Bunyak, and Dianna Litvak conducted an initial survey and evaluation of the park as part of an Interstate 25 improvement project in 2001. Members and supporters of the Friends of Monument Valley Park completed a detailed physical inventory of the park in 2004-05 in support of the project, including: Bill Arbogast, Susan Conley, Judy Finley, Joan Frederick, Judy Ingelido, Jeff Long, Charley Paterson, Janice Prowell, Judith Rice Jones, Al Rohr, Tim Scanlon, and Guy Summers. In addition, the following members and supporters of HPACS and the Friends of Monument Valley Park assisted by copying articles about the park from historic newspapers: Judy Finley, John Haney, Judy Ingelido, Jan Mahoney, Cathy Mundy, Skip Mundy, Roy Neese, Sherry Neese, Jan Prowell, Dawn Rickert, Tim Scanlon, Jack Tatum, and Jan Zellmer.

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Common Photographic Label Information:

1. Resource Name: Monument Valley Park
2. Location: Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado
3. Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons
4. Negative on file at: Historic Preservation Alliance of Colorado Springs
P.O. Box 345
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0345

Information Different for Each View:

5. Photograph Number, Description of View, Date, and Camera Direction

| Photograph Number | Description of View and Photograph Date | Camera Direction |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | Lake No. 1/Shadow Lake (Resource 12) with the Shelter Pavilion (Resource 15) on the far shore. August 2006. | W |
| 2 | Concrete sidewalks curve through a stand of trees in the area between the tennis courts (Resource 18) and the parking lot (Resource 24) in the southwest area of the park. August 2006. | S |
| 3 | Open area in the northern area of the park northwest of the Geologic Column complex (Resource 45), showing the section's more naturalistic appearance. June 2006. | NE |
| 4 | North or upper overlook in the Geologic Column complex (Resource 45) with foothills in the distance. August 2006. | SW |
| 5 | Main trail and Monument Creek channel in the northern area of the park, showing border of Ponderosa Pines, the creek retaining walls with sandstone riprapping on the east bank (Resource 6), and Cheyenne Mountain in the distance. June 2006. | SW |
| 6 | Bijou Street Gateway (Resource 1). June 2006. | NW |

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| Photograph Number | Description of View and Photograph Date | Camera Direction |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 7 | Works Progress Administration (WPA) monument (Resource 5), the main trail (to the left), and the pedestrian bridge over Monument Creek (Resource 4) in the distance. June 2006. | NNE |
| 8 | Daughters of the American Colonists Commemorative Tree Grove (Plymouth Rock) (Resource 7). August 2006. | N |
| 9 | Tahama Spring and retaining wall (Resource 8) with main trail berm in background. August 2006. | SE |
| 10 | Baseball Stadium (Resource 10), showing grandstand, announcer's booth, and chainlink backstop. June 2006. | W |
| 11 | Stone dike/retaining wall (Resource 13) on the east shore of Lake No. 1/Shadow Lake (Resource 12). The lake with its stone and concrete shoreline is to the right. August 2006. | SSE |
| 12 | North shore of Lake No. 1/Shadow Lake (Resource 12), showing curving stone retaining wall and gravel path with the Shelter Pavilion (Resource 15) in the background to the left. August 2006. | W |
| 13 | Penrose Bathhouse and swimming pool (Resource 14). August 2006. | SSW |
| 14 | Carlton Bandstand (Resource 17), with tennis courts (Resource 18) in the background. August 2006. | NW |
| 15 | The Monument Creek channel in the southern area of the park with the Mesa Road/Cache La Poudre Bridge (Resource 25) in the background and a creek drop structure (Resource 9) in the foreground. June 2006. | NNW |
| 16 | Palmer Construction Office/Caretaker's Cottage (Resource 27). June 2006. | NE |
| 17 | Lake No. 2/Duck Lake (Resource 32), showing shoreline edged with large stones and gravel perimeter path. June 2006. | S |

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| Photograph Number | Description of View and Photograph Date | Camera Direction |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 18 | Main trail underpass and stone pedestrian bridge (Resource 40) in the northern portion of the park. Note sandstone riprapping on the slope. August 2006. | NW |
| 19 | Stone pedestrian bridge (Resource 43) and stone-lined ditch (Resource 44) adjacent to Fontanero Street in the northern area of the park. August 2006. | NW |
| 20 | Geologic Column complex (Resource 45), showing the "column" (to the left), the waterfall area (center), an overlook with a low stone wall (to the right), and a small cobblestone bridge (above the waterfall area). A cobblestone bridge (Resource 46) for a secondary trail is in the foreground. August 2006. | NE |
| 21 | Cobblestone bridge above the waterfall with stone steps to the right in the Geologic Column complex (Resource 45). August 2006. | NE |
| 22 | Open grassy area in the northern area of the park, containing a baseball field (Resource 49), a restroom (Resource 50, in distance at right), two playgrounds (Resources 51 and 52), and the Serpentine Wall (Resource 53, to the left). June 2006. | N |
| 23 | Serpentine Wall (Resource 53) adjacent to the main trail in the northern area of the park with Cheyenne Mountain in the distance. August 2006. | SSW |
| 24 | Columbia Street Entrance (Resource 55), the main trail, and the Monument Creek retaining wall (Resource 6, at left). June 2006. | N |
| 25 | Monument Creek retaining wall (Resource 6) from the Mesa Road/Cache La Poudre Bridge. June 2006. | NE |
| 26 | The main trail in the southern area of the park passes on either side of a stand of mature Willow trees. The Monument Creek retaining wall (Resource 6) is to the right. June 2006. | SSE |
| 27 | Willamette Street Entrance (Resource 61), lower or western section, with the path to the upper section in the background. August 2006. | ESE |

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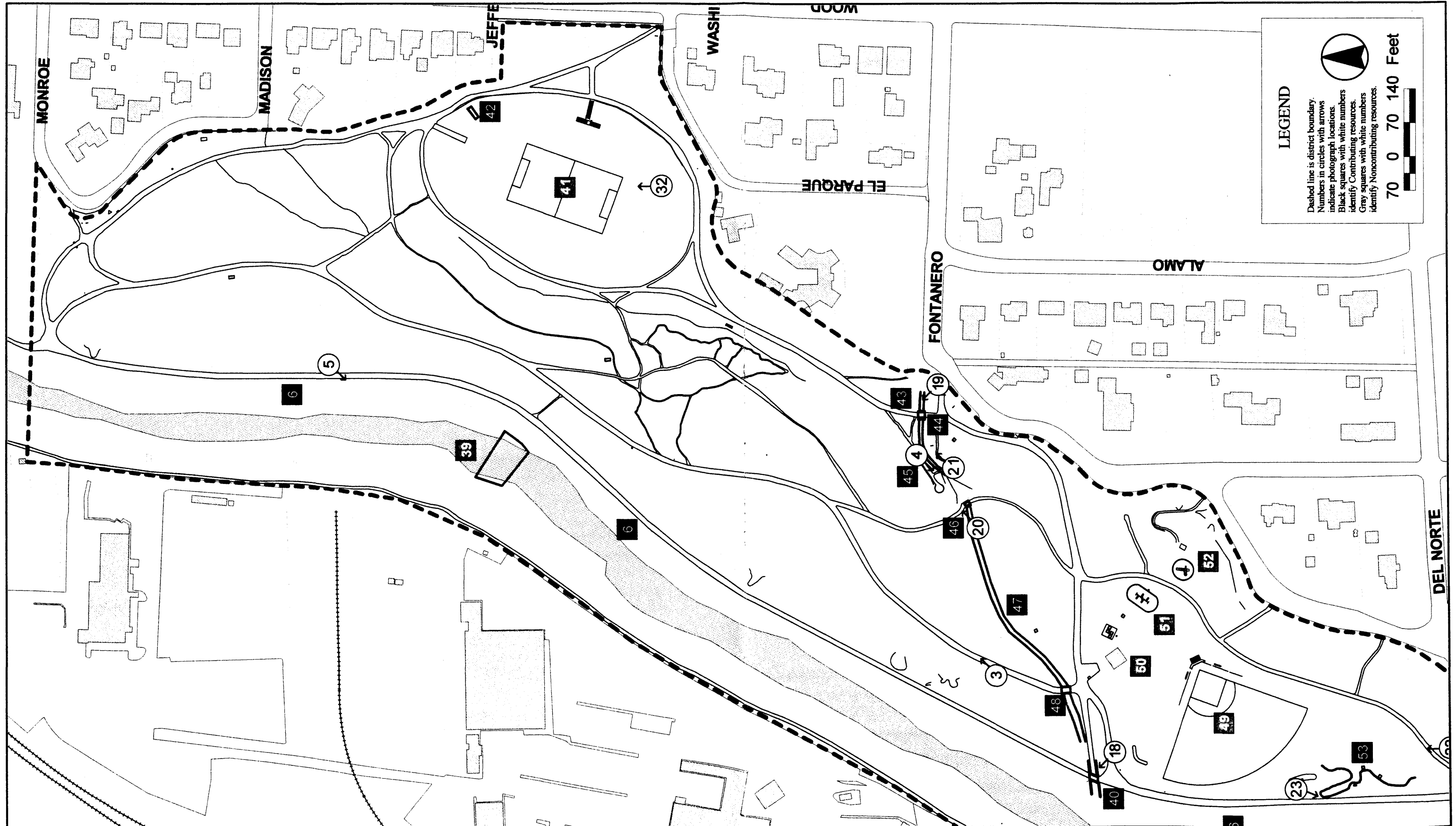
Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado

| Photograph Number | Description of View and Photograph Date | Camera Direction |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 28 | Willamette Street Entrance (Resource 61), upper or eastern section. August 2006. | E |
| 29 | St. Vrain Street Entrance (Resource 62), showing the battered retaining wall and shallow cobblestone gutter on one of the gravel path's switchbacks. June 2006. | NE |
| 30 | Monument Creek channel (with riprapping visible on the far bank) with the main trail to the right in the southern area of the park. June 2006. | NNE |
| 31 | The Demonstration Garden (Resource 26), on the west side of the creek north of Mesa Road. June 2006. | NNW |
| 32 | Boddington Field (Resource 41), a former reservoir now used as a soccer field. June 2006. | N |
| 33 | Formal Gardens (Resource 2) in the southeast area of park. August 2006. | SSW |
| 34 | Uintah Street Bridge (Resource 35), pedestrian underpass (Resource 56, on far side of creek), and reconstructed section on Monument Creek retaining wall (Resource 6). June 2006. | ESE |
| 35 | Pedestrian bridge over Interstate 25 (Resource 23) and restroom (Resource 22) in the southern portion of the park. June 2006. | NW |

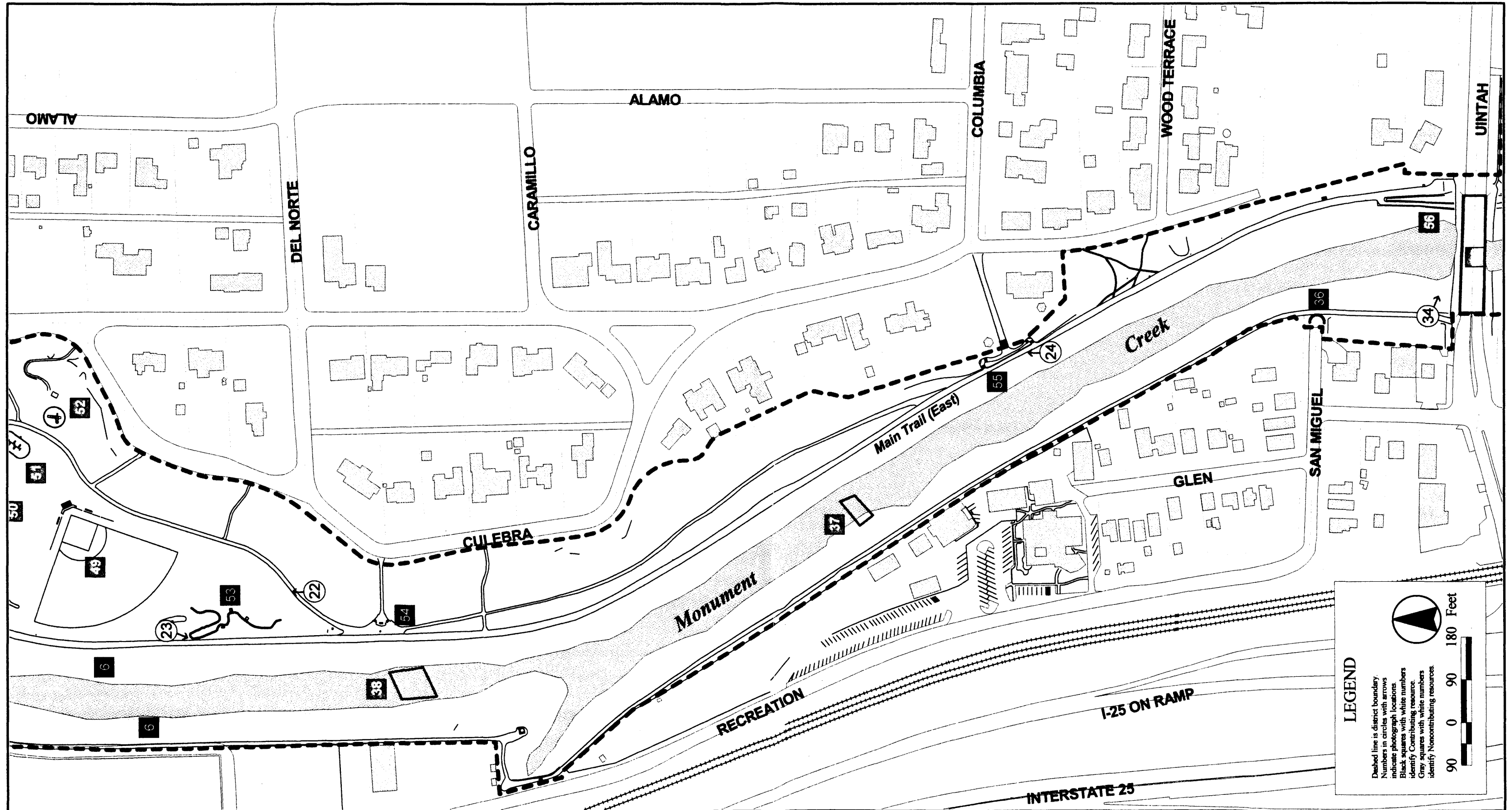
MONUMENT VALLEY PARK-MONROE STREET TO DEL NORTE STREET SKETCH MAP-PART 1

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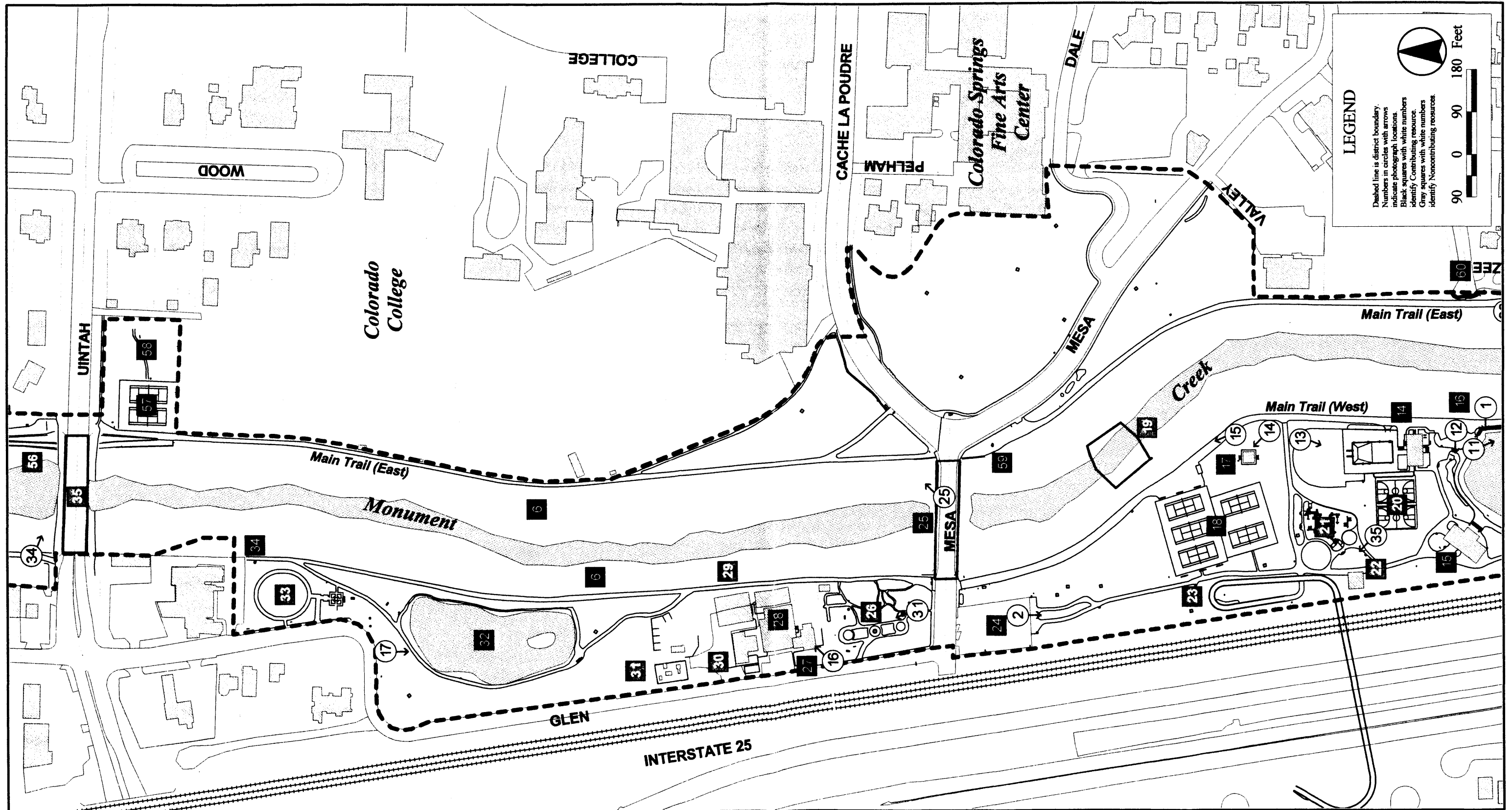
Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado



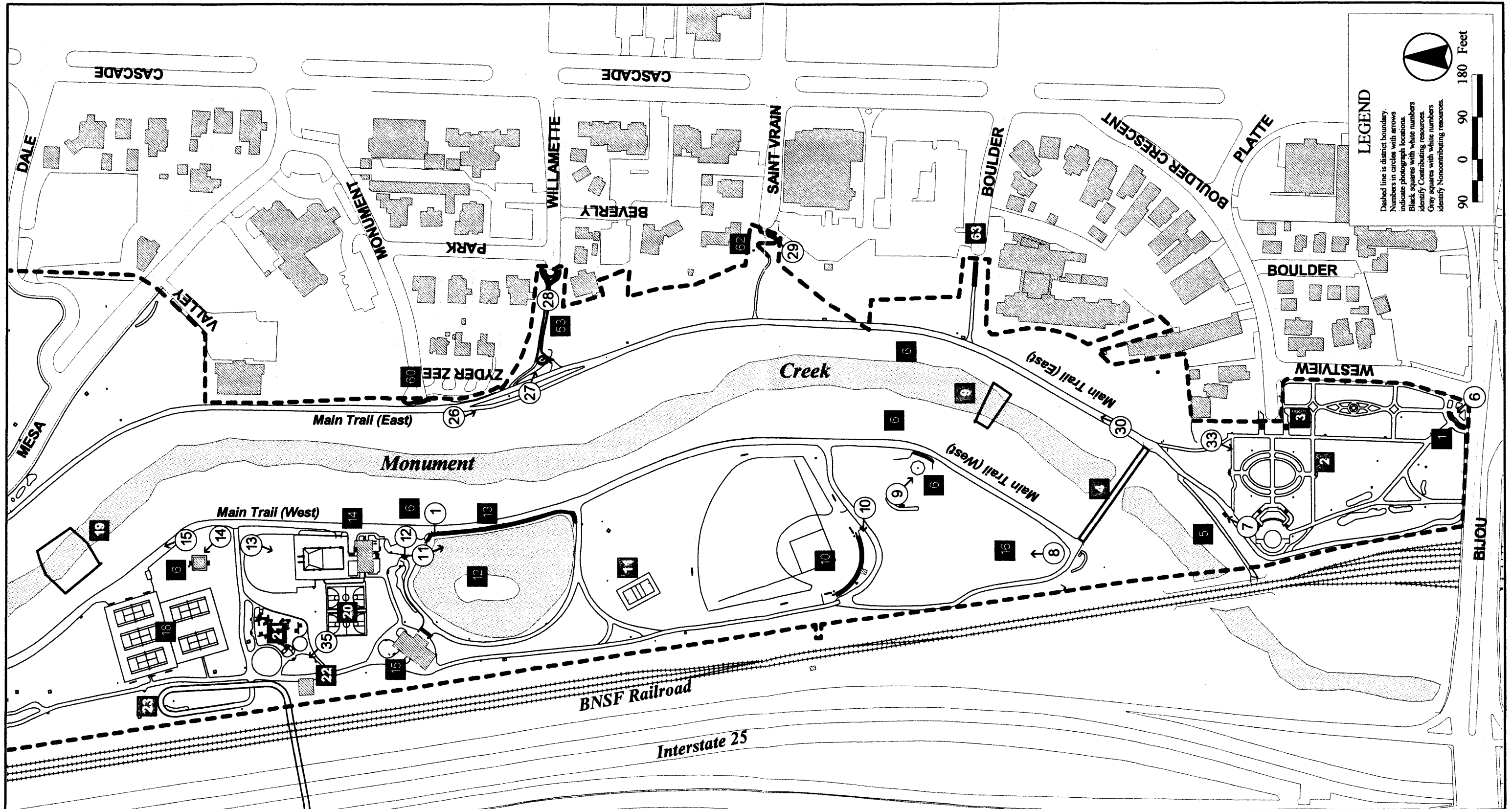
MONUMENT VALLEY PARK-DEL NORTE STREET TO UINTAH STREET
SKETCH MAP-PART 2



MONUMENT VALLEY PARK-UINTAH STREET TO MESA ROAD
SKETCH MAP-PART 3



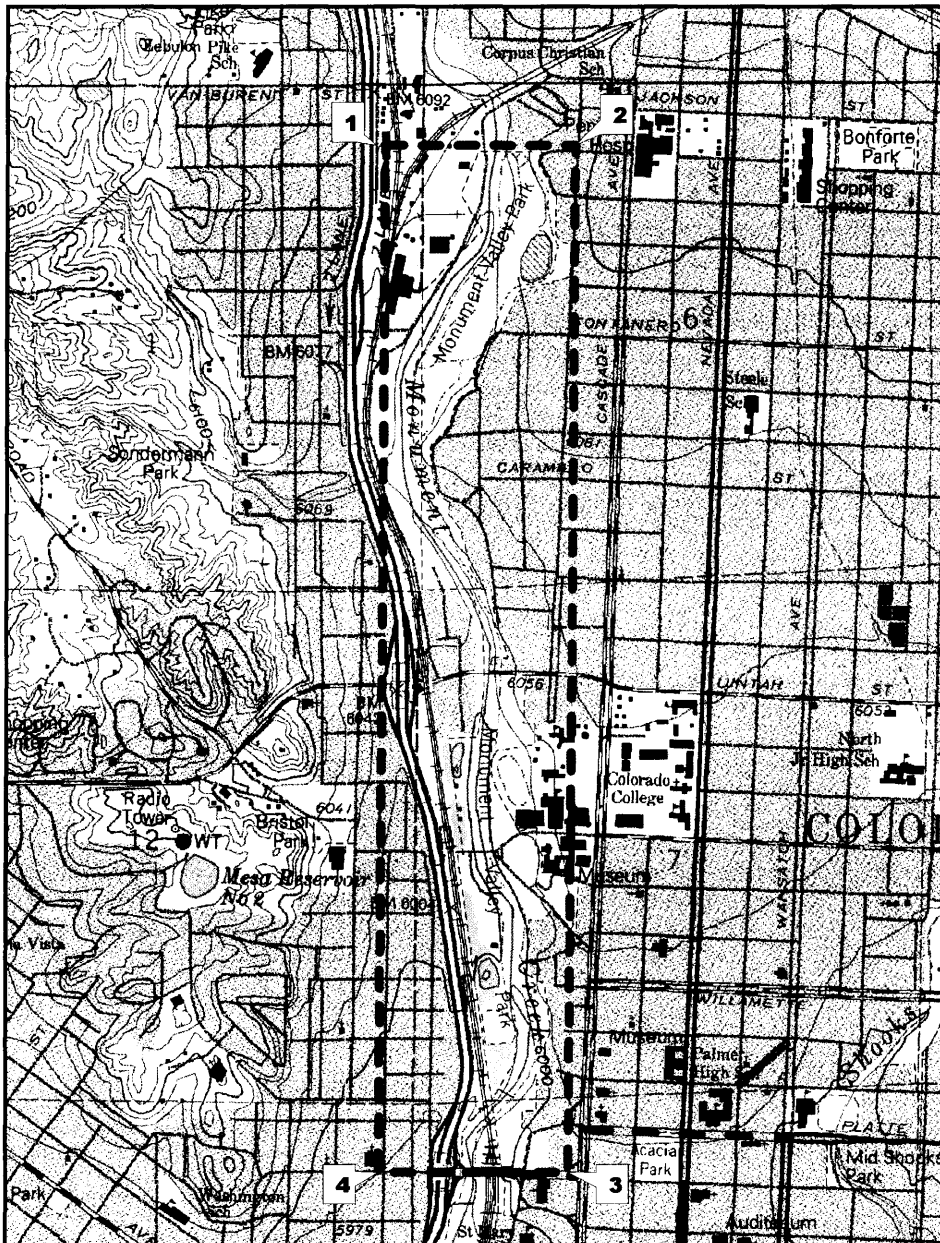
MONUMENT VALLEY PARK-MESA ROAD TO BIJOU STREET
SKETCH MAP-PART 4



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Monument Valley Park, El Paso County, Colorado



SOURCE: Extract of U.S. Geological Survey, "Colorado Springs, Colo.," 7.5 minute topographic map (Reston, Virginia: U.S. Geological Survey, 1961, revised 1994). A dashed line indicates the bounding polygon 1234.