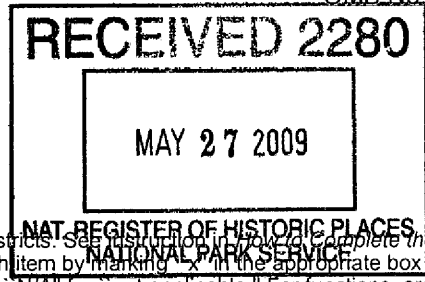


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

489



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instructions on 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.

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

historic name North Cheyenne Cañon Park

other names/site number Colorado College Park; Cheyenne Park; 5EP.5968

2. Location


street & number 2120 North Cheyenne Cañon Road [N/A] not for publication

city or town Colorado Springs [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county El Paso code 041 zip code 80906

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.)

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

5/13/09  
Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society  
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.)

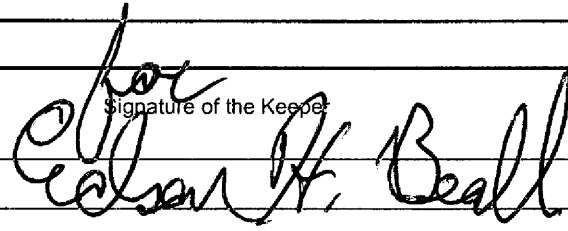
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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
  - See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
  - See continuation sheet.

  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action 7-8-09

North Cheyenne Cañon Park  
Name of Property

El Paso County, Colorado  
County/State

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

#### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	7	buildings
7	0	sites
32	9	structures
0	0	objects
40	16	Total

#### Name of related multiple property listing.

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

N/A

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

1

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CUTLURE: outdoor recreation  
LANDSCAPE: park  
LANDSCAPE: forest  
LANDSCAPE: natural feature  
LANDSCAPE: conservation area

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation  
LANDSCAPE: park  
LANDSCAPE: forest  
LANDSCAPE: natural feature  
LANDSCAPE: conservation area

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls STONE: granite  
roof ASPHALT  
STEEL  
other STONE: granite

#### Narrative Description

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

North Cheyenne Cañon Park  
Name of Property

El Paso County, Colorado  
County/State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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.)

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

CONSERVATION  
ENTERTAINMENT/ RECREATION

### Periods of Significance

1884 - 1959

### Significant Dates

1885  
1907  
1917

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

## 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

# \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society  
Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural  
Services Department

North Cheyenne Cañon Park  
Name of Property

El Paso County, Colorado  
County/State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 1277

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- |    |      |         |          |         |
|----|------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. | 13   | 507993  | 4293539  | (NAD27) |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |         |
| 2. | 13   | 508395  | 4293504  |         |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |         |
| 3. | 13   | 508404  | 4293152  |         |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |         |
| 4. | 13   | 508788  | 4293140  |         |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |         |

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

[X] See continuation sheet (page 24)

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Missye Bonds, member (with Michael Paglia, consultant) (revised by staff 2/2009)  
organization The Friends of Cheyenne Cañon date May 18, 2008  
street & number 1826 Mesita Court telephone (719) 630-8569  
city or town Colorado Springs state Colorado zip code 80906

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

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

**Additional Items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name Multiple Owners- See Continuation Sheet - Page 28  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

North Cheyenne Cañon Park  
El Paso County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1

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**DESCRIPTION**

North Cheyenne Cañon Park is a complex cultural landscape combining extensive natural features and a system of human-formed structures to facilitate conservation, interpretation, and recreation.<sup>1</sup> The 1,277 acres of nominated park land lies at the southwest edge of Colorado Springs adjacent to the Stratton Open Space to the north and the Pike National Forest to the west.

The park is an *ecotone montane* representing a series of transitional zones between the foothills and the mountains in terms of both flora and fauna. North Cheyenne Creek defines North Cheyenne Cañon Park. The headwaters of the creek may be found high up on the face of Mount Almagre. The creek continues down into the foothills, and eventually flows onto the high plains at the base of Cheyenne Mountain. Mount Almagre has been long nicknamed "Mount Baldy" owing to the fact that its rounded "bald" summit is above tree line.

In geological terms, the bottom of the cañon is Pierre Shale, the same formation forming the bedrock under Colorado Springs. The mouth of North Cheyenne Cañon is Sawatch sandstone. Approximately one-half mile up the cañon Pikes Peak granite replaces the sandstone where the Ute Pass Fault sharply separates the sandstone of the lower cañon from the granite above. The many notable rock formations in the cañon and the bases of Helen Hunt Falls and Silver Cascade Falls are made of Pikes Peak granite.

North Cheyenne Creek provides water to the many creek-side plants and trees, creating a habitat for birds and animals, large and small, including black bears, mountain lions, mule deer, red fox and pine squirrels. Based on several inventories of plant life over the years, the park may be described as an evergreen forest. Trees found in the park include ponderosa pine, piñon pine, white fir, Douglas fir and juniper. There are also numerous deciduous shrubs and trees including cottonwood, aspen, scrub oak and peach-leaf willow. The sparse grass cover consists of wheatgrass, side oats grama, needle-and-thread and little bluestem. Yucca is also found in the park. A wide variety of wildflowers bloom throughout spring and summer, including examples of the rare native Alpine orchid.

The largest landscape features in the park are Mt. Cutler and Mt. Muscoco. The summit of Mt. Muscoco at 8,020 feet is the highest point within the park boundaries. Higher mountains rise to the west in the Pike National Forest. Named rock formations, beginning at the east entrance, are: Eagle Rock; Rappel Rock; The Pinnacle; Egyptian Mummies; The Bear and the Crown; The Watch Dog; St. Peter and the Angel; and The Narrows. The overall natural landscape of the park is considered a contributing site with especially significant features noted below.

Nearly the entire North Cheyenne Cañon Park retains its natural character and most of the human shaped and built elements, notably the trails, bridges and retaining walls, are made of native stone designed to blend-in with the natural setting. A system of roads and trails permits visitors to experience much of the park. Numerous picnic areas, many of them secluded from the road, include picnic tables, barbecue grills and trash containers.

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<sup>1</sup> The US Geological Service labels the park and its associated roads North Cheyenne "Canyon." This nomination uses the historic "Cañon" spelling for both historic and modern features.

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North Cheyenne Cañon Park  
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The Starsmore Discovery Center functions as one of three visitor gathering places in the park. The others are the Helen Hunt Falls Visitors Center, also known as The Cub, and beyond Helen Hunt Falls, at the Silver Cascade Falls, which includes stone wall overlooks, seating walls and interpretive signage related to vegetation and wildlife found in the cañon.

**RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Water Features**

As North Cheyenne Creek and its many tributaries cut into the mountain, there are numerous rapids and several waterfalls. The highest of these is Silver Cascade Falls located in the Upper Cañon near the western edge of the park. Silver Cascade Falls is actually located on Buffalo Creek, one of the North Cheyenne Creek's tributaries. Not far away, but still along North Cheyenne Creek and also in the Upper Cañon, flows the most renowned of these waterfalls, Helen Hunt Falls. Heading downstream are two smaller waterfalls, Crooke/Cooks Falls and the Trois Cascade. Below are two other noteworthy water features—Bridal Veil Falls and a small waterfall, the Ousel Cascade. These prominent water features are scattered throughout the park, along North Cheyenne Cañon Road (see map – page 22).

**Roads and Bridges**

Seven roads traverse North Cheyenne Cañon Park with the principal one being the approximately 3-mile long North Cheyenne Cañon Road that begins at the park's east entrance and follows the creek as it ascends the cañon. This paved road has no curbs, except for a few yards at the east entrance, and mostly abuts the natural environment. Mortared stone retaining walls are common along the route. Stone water collectors direct runoff from shoulder drainage ditches into under road culverts. These characteristics create a rustic look to the road despite its asphalt paving. At various points along the road, unpaved gravel-covered pull-off parking spaces allow visitors to access picnic areas, trails and natural areas.

The Colorado College Land Company built the road in 1883. It began as a narrow dirt lane only wide enough to accommodate a single carriage. A flood in 1921 destroyed parts of the road, which the city later rebuilt. Research has failed to determine when this road was widened and paved.

The South Cheyenne Cañon Road branches off from the North Cheyenne Cañon Road just inside the east park entrance. The south road crosses through a small area of the park before exiting to continue west up South Cheyenne Cañon to reach Seven Falls. (Seven Falls is outside of the park boundary.)

The Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District Railway /Corley Mountain Highway/ Gold Camp Road (a Forest Service owned resource listed in the National Register 3/25/1999, NRIS# 99000400) crosses the park in two places: the western and northern part of the park. The road is comprised of unpaved gravel segments within the park.

An approximately one third of a mile section of the Old Stage Road meanders through the southeastern edge of the park. El Paso County maintains this gravel road that sees minimal use. The road connects Colorado Springs with Cripple Creek, southwest of Pikes Peak.

Originally a dirt road that ran from the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs to Seven Falls, Mesa Avenue is now a two lane asphalt road maintained by the city. It was noted as a county road as early as

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1924. Only a third of a mile long section runs through the park. The road ends at Bridge No. 13, where it intersects South Cheyenne Cañon Road. There are several pullouts for cars on both the north and south sides of the road. Two picnic areas are located near the parking pullouts on the south.

Evans Avenue is a short road segment that heads south off North Cheyenne Cañon Road at the immediate entrance of the park. This two lane asphalt road ends at Mesa Avenue. Originally a dirt road, it appears to have been paved ca. 1965.

The High Drive Road is an approximately .2 mile segment. Originally High Drive was a road that took tourists through the park by buggy from what is now the Starsmore Discovery Center to Bear Creek Park. It was a one way gravel road designed for horse and buggies and never widened for motor vehicles, although it is opened seasonally as a one-way road for motor vehicles today. It begins in the park at the intersection of Gold Camp Road and High Drive Road. After exiting the park it enters Pike National Forest. Along the road and within the park boundary is a sign embedded into a stone wall that runs along the side of the road. The sign, which reads: "HIGH DRIVE ALT. 7867 C.W.A. 34" on three separate lines, indicates some type of work by the Civil Works Administration.

Eleven concrete and granite vehicular bridges cross North Cheyenne Creek along the course of the North Cheyenne Road. A twelfth bridge crosses Cheyenne Creek on Evans Avenue and one additional bridge crosses South Cheyenne Creek on the South Cheyenne Cañon Road. Four pedestrian bridges are of more recent construction; two exist near the Starsmore Discovery Center at the entrance to the park, a third is located along the Mt. Cutler Trail and a fourth spans Helen Hunt Falls. All the vehicular bridges are two-lanes wide (approximately 25'-wide without shoulders) and are single span, with one exception. The original construction dates to the period from 1914 to 1919 (Bridge Nos. 3-12); two bridges date to 1925 (Bridge Nos. 1 & 2). Many bridges have been modified over time. Some of the bridges have true concrete arch substructures while others employ concrete slab construction. An uncoursed granite veneer covers the concrete on the sides of most of the bridges. In some cases, a wide metal band forms an arch across the stream that supports the stone veneer, giving the appearance of a stone arch bridge. Short stone side walls generally safeguard the edges of the roadway. Modern steel guard rails protect the ends of most of the stone walls. Roadway widening resulted in several bridges having two parallel structural forms. The bridges are described below as they would be encountered by a traveler going west on North Cheyenne Cañon Road from the east park entrance on West Cheyenne Road. The bridges are considered to be contributing except Bridges 9, 13, and two pedestrian bridges. It appears that most of the bridge modifications were done in 1950 with the increase in road traffic in the park after World War II.

Bridge No. 1 (see photo 1) takes Evans Avenue across Cheyenne Creek just south of the park entrance. Constructed by the city in 1925, the two-span, two-lane vehicular bridge has a concrete center pier and concrete abutments. Made up of concrete with steel beams and stringers, and a concrete deck, this is the only two-span bridge in the park. Uncoursed granite forms a veneer on the bridge sides and also forms the protective side walls that rise approximately 2.5' above the asphalt paved deck. The total length of the bridge is approximately 44'.

Also constructed in 1925 by the city, Bridge No. 2 crosses North Cheyenne Creek on South Cheyenne Cañon Road just inside the park's east entrance in front of the Starsmore Discovery Center (see photo 16). The approximately 34'-long filled spandrel arch bridge is concrete with rubble stone veneer and

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short side walls; it typifies the basic design and construction used on most of the park's vehicular bridges. Oblong stones form rough voussoirs for the arch over the creek. The uncoursed granite rises to form stone walls approximately 3' high at their highest point on each side of the roadway. Deterioration has resulted in the loss of some stone along the top of the wall. The side walls show evidence of having been repaired at various times.

Bridge No. 3, located a short distance behind the Starsmore Discovery Center, crosses North Cheyenne Creek just west of the Lower Columbine trailhead. The approximately 40'-long pedestrian bridge has 2'-high side walls. The concrete bridge exhibits steel beams and stringers. A false arch is created by the placement of rubble stones. A concrete deck covered by gravel provides access across the creek.

Bridge No. 4 crosses the creek west of the Lower Columbine trailhead. A filled spandrel arch with concrete ring and deck, the bridge has vertical serpentine rubble stone walls, curving up and down from approximately 2' to 3' in height. Rubble stone forms an arch on either side. Due to the trees, this pedestrian bridge is not easily visible from North Cheyenne Cañon Road.

Bridge No. 5 crosses the creek south of the Mid Columbine trailhead. This skew bridge, which sits at an angle across the creek, displays the same method of construction (filled spandrel arch) as Bridge No. 4, though it does not exhibit the same serpentine walls. Rubble stone faces the concrete and forms an arch on either side. The bridge is adjacent to a pullout for vehicles.

Bridge No. 6 is similar in construction to Bridge No. 3 and crosses the creek east of the Mid Columbine trailhead (see photos 6 & 13). The bridge measures approximately 26' long with 1'-high stone side walls and is supported by stone abutments. A wide steel band on each side below the deck forms a shallow arch across the stream and supports the granite veneer. Several smaller stones are placed in a slight arching pattern on the downstream side. Unlike several other bridges, the arch does not use stone voussoirs. A few stones are missing along the top of the side walls. This is the only location where the trail crosses North Cheyenne Cañon Road.

Bridge No. 7, adjacent to Bridge No. 6, crosses the creek east of the Mid Columbine trailhead (see photo 6). The upstream side of this skew bridge is a filled spandrel arch with rubble stone facing. The downstream side shows steel I-beams and concrete, indicating a later widening of the pedestrian bridge. Stone abutments are also seen on the downstream side. A concrete slab deck is covered with gravel and dirt.

Bridge No. 8 crosses the creek about 600 feet up the road from Bridge No. 7 (see photo 11). The vehicular bridge is approximately 35' long. The downstream side is rock faced with oblong stones forming rough voussoirs for the arch over the creek. It is made up of steel I-beams and concrete with stone abutments. The stone rises to form side walls about 2' above the roadway. The upstream side has a concrete slab deck with stone abutments and rubble stone veneer above a concrete support. As with several other park bridges, this structure shows evidence of having originally been a narrow concrete arch later widened by the addition of a concrete slab deck. Stone is also used in upstream retaining walls on both banks of the creek, one 26' long wall running perpendicular to the bridge. This bridge is adjacent to the Mid Columbine trailhead and a large gravel parking area.



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Bridge No. 9 has a concrete deck over steel ribbing with stone abutments and is a vehicular bridge. Concrete Jersey barriers form the side walls. The lower portion of the concrete slab appears older than the top, suggesting a later modification to an older structure. Bridge No. 9 is considered to be *noncontributing* due to the significant alterations made after the period of significance.

Bridge No. 10 is a true concrete slab vehicular bridge. It has concrete abutments faced with rubble stone and a slight false arch at each end created by the placement of stones. This bridge, like many others in the park, was slightly widened on the upstream side with the addition of a steel I-beams and concrete.

Bridge No. 11 sits on slight curve in the road and is nestled between two large unconnected rock formations that tower 30 to 40 feet into the air (see photo 12). Steel guard rails protect the skew bridge at each end on both sides. On the downstream side, the vehicular bridge is a filled spandrel arch with a concrete ring. The downstream side is rock faced with oblong stones forming rough voussoirs for the arch over the creek. This bridge, like many others in the park, exhibits signs of widening. Steel I-beams and concrete covered with rubble stone facing are exhibited on the upstream side. Stone abutments stand on the upstream side as well.

Bridge No. 12 (see photo 12) is a concrete slab vehicular bridge with concrete abutments. A false arch is created by the placement of rubble stones. A rock column provides support on the left side of the bridge as one goes up the road to the Helen Hunt Falls. This rock column is not part of the bridge but is adjacent and prevents decomposed granite from disturbing the bridge. Retaining walls on both upstream sides consist of stacked stone with concrete mortar.

Bridge No. 13 spans South Cheyenne Cañon Road just northeast of its intersection with Mesa Avenue and the entrance to Seven Falls. The downstream side appears older and consists of board formed poured concrete. There is a spandrel filled arch with concrete ring. It is topped by concrete Jersey barriers. The upstream side of this bridge has metal ribbing, which forms an arch, a concrete deck, and a concrete side wall topped with welded steel rails. No official date of construction is known, though 1965 is seen on various city maps. Part of this vehicular bridge appears to be somewhat early, so it may be that 1965 is the date of widening/ alterations. As the alterations occurred after the period of significance, the bridge is *noncontributing*.

There are two 1990s steel truss pedestrian bridges with wood plank decks near the entrance of the park. One stands adjacent to the Starsmore Discovery Center, providing access between the road and the small visitors' center parking lot. The second pedestrian bridge spans the creek between the south parking lots. Both bridges are *noncontributing* due to their construction date after the period of significance.

### **Trails**

Numerous trails run through the park. The trails consist primarily of natural granite gravel and dirt supplemented by numerous stone, metal or wood pedestrian bridges across the creeks. Drainage and erosion control are accomplished by simple structures using landscape timbers, round logs and mortared stone retaining walls. Trail corridors are defined in some places with wood round rail fences or stone walls.

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The origin of the trails is difficult to establish due to the area's long association with human activity. Ute tribal members traveled through the cañon on regular trips from the mountainous regions to the west and the plains to the east. Many of the current park trails follow sections of these older trails. Prospecting activities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw individuals and groups using the older Ute trails as well as establishing routes of their own. William Palmer developed several hiking trails on his land in the cañon, including the Mt. Cutler Trail. Before the formal establishment of the park in 1885, local residents used existing trails and established routes and branches to access and enjoy the area's natural beauty. Even with the City of Colorado Springs' acquisition of the first part of the park in 1885, establishment and maintenance of a trail system evolved slowly. Social trails and branches continue to be used presently, despite efforts in many areas to contain hikers and bikers to official routes.

**Columbine Trail**

The most important park trail is the Columbine Trail, which starts near the Starsmore Discovery Center and ascends the cañon for three miles to the area of Helen Hunt Falls. Three trailheads (Lower, Mid and Upper) provide access and divide the trail into a .9-mile lower section and a 2.3-mile upper trail. The trail rises in elevation from 6,298' to 7,368' through hilly and wooded terrain (see photo 9). The dirt and gravel trail averages 4' to 6' in width. The entire trail dates to 1919 when the city built it to replace the trail adjacent to the road.

The trail crosses one stone and concrete bridge, Bridge No. 6. The lower section of the trail closely follows the course of North Cheyenne Creek. Shortly after the Mid Columbine Trailhead the trail swings north away from the creek and gains altitude. At about the 1.8-mile point the trail provides views of the Broadmoor Hotel to the east. At 2.08 miles a spur branching to the right leads upward to meet the Gold Camp Road. A spur down to the North Cheyenne Cañon Road and the Daniel's Pass Trail branches off at the 2.34-mile point. During its last quarter mile, the trail offers views of Colorado Springs and the Helen Hunt Falls.

**Silver Cascade Falls Trail**

Beyond the Upper Columbine Trail is Silver Cascade Falls Trail. The approximately .33-mile long trail to Silver Cascade Falls rises in elevation from 7,225' at the base of Helen Hunt Falls to 7,550' at Silver Cascade Falls. Only hiking is permitted on this dirt and gravel trail that averages about 4' in width. Stone steps from the parking area at the Cub (Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center) lead up to a modern steel and wood bridge over Helen Hunt Falls (this bridge is *noncontributing* due to its recent construction date; see photo 17). The trail continues to rise steeply above the creek assisted by occasional timber steps. Numerous wood check dams and drainage features protect the trail, and portions of the route are bordered by two- and three-rail wood fences. A lower viewing area for the Silver Cascade Falls is found at the 0.21-mile point. The trail then crosses a small wood bridge and arrives at the upper viewing overlook.

**Mt. Cutler Trail**

The trailhead for the Mt. Cutler Trail leaves the North Cheyenne Cañon Road approximately 1.5 miles from the east park entrance. The nearly one-mile trail rises from 6,797' in elevation to 7,164' at the summit of Mt. Cutler. The first half mile of the trail provides views of Colorado Springs and the Gold Camp Reservoir. At the half-mile point the Mt. Muscoco trail branches to the west. At .67 miles the trail narrows with a steep drop off to the right. Seven Falls may be seen here to the south. Shortly after, the

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trail affords a view of Cheyenne Mountain and the Will Rogers Shrine (The Shrine of the Sun, listed on the National Register, 11/3/1994, NRIS# 94001229). At .74 miles and .87 miles social trails branch off the official route to access overlooks. The summit is reached at the .94-mile point. In 2008, a 60' long fiberglass bridge with metal "x" pattern handrail was installed along the trail. The Mt. Cutler Footbridge is *noncontributing* due to its recent date of construction.

**Mt. Muscoco Trail (closed)**

This trail shares the route of the Mt. Cutler Trail to the .51 mile point where the Mt. Muscoco Trail branches off to the west. A rock outcropping shortly after the junction offers great views of the city. The trail follows the ridge between the North and South Cheyenne cañons and affords views into each. At the .87 mile point the trail enters a saddle between a rock outcropping to the north (which can be reached by a scramble, as no trail exists) and the summit of Mt. Muscoco to the south of 8,020'. Beyond the summit, a mesa provides the park's best view of the city. The trail continues west from the saddle and intersects with the Daniels Pass Trail at the 1.25 mile point. From this point the Mt. Muscoco Trail continues along the ridge line for over another mile where it reaches Gold Camp Road.

Budget constraints in the City of Colorado Springs during the late 1980s led to a decision to drop Mt. Muscoco Trail from the printed trail maps that showed all the trails within the park. Due to the lack of maintenance it has fallen into disrepair.

**Daniel's Pass Trail (closed)**

This 1.3-mile route rises from 6,787' to 7,945'. The trailhead is on North Cheyenne Cañon Road .6 miles from the park entrance. A bridge across the creek no longer exists, so users must step across the water with care. During periods of high water or when the stream is iced over the trailhead is inaccessible. Just past the 1-mile point the trail arrives at a four-way intersection. The trail to the left accesses Daniel's Pass and Mt. Muscoco. The trail to the right goes up to the Gold Camp Road. At 1.27 miles in the Mt. Muscoco saddle, the official Daniel's Pass Trail ends where it joins the Mt. Muscoco Trail.

Like the Mt. Muscoco Trail, budget constraints in the City of Colorado Springs during the late 1980s led to a decision to drop Daniel's Pass Trail from the printed trail maps. Due to the lack of maintenance has fallen into disrepair.

**Strawberry Hill Trail**

The trail consists of a .7-mile loop beginning and ending on Mesa Avenue and a .6-mile extension to the southeast corner of the park where the trail connects to Old Stage Road. Both trails traverse flat to gently rolling terrain. The loop varies in elevation from 6,322' to 6,453' while the extension to Old Stage Road rises to 6,762'. The dirt and gravel trail is open to hiking and biking. Beginning at a gravel pull-off on Mesa Avenue .1 mile west of Evans Avenue, the trail runs southerly for approximately .33 miles to the intersection with the branch heading south to Old Stage Road. This extension provides excellent views of Mt. Cutler. The loop trail turns west and ultimately north toward Mesa Avenue. The trail crosses over a creek bed and follows along Mesa Avenue to the beginning point.

**Spring Creek Trail**

This .3 mile hiking, biking and equestrian trail runs from Gold Camp Road to the Mid-Columbine Trail. An elevation change of 295 feet occurs over the course of the trail that is most used by mountain bikers

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who come down from just west of Tunnel #1 on Gold Camp Road. This trail begins at a pullout west of Tunnel #1 and is a fairly straight southerly trail. It is deeply rutted. A spring runs south, paralleling the trail until it meets the Mid-Columbine Trail. The spring is active in the spring months and dries out in mid-summer. The trail passes through small aspen groves, pine and sumac. The trail is in as fair condition when compared with the other actively used and maintained trails within the park.

**Captain Jack's Trail**

The approximately 2.5-mile Captain Jack's Trail is partially contained within the park and functions as a multiuse route for hiking, biking, motorcycling and horseback riding. The trailhead is on the Gold Camp Road about 500' east of Tunnel No. 1. The trail rises northerly in a long switchback before leaving the park's northern boundary near the trail's center point. The route continues to the southwest where it intersects the High Drive. Like other park trails, Captain Jack's Trail is dirt and gravel, and averages 4' in width.

**The Chutes Trail, Gold Camp Path, and Chamberlain Trail**

Three additional trails, including their trailheads, are partially contained in the park. The Chutes Trail and the Gold Camp Path have adjacent trailheads on the Lower Gold Camp Road about 2.75 miles east of its junction with the North Cheyenne Cañon Road and the High Drive. The .76-mile Chutes drops 417' in elevation and is a popular biking trail. The upper three-quarters of the trail is in the park. The Gold Camp Path travels southeast to the Gold Camp Reservoir. This hiking-only trail drops 335' along its half-mile length. Less than half of the trail is contained in the park. A third path, the Chamberlain Trail, has a trailhead off the North Cheyenne Cañon Road .10 miles past the Starsmore Discovery Center. Less than .10 miles of the trail is contained in the park before it crosses the boundary into the Stratton Open Space.

**Other Resources**

**The Cub (Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center)**

The 1916 building, originally known as The Cub, is a square plan building (approximately 29' sides) of stacked log construction on a concrete foundation with vertical log corners (see photo 19.) The adjacent asphalt parking area abuts the building on the southwest and southeast. The rear of the building extends into a slope and the soil covers the lower logs. A standing seam metal roof drains to a gutter and downspout on the rear. Metal coping protects the log parapets. The entire building is painted dark brown. The facade (southeast side) contains a centered metal door flanked by oblong windows protected by metal shutters with locked cross bars. The southwest side contains one round window and two rectangular windows all protected by closed shutters. The northwest side (rear) contains two windows and the northeast side contains an additional window, all covered with metal shutters. The building originally functioned as a concession stand. Today the building serves as the Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center.

**Bruin Inn Sign**

To the northeast of The Cub (Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center) is a stone retaining wall containing the words "Bruin Inn." The white stone letters are each approximately 3' high and the full sign is 20' long. The city constructed the sign as part of a major expansion of the inn during 1916. A fire destroyed the building in 1957 (see photo 18).

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**Clivis/ Restroom (Storage Building)**

East of the Bruin Inn sign is the Clivis/Restroom, now a small storage building. Rectangular in plan, it is covered by a metal front gabled roof. Walls consist of half log siding. Metal doors on the south façade and east wall provide access to the interior. The building is *noncontributing* due its 1970 construction date.

**Restrooms (2)**

In November 2000, the restroom facility at the Mesa Reservation Area was constructed. The restroom building stands at the east end of the adjacent parking lot. Simulated log siding covers the upper exterior walls. The lower half of the walls is faced with stone. The 9' x 14' building rises from a concrete foundation, has a gabled metal roof, and three metal doors: two on the façade and one on the rear. A stone arch in between the two façade door frames a drinking fountain. The building is a *noncontributing* resource.

In July 2003, a second restroom facility saw completion near the Starsmore Discovery Center at the South Cañon Picnic Area, located at the east end of the park with vehicle access from Evans Avenue. It is identical in construction to the Mesa Reservation Area restroom facility. The building is a *noncontributing* resource.

**Mesa Reservation Pavilions (2)**

Two identical open shelters stand side by side at the east end of the parking lot. These asphalt shingled hipped roof structures are supported by metal poles over a concrete pad. Both of these structures are *noncontributing* due to their dates of construction in 1966 (east) and 1974 (west).

**Starsmore Discovery Center**

Standing at the mouth of the cañon, The Starsmore Discovery Center, a substantial Arts and Crafts-style house was built with rocks taken from the banks of North Cheyenne Creek, the same material used for the many stone-faced bridges in the park. The building originally stood some distance east on Cheyenne Road at the intersection with South Nevada Avenue. Built for Mary and James Starsmore in 1918, Mary Starsmore sold the stone house in 1989 to the Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department. The city moved the building in 1990 to the park entrance. In 1992, the former house became the Starsmore Discovery Center, serving as the entry and the visitor center for North Cheyenne Cañon Park. The building is considered *noncontributing* due to its having been moved into the park after the end of the period of significance.

The building has undergone significant alterations such as wholesale replacement of the windows and doors, addition of a walkout basement through the construction of a new raised foundation which necessitated concrete steps to the main entry, a large rear porch addition, and substantial interior changes.

**Storage Shed**

Behind the Starsmore Discovery Center is a storage shed built in 2006. Accessed via a concrete path, the rectangular one-story building exhibits novelty half-log siding, a front gabled asphalt roof with overhanging eaves, and a hollow core door, and sits on a concrete foundation. A single concrete stoop connects the path to the building. This building is *noncontributing* due to its recent construction.

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**Caretaker's House**

This 1991 rustic-influenced two-story residence is rectangular in plan with a side gabled roof and a full width second story deck on the south façade. Milled log siding with corner notching covers the upper story while stone covers the lower story. A variety of windows are placed randomly on the upper story. Two overhead garage doors exist on the north wall. This building is *noncontributing* due to its recent construction date.

**Caretaker's Workshop**

Constructed in 1991, the rectangular one-story building has a side gabled asphalt covered roof with overhanging eaves. The south facing building contains two large overhead garage doors with windows. A pedestrian door with large transom is adjacent the easternmost garage door. Half log siding covers the upper  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the walls above a stone veneer. This building is *noncontributing* due to its recent construction date.

**Chlorine Building**

A small rectangular building covered by a front gabled roof sits between the Caretaker's House and Workshop. Constructed of concrete masonry units ca. 1947 to 1952, it is accessed by a wood slab door on the gable end. It faces south.

**South Suburban Pump Station**

Adjacent to the Chamberlin trailhead stands a stone pump station (see photo 5). A nearby metal water storage tank stands just north and outside of the park boundary. Constructed in 2000 to blend with the park's natural environment, this one story gabled rectangular building has stone walls. There is a large overhead door on the gabled end and a pedestrian door on the side. The stone extends into the gable end where an overhead fixture provides light. This building is *noncontributing* due to its recent construction.

**Water Diversion Structure and Parshall Flume Flow Gauge**

The lower cañon contains a water diversion structure owned by Colorado Springs Utilities. Between Bridge Nos. 8 and 9, the creek contains a metal Parshall flume flow gauge with 36" throat. Further downstream a concrete water diversion structure controls the flow of water into the creek. The water diversion structure appears to be quite early and has not been altered or replaced in at least the last 50 years. The Parshall flume, however has newer concrete side walls and metal guardrails, and is thus considered *noncontributing*.

**HISTORIC INTEGRITY**

Many of the historic and cultural features of North Cheyenne Cañon Park have been lost to vandalism, fire and decay. These include the Bruin Inn that burned down in 1957. The Inn, a large log building with a pitched roof and deep porches, operated as a restaurant. A stone wall with the name "Bruin Inn" picked out in white rock indicates the restaurant's former location. Nearby stands the Cub, a historic building made of large logs painted brown, which originally functioned as a concession stand. Today it serves as the Helen Hunt Falls Visitor Center. The former caretaker's complex of two cottages and a barn, near the entry to the park and the Starsmore Discovery Center, were also lost through fire, though a surviving water tower was relocated to the Chambers Ranch/ Rock Ledge Ranch (listed on the National Register 11/29/1979, unknown NRIS #).

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**District Resource Summary**

**Contributing**

**Buildings**

The Cub 1

**Sites**

General Natural Site 1  
Water Features 6  
    Ousel Cascade  
    Bridal Veil Falls  
    Trois Cascade  
    Crooke/Cook Falls  
    Helen Hunt Falls  
    Silver Cascade Falls

**Structures**

Stone Bridges 11  
    (#s 1-8, 10-12)  
Trails 11  
Gold Camp Road 1  
    (previously listed)  
N. Cheyenne Cañon Rd. 1  
S. Cheyenne Cañon Rd. 1  
Old Stage Road 1  
High Drive Road 1  
Mesa Avenue 1  
Evans Avenue 1  
Water Diversion 1  
"High Drive" sign 1  
"Bruin Inn" sign 1  

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Total 40

**Noncontributing**

**Buildings**

Starsmore Discovery Center 1  
Starsmore Shed 1  
Restrooms 2  
Caretaker's House 1  
Caretaker's Workshop 1  
Clivis/ Restroom 1

**Structures**

Stone Bridges 2  
    (#s 9 and 13)  
Helen Hunt Falls Trail Footbridge 1  
Mesa Reservation pavilions 2  
Pedestrian Bridges 2  
Mt. Cutler Trail Footbridge 1  
Parshall Flume Flow Gauge 1  

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Total 16

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

North Cheyenne Cañon Park is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of *Conservation* and *Entertainment/Recreation*. The park is associated with the rising interest in conservation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the subsequent growth of tourism and recreation in the American West.

Though there are man-made elements throughout North Cheyenne Cañon Park, the property is essentially a natural environment and not the product of a designed landscape plan. The idea of setting aside wilderness areas as parks, as a way of preserving them, began in the middle to late nineteenth century. This is well illustrated by an act of Congress in 1872 establishing the Yellowstone area, straddling the Wyoming-Montana border, as the nation's first national park. In the same civic spirit, the City of Colorado Springs purchased in 1885 the initial six hundred acres that form the core of North Cheyenne Cañon Park. The city sought to set aside and preserve the cañon as a place where the public could experience the natural splendor. With the coming of the railroad in the last decades of the nineteenth century, travel from the East and Midwest to the West became easier. Trains brought both settlers and visitors to the natural parks of the West such as North Cheyenne Cañon Park, which soon became an important Colorado tourist attraction. Many historic photographic postcards depict the sights of North Cheyenne Cañon Park, including the falls. Tourists mailed these cards across the country, establishing the park's fame as an attraction. To accommodate visitors early in the park's history, park managers established hiking trails, some of which followed existing footpaths. In these ways, North Cheyenne Cañon Park played an important role in the early history of land conservation, tourism and recreation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Colorado Springs. The period of significance begins in 1884, with the beginning of the successful effort for the initial land purchase for the park. As the historically significant activities associated with the park extend into a period less than fifty years before the nomination date, and because these recent activities are not considered to be exceptionally important, the period of significance ends in 1959, in keeping with National Register guidelines.

**Early History of North Cheyenne Cañon**

In the area's prehistoric period, the Clovis people may have migrated through the North Cheyenne Cañon Park area, following paths later used by the Ute Indians until the late nineteenth century. The cañons provided a natural shelter for the Ute, abundant with water and wildlife. The availability of cañon food sources contrasted with the relatively desolate high plains lands where the Ute also traveled. This was the case in recorded history after settlement and based on this observation, it could be surmised that the Ute used North Cheyenne Cañon as hunting grounds, stopping there to replenish supplies for their journeys up and down the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The creek and cañon were named for the Cheyenne Indians, and within recorded history, the Cheyenne used the cañon in the same way as the Ute.

The first known written account of North and South Cheyenne cañons may be found in early explorer John Bell's book, *The Long Expedition*, written in 1820. Bell commented on the fine growth of timber, wildlife including deer, antelope and a remarkable view of a snowcapped Pikes Peak. In 1843, John C. Fremont described the lush vegetation including "Pines," "Birch" (actually aspens) and "Oak," along the



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creeks of North Cheyenne Cañon.

With the coming of the first Euro-American settlers in the 1860s and 1870s, the Ute and Cheyenne found themselves increasingly cut off from the cañons, as well as the rest of the forest and range lands through which they had traditionally traveled. One of the earliest settlers to the area was William Dixon. In 1867, Dixon acquired properties through homesteading and purchase for a cattle ranch situated between Cheyenne Creek, Broadmoor Lake and the Old Stage Road. He also established the successful Dixon Tavern near his home and charged fees for access to the stage road.

In the 1870s Count James M. Pourtales purchased the water rights to Cheyenne Creek. He wanted to plant two-thousand trees on land in the vicinity of what is now Lake Avenue not far from the park. Pourtales built a system of irrigation canals, the remnants of which can be found on the eastern slope of South Cheyenne Cañon as it descends from Seven Falls (outside the park's boundaries). Pourtales intended to create a manmade lake, but that effort failed. According to local lore, the water in the lake leaked out twice owing to prairie dog holes in the would-be lake bed.

Much more successful as a developer was General William Jackson Palmer who founded Colorado Springs in 1871 as a resort town called the "Fountain Colony." The settlement first consisted of little more than a rationalized Beaux Arts street plan with a central square and a site for a college campus, all imposed on the virtually treeless plain at the foot of Pikes Peak. This early city plan constituted Palmer's greatest legacy, though the key to the city's long-term success may be attributed to its being serviced by his own Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. Through rational concepts expressed in city planning, Palmer anticipated future growth in Colorado Springs. He not only platted the streets for future development, but designated areas for traditional city parks, and more importantly, areas to be preserved in their natural states, such as North Cheyenne Cañon.

William Jackson Palmer was born in Leipsic, Delaware, on September 17, 1836, and grew up in Philadelphia. He started a railroad career in the 1850s in Pennsylvania. He went to England and France in 1853 to study advancements in railroad technology and engineering. On his return in 1856, the Pennsylvania Railroad hired him and he eventually became the private secretary of the company's president, learning the business in the process.

The Civil War interrupted his work in 1861. Though raised a Quaker, Palmer's abolitionist beliefs caused him to enlist as a colonel in the Union Army. In that capacity he helped organize the 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry. Confederate soldiers captured and briefly imprisoned him during the war. He retired from the military in 1865 at the rank of brigadier general. Palmer became interested in the plight of the former slaves and he made a substantial financial contribution to what is now Hampton University, a traditionally black college in Hampton, Virginia. The university named Palmer Hall in acknowledgement of this gift.

He resumed his interest in railroads coming to the West in 1867. After first being involved in the establishment of the Kansas Pacific Railroad, in 1870 he organized his own railroad, the Denver & Rio Grande. Palmer also combined several small producers to form the Colorado Coal and Iron Company in Pueblo, Colorado, later to become the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

Palmer purchased 10,000 acres of land due east of Colorado City, then the territorial capitol, and he

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subsequently founded the Fountain Colony in 1871, which soon after was renamed Colorado Springs. The arrival of Palmer's Denver & Rio Grande ensured the success of his new city. Palmer became an important civic leader and benefactor to Colorado Springs. He provided the land for Colorado College, on the campus of which stands historic Palmer Hall, and for the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. Among his many gifts of land meant to be used as city parks were nearly five hundred acres of natural cañon land donated to the City of Colorado Springs in 1907. Palmer believed in preserving the natural environment, especially along creeks and rivers, through designation as parks. For his effort to preserve the upper cañon, leading to his donation of it to the City of Colorado Springs in 1907, Palmer is an important figure in the early history of North Cheyenne Cañon Park.

Palmer was only one of several cañon land owners. The ownership of both North and South Cheyenne cañons was scattered piecemeal with various parcels changing hands many times. One major land holder was Burton C. Myers who had a 750-acre farm in 1875. In the 1870s, the two cañons became a battleground for rival owners who collected tolls from those passing through their lands or who completely closed access. George Baird built the earliest of these toll roads, known as the "Cheyenne Mountain Toll Road," in 1878.

Before 1875, Palmer purchased for the Colorado Springs Company, his real estate development firm, some 160 acres in the area of the North Cheyenne Creek up to and including the falls (later known as Helen Hunt Falls). From the start, Palmer intended this land to be set aside as a park and by purchasing the land he aimed "to prevent the cutting down of trees in the canon for timber." Palmer sought "to preserve the canon intact and keep it to the great point of scenic interest it then was."

Colorado College built a substantial log house, later called the Bruin Inn, in 1875 off the High Drive near the feature later called Helen Hunt Falls. The Bruin Inn functioned early-on as a residence for the college president, Edward Payson Tenney. Thomas Nelson Haskell founded Colorado College in 1874 by convincing the Colorado Congregational Church to start a college. Palmer provided land for the institution, located just north of downtown Colorado Springs, as part of his city plan. He also owned the cañon land on which the Bruin Inn stood.

In 1882, James Hall acquired most of the South Cañon and Seven Falls areas while the Colorado College Land Company owned most of the heart of what would later be North Cheyenne Cañon Park, comprising some 640 acres called Colorado College Park. With the goal of financial security for Colorado College, president Tenney launched the Colorado College Land Company to invest heavily in real estate in and around Colorado Springs, including the cañon. Tenney's brother-in-law, Walter Hatch, originally acquired the park land for the Colorado Springs Investment and Improvement Company. Hatch took many of the earliest photographs of the cañon.

In 1883, the Colorado College Land Company built the first wagon road into the cañon from the east. Previously a road led only to the mouth of the cañon where a dirt footpath continued, rising in the cañon for a distance of a couple of miles.

By the 1880s, Colorado Springs was an established town and in summers, its early residents began to seek out the very different natural environment found in North Cheyenne Cañon. The coolness of the shade from the many trees and from the rushing water that put moisture into the air created a pleasing contrast to the hot, dry and dusty environment in town.

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Initially, Colorado College Park was open to the public seven days a week, however, park employees did not work on Sundays. Minor vandalism and the accumulation of litter led president Tenney to close the park on Sundays, and to enforce the decision, he erected a gate. Shortly after its completion, angry citizens tore down that gate, the outcry against park closure demonstrating that as early as the 1880s the cañon already constituted a popular place for city residents to visit. The widespread public discontent with the Sunday closures of the park prompted the drafting of a citizens' initiative for a public vote on the city purchase of the cañon from the Colorado College Land Company. Community members mounted a political campaign in 1884 and 1885 with the support of Helen Hunt Jackson, a nationally known writer who lived in Colorado Springs and had been inspired by the cañon.

Novelist and advocate for the civil rights of Native Americans, Helen Hunt Jackson lived part time in Colorado Springs beginning in the 1870s. She came to the town seeking treatment for tuberculosis, with Colorado Springs being a national center for tubercular sanatoriums.

Born Helen Maria Fiske in Amherst, Massachusetts, on October 18, 1830, she attended the Ipswich Female Seminary in Massachusetts and then the Abbott Institute in New York City. At Abbott, one of her classmates was Emily Dickenson, who also came from Amherst. She and Dickenson became lifelong friends and corresponded throughout their lives. In 1852, Helen married Captain Edward Bissell Hunt, who died in an accident in 1863. The couple had two sons, Murray and Rennie. Both died in childhood. Following the death of her youngest, Rennie, in 1865, she began writing seriously.

She first came to Colorado Springs in 1873 and there met Captain William Sharpless Jackson, a wealthy banker and railroad executive. The couple married in 1875. Although remembered today as Helen Hunt Jackson, she seldom used that name during her lifetime. All of her published works and advocacy activities were under the name Helen Hunt and it is how the city remembered her when they named the falls. Before and upon her death Helen Hunt had a niece, also named Helen, who lived in the Jackson home assisting with domestic duties. When Helen Hunt died her niece married Mr. Jackson becoming the second Helen Jackson. They had several children one of whom was also called Helen Jackson.

Becoming interested in the plight of the Native Americans, Helen Hunt Jackson's first indictment of the situation appeared in 1881 with the publication of her book, *A Century of Dishonor*. Two years later she presented to Congress a proposal she authored for the purchase of land for reservations and the establishment of American Indian schools. The Senate subsequently passed a related bill but the House of Representatives defeated the measure.

Having failed to enact changes through Congress, Jackson decided to write a novel to change the public opinion. This resulted in her greatest work, *Ramona*, set in the Mission Indian culture of California. Published in 1884, the novel established her nation-wide fame. Unfortunately, she already suffered from cancer and died the next year while in California.

In the final two years of her life, Jackson spearheaded the campaign urging the City of Colorado Springs to purchase North Cheyenne Cañon from the Colorado College Land Company. She expressed particular interest in preserving the cañon because of its historical and traditional importance to the Ute and Cheyenne Indians. Jackson was a key figure in the establishment of the park.

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After a successful election in 1885, the city purchased the 640 acres owned by the Colorado College Land Company and renamed it "Cheyenne Park." This occurred within a decade of the establishment of Yellowstone National Park (1872), the nation's first. Both parks were set-aside to conserve their natural beauty.

**History of the North Cheyenne Cañon Park**

In 1885, the city announced that South Cheyenne Cañon Road was to be vacated for carriage and horse traffic and would become a pedestrian path. The City Council also reserved the right to lease out land at the base of the cañon for use as a site for a hotel or restaurant, or for any other potential use determined to be for the benefit of the community.

Beginning around 1890 and extending into the early twentieth century, Cheyenne Park, along with the Garden of the Gods and the Seven Falls in South Cheyenne Cañon, held a position as one of the top tourist destinations in the Colorado Springs area. As early as the 1880s, photographers came to the cañon to record the natural beauty. These images, some of the first photos taken by Walter Hatch in the 1880s and others captured by the famous William Henry Jackson of Denver in the 1890s, were distributed as stereopticon cards and postcards that introduced Cheyenne Park to a national audience.

Transportation played an important role in both the popularity and the management of the park. Wide distribution of photographic materials coupled with the growing and improving system of western railroads, made it increasingly easy for distant travelers to arrive in Colorado Springs to enjoy the city and its nearby natural wonders. Access to and through the park became increasingly important for tourists and the many local residents who used the cañon for recreation and rejuvenation. Palmer established the first vehicular access by means of his carriage road over the High Drive and through the upper cañon. He also developed several hiking and walking trails, including the Mt. Cutler Trail.

The 1883 wagon road built by the Colorado College Land Company opened up the cañon to carriage traffic from the east, supplementing the dirt footpath along North Cheyenne Creek. Before 1890, an electric trolley line ran from downtown Colorado Springs with the turnaround at the entrance of Cheyenne Park, making it the city's longest trolley route. Balancing access to the park with the preservation of its natural beauty proved to be an ongoing struggle for park managers.

Around 1900, the city constructed two cottages and a barn at the park entrance to serve as residences for the caretakers and as a place to store the park's maintenance equipment. About the same time, private owners built summer cottages adjacent to the park, opposite the entrance and a new addition in the area between Cheyenne Road and Cheyenne Boulevard, then-called Electric Avenue in reference to the trolley line. In 1900, a popular young couple won a contest and was awarded a cottage on a prime lot facing the park.

The park occasionally served as the setting for special occasions. In 1902, world-famous ceramic artist Artus Van Briggie, who opened his Van Briggie Pottery in Colorado Springs the previous year, married Anne Gregory, also a prominent ceramicist, in a ceremony held in Cheyenne Park. The couple first met while working for the Rookwood Pottery in Ohio.

In 1907, General William Jackson Palmer donated his 480 acres to the City of Colorado Springs for the

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park. His gift included the site of the Bruin Inn. The park's growing popularity and visitation led to the degradation of the landscape and the trampling of the vegetation. To address this problem, in 1913, the United States Forest Service planted nearly three-quarters of a million two to four year old saplings to reforest the cañon. Trees planted were limited to ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and juniper with the Forest Service planting an average of over twelve hundred saplings per acre. The project began in the spring of that year and concluded later that same summer.

The City of Colorado Springs greatly expanded the Bruin Inn during 1916, accompanied by the construction of a stone retaining wall with the words "Bruin Inn" spelled out in white rock. Also at this time the city built a small log cabin nearby. The Bruin Inn was nicknamed "The Bear," so "The Cub" name soon attached itself to the new tiny companion building. The improvements to the facilities came as the city further upgraded the park's transportation infrastructure.

In 1914, two members of the Colorado Springs Park Commission, P.B. Steward and D.V. Donaldson, convinced their fellow commissioners that the existing wood bridges spanning the creek were unsightly and should be replaced with concrete and granite bridges. That year, the city erected the first stone replacement bridge. In 1915, two more concrete and stone bridges replaced wood structures. The city erected a total of ten stone vehicular or pedestrian bridges at a rate of two per year, the last being completed around 1919.

In the midst of the bridge project, the city first permitted automobiles to enter the park in 1917. Up until then only horses, carriages and pedestrians had been allowed on the road. Coaches with four or six horse teams also took tourists up North Cheyenne Cañon Road and over the High Drive outside the park. Since the narrow road could not accommodate passing vehicles, strict rules governed when drivers could come up or down the road. At this time pedestrians shared the road with the automobiles, the dangers of which were quickly perceived. In 1919, the park managers planned and began construction of a new trail on the opposite side of the creek, to run from the bottom of the cañon up to the Bruin Inn.

A 1921 storm washed out part of North Cheyenne Cañon Road. For a time, the city considered converting it to a footpath rather than restoring it to vehicular use. Under public pressure, the city repaired the road that same year. The City of Colorado Springs constructed two bridges at the entrance to the park in 1925. With the abandonment of trolley service in April 1932, buses began transporting people from downtown to the park entrance.

North Cheyenne Cañon Park grew by 200 acres in 1937. Fred Chamberlain donated 150 of the 200 acres and unknown donors gave an additional 50 acres.

**Recent Park History**

New Deal programs funded a number of projects throughout Colorado Springs, including North Cheyenne Cañon Park. A search of the city's newspapers from the 1930s reveals little specific information regarding projects. It is thought that the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) or Works Progress Administration (WPA) worked on various trails and rock walls throughout the park; however, that cannot be documented at this time. The Civil Works Administration (CWA) worked on the High

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Drive in 1934, as indicated by the sign imbedded in a stone wall along the road. In 1935, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) performed significant work on the High Drive, though only a small portion of the road runs through the park. The CCC built a rock climbing amphitheater just off the main road circa 1940, constructed so that it faced a cliff. Members of the U.S. Army from Fort Carson staged climbing exhibitions, the first in 1946 and continued up until the 1990s. Sometime after 2003, the city removed the amphitheater and the site is now covered with natural vegetation.

Also in the 1940s, the Colorado Springs Police Department established the Park Police to patrol North Cheyenne Cañon Park and other city parks. The city disbanded the Park Police in the 1980s with its members absorbed into the regular police department.

In 1957, a fire of undetermined cause destroyed the Bruin Inn, leaving only the adjacent retaining wall and The Cub. In the 1960s, an arson fire destroyed the original caretaker's cottages and barn; a surviving water tower was later moved.

The falls in the upper cañon had been known as Helen Hunt Falls essentially since the author, civil rights, and conservation advocate's death in 1885. Due to her strong connection to the area, it was only fitting that Helen Hunt Jackson be buried at a place in South Cheyenne Cañon called Inspiration Point, just above Seven Falls. Unfortunately, due to desecration of her grave, Mr. Jackson exhumed her casket and reinterred her in the Jackson family plot at Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs. The City, however, did not officially rename the feature Helen Hunt Falls until 1966.

In 1990, the city moved the Starsmore House from the intersection of Cheyenne Road and Nevada Avenue to a site inside the park, near the entrance. James Starsmore, who later owned the Ivywild Evergreen Nursery across Cheyenne Road, previously owned the house with his wife, Mary. James Starsmore's father built the house in 1918. James died in 1978 and Mary sold the nursery to the Safeway Corporation in the 1980s. In 1989, she sold the property on which the house sat to the McDonald's Corporation while retaining ownership of the house itself. The following year she sold the house to the City of Colorado Springs. A crew spent three days moving the house to its current location. Mary donated thousands of dollars to help with the remodeling of the building and the exhibits housed inside. She also contributed funds for the establishment of the Mary Starsmore Fund to provide "grants exclusively to benefit Starsmore Discovery Center, North Cheyenne Cañon Park or Stratton Open Space." In 1992, after extensive rehabilitation, the house reopened as the Starsmore Discovery Center serving as the park visitor center. Beginning in 1999 and completed in 2003, the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department developed a master plan to preserve and restore North Cheyenne Cañon Park.

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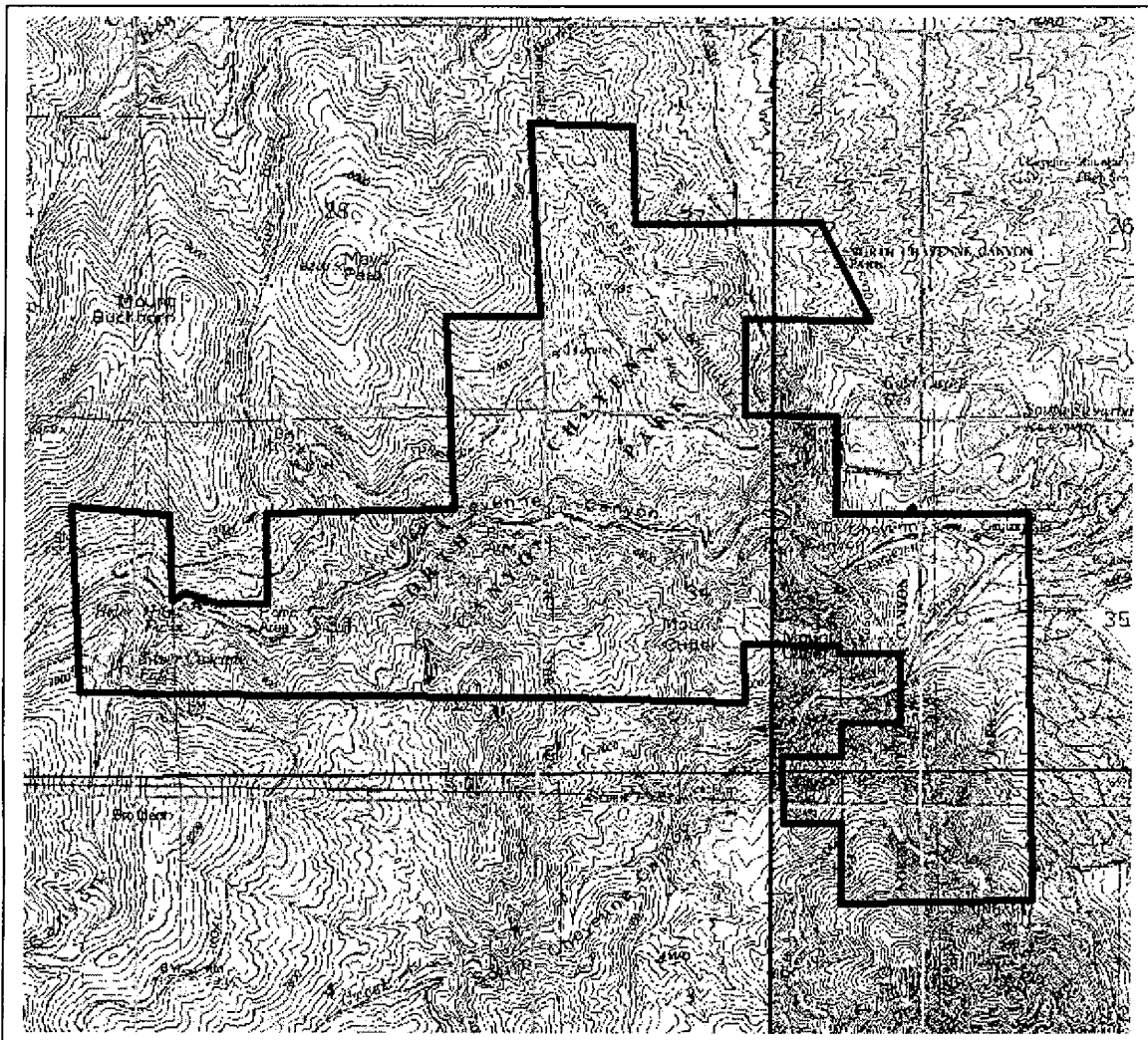
**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the park is indicated by the solid black line on the two USGS maps. The park is located in the City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated area includes all those lands historically associated with the park and is based on the codified park boundaries as established by the City of Colorado Springs which had been used for recreation by the public since the 1880s.

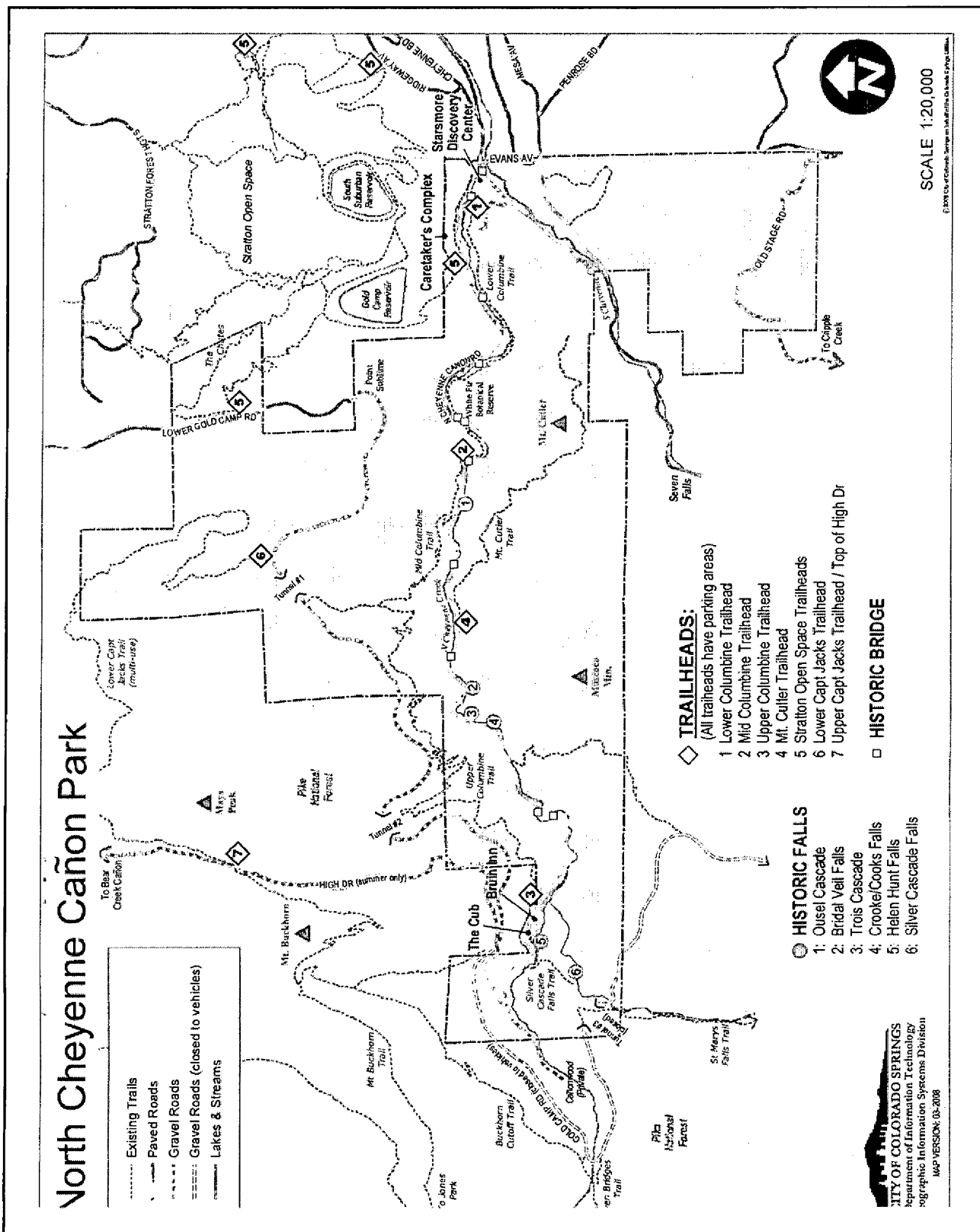


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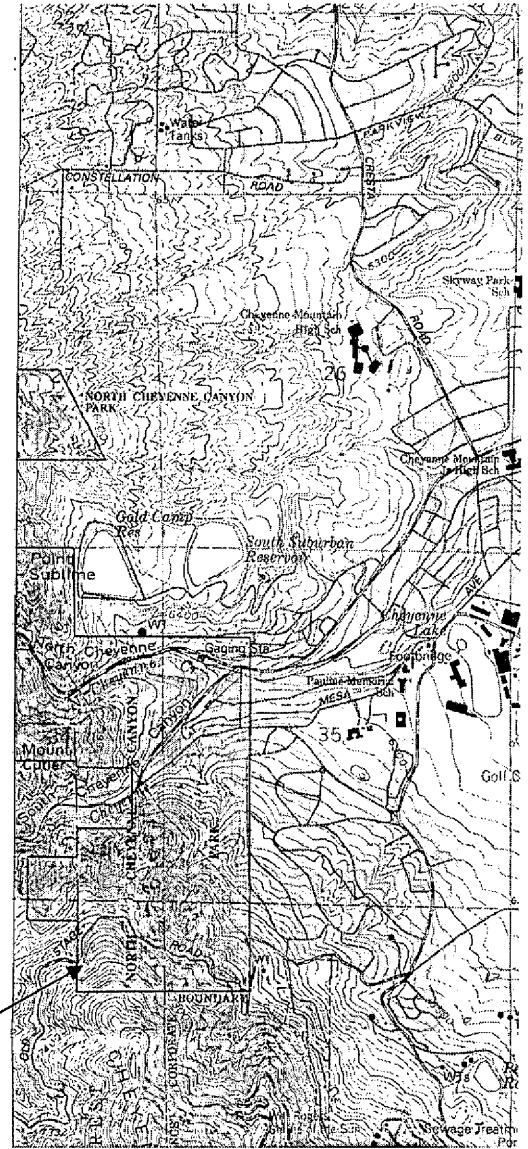
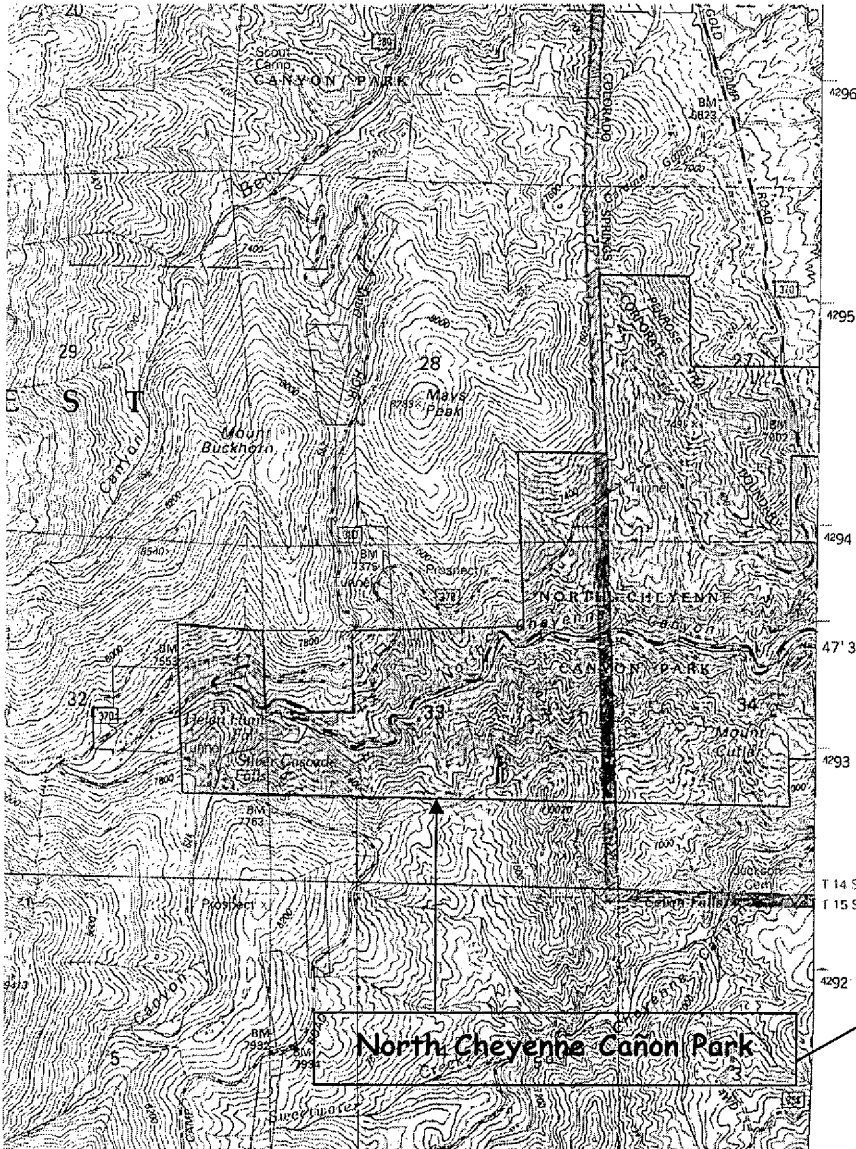
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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs Quadrangles, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series, 1994



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**Additional UTM's**

5.	13 Zone	508788 Easting	4293517 Northing
6.	13 Zone	509548 Easting	4293536 Northing
7.	13 Zone	509514 Easting	4294328 Northing
8.	13 Zone	509894 Easting	4294334 Northing
9.	13 Zone	509854 Easting	4295119 Northing
10.	13 Zone	510275 Easting	4295116 Northing
11.	13 Zone	510284 Easting	4294714 Northing
12.	13 Zone	510042 Easting	4294714 Northing
13.	13 Zone	511244 Easting	4294314 Northing
14.	13 Zone	510739 Easting	4294314 Northing
15.	13 Zone	510739 Easting	4293917 Northing
16.	13 Zone	511112 Easting	4293913 Northing
17.	13 Zone	511112 Easting	4293509 Northing
18.	13 Zone	511896 Easting	4293512 Northing
19.	13 Zone	511909 Easting	4291919 Northing
20.	13 Zone	511140 Easting	4291914 Northing

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21.	13 Zone	510901 Easting	4292243 Northing
22.	13 Zone	510901 Easting	4292512 Northing
23.	13 Zone	511374 Easting	4292654 Northing
24.	13 Zone	511376 Easting	4292937 Northing
25.	13 Zone	510739 Easting	4292971 Northing
26.	13 Zone	510748 Easting	4292735 Northing
27.	13 Zone	508028 Easting	4292772 Northing

**PLSS:**

PM	Township	Range	Section	Quarter Sections
6	14S	67W	28	SE SE
6	14S	67W	27	SW; SW NW; NW SE; W SW NE SE
6	14S	67W	34	NW; N SW; S NE; NW NE; N NW SE; N NE SE; SE NE SE; SE SE; S SW SE
6	14S	67W	35	W SW; SW NW
6	15S	67W	2	NW NW
6	15S	67W	3	NE NE; N NE NW NE; NE NW NW NE

Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs Quadrangles  
6400-7800 feet in elevation

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**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to all photographs except as noted:

Photographers: Peter S. Page and Lee Edward Wolf

Negatives: tif images on cd on file with the National Park Service, Washington, DC

No.	Photographic Information	Digital File
1	Bridge No. 1 over North Cheyenne Cañon Creek at entrance on Cheyenne Road. Camera direction west. August 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne1.tif
2	Bridge in the area of the Starsmore Discovery Center (same as #1). Camera direction southwest. August 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne2.tif
3	West view from the top of Mount Cutler Trail showing rock formations typical of the park. Camera direction west. August 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne3.tif
4	Granite formation on Mount Cutler Trail. Camera direction north. July 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne4.tif
5	Colorado Springs Utilities building located west of the Starsmore Discovery Center. Camera direction north. July 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne5.tif
6	Bridge No. 6 over North Cheyenne Creek. Camera direction south. August 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne6.tif
7	Roadway through the cañon at approximately the halfway point between the Starsmore Discovery Center and Helen Hunt Falls. Camera direction east. August 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne7.tif
8	Entrance gate to North Cheyenne Cañon Park and Starsmore Discovery Center. Camera direction west. August 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne8.tif
9	Lower Columbine Trail at approximately ½ mile west of the trailhead. Trail runs parallel to North Cheyenne Creek. Camera direction south. July 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne9.tif
10	North Cheyenne Creek near the Lower Columbine Trail. Camera direction northwest. August 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne10.tif
11	Bridge No. 8 over North Cheyenne Cañon Creek at the west end of Lower Columbine Trail. Camera direction west. July 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne11.tif
12	Bridge No. 3 west of the Starsmore Discovery Center. Camera direction east. August 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne12.tif
13	Bridge No. 6. Camera direction west. August 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne13.tif
14	Area formerly used as a natural amphitheater. In the 1950s and 1960s, climbing demonstrations by soldiers at Fort Carson were presented. Camera direction northwest. June 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne14.tif
15	Starsmore Discovery Center. Camera direction west. July 2007.	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne15.tif
16	Bridge No. 2 over North Cheyenne Creek. Camera direction	CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne16.tif

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- |    |  |                                     |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|
|    | west. May 2007.  |                                     |
| 17 | Footbridge and Helen Hunt Falls. The trail above the bridge leads to Silver Cascade Falls. Camera direction west. June 2007. | CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne17.tif |
| 18 | Stone sign from the Bruin Inn. Camera direction north. August 2007.  | CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne18.tif |
| 19 | The Cub near Helen Hunt Falls. Camera direction northwest. August 2007.  | CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne19.tif |
| 20 | Stairway leading to the bridge over Helen Hunt Falls. Camera direction west. August 2007.                                    | CO_EIPasoCounty_NorthCheyenne20.tif |

**PHOTOGRAPH LOG - HISTORIC**

These photographs may not be included in Internet posted documents and other publishing venues due to copyright restrictions.

No.	Photographic Information
H1	Stratton Park from post card, area is now residential. Camera direction, west. Date and photographer unknown.
H2	Postcard of pavilion that was once in the park. Camera direction, east. Date and photographer unknown.
H3	Postcard of the Bruin Inn which burned down in 1957s. Camera direction, west. Date and photographer unknown.
H4	Postcard of Helen Hunt's grave near Helen Hunt Falls. Grave was relocated to Evergreen Cemetery. Camera direction, east. Date and photographer unknown.
H5	Postcard of Helen Hunt's grave. Camera direction unknown. Date and photographer unknown.
H6	Postcard of Upper Seven Falls (outside park). Camera direction, west. Circa 1906 by an unknown photographer.
H7	Postcard of Helen Hunt Falls. Camera direction, west. Circa 1900 by an unknown photographer.
H8	Postcard of Seven Falls in South Cheyenne Cañon (outside park). Camera direction, west. Circa 1920 by an unknown photographer.
H9	Postcard of the Stratton Park Casino and street car. Camera direction, southwest. Circa 1900 by an unknown photographer.

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**Property Owners**

*North Cheyenne Cañon Park*  
City of Colorado Springs  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Attention: Aimee Cox, Senior Analyst  
1401 Recreation Way  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

*Gold Camp Road/ Corley Mountain Highway*  
U.S. Forest Service  
Attention: Brent Botts, District Ranger  
U.S. Forest Service Pikes Peak District  
601 S. Weber Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

*Old Stage Road*  
El Paso County  
Attention: Tim Wolken, Director  
El Paso County Public Services Department  
3275 Akers Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80922

*Water Resources*  
Colorado Springs Utilities  
Attention: Andy Funchess, Field Operations Superintendent  
PO Box 1103  
Colorado Springs, CO 80947-0010

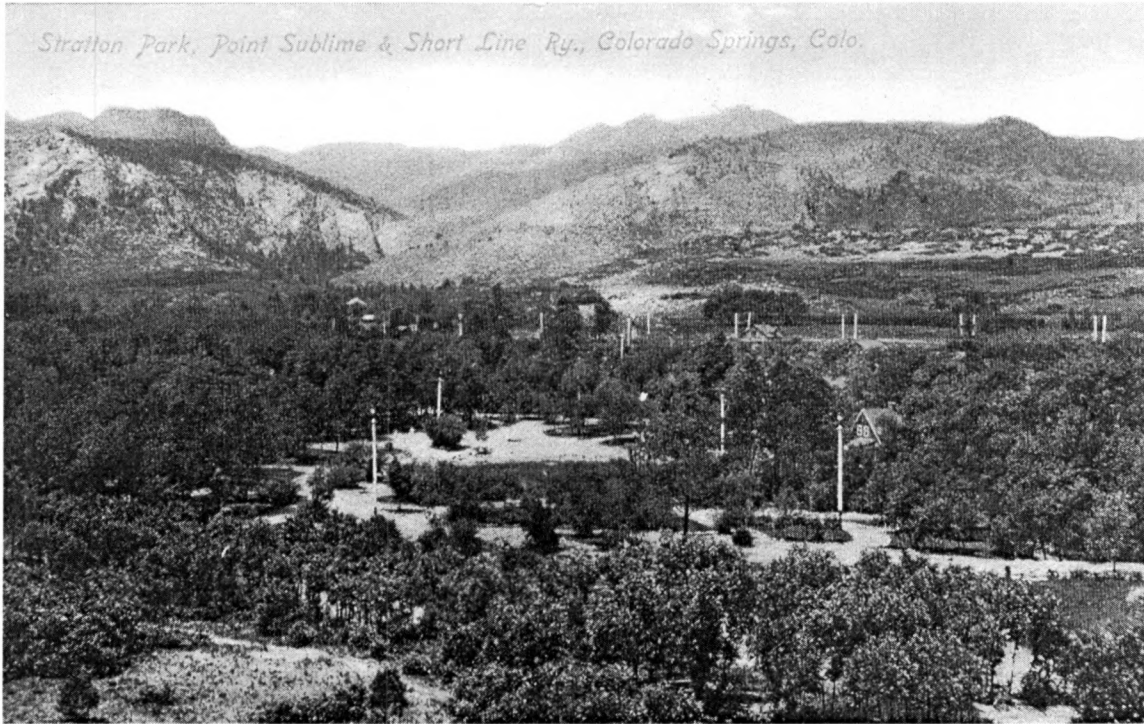


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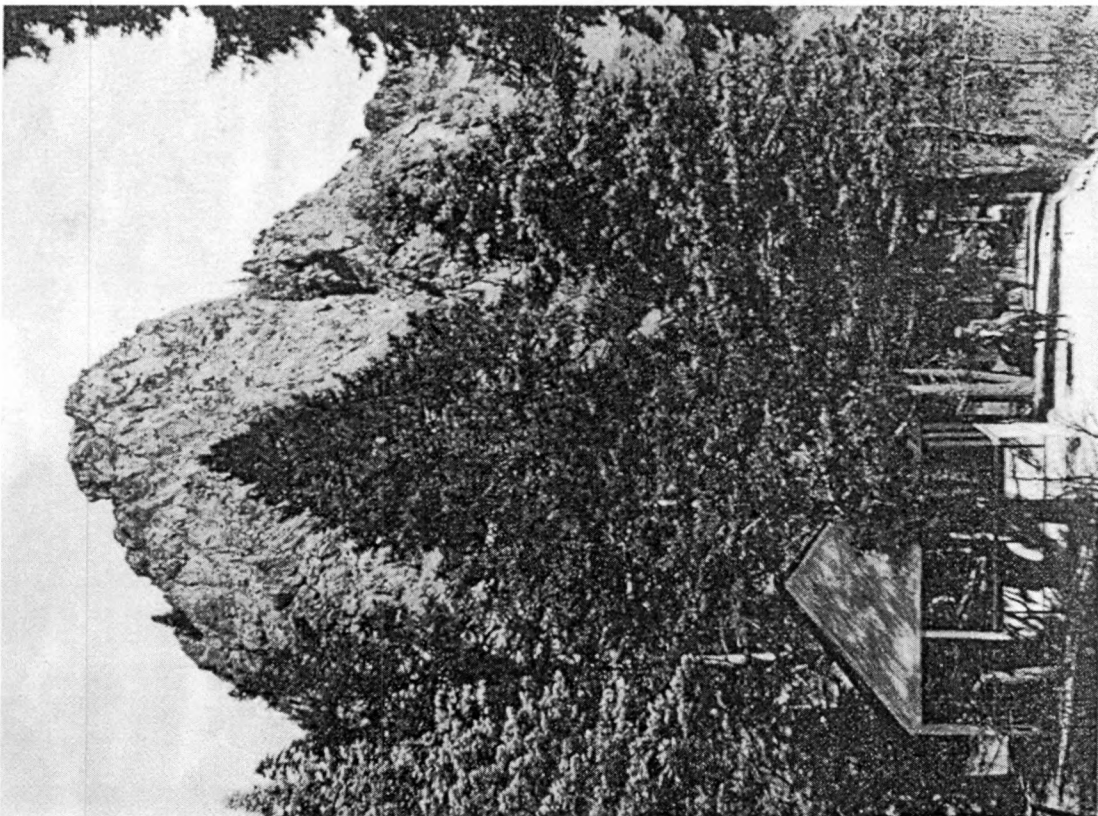
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H1



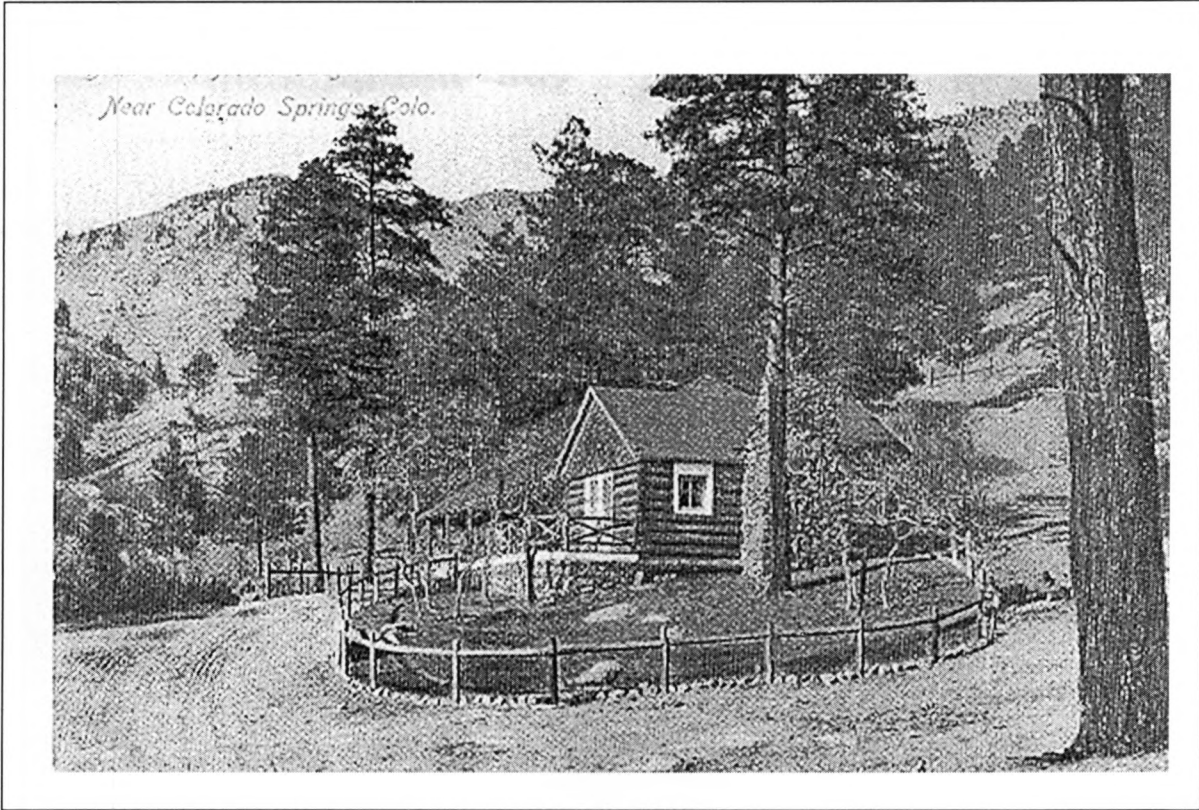
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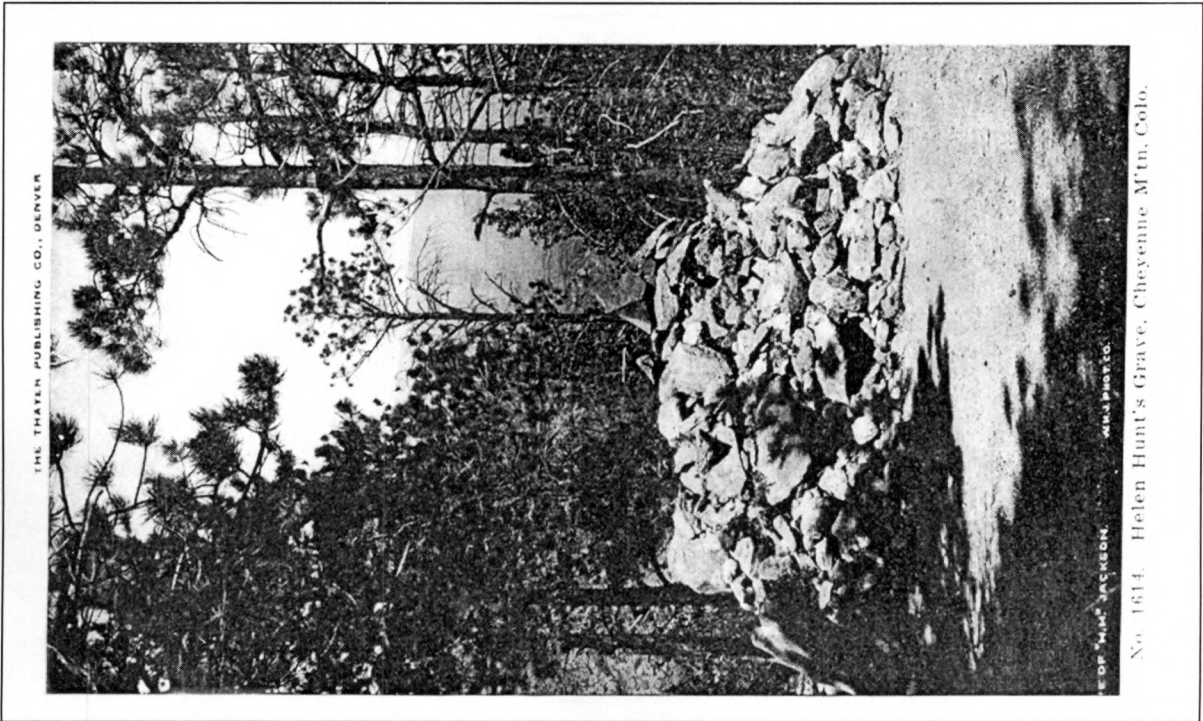
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H3



H4

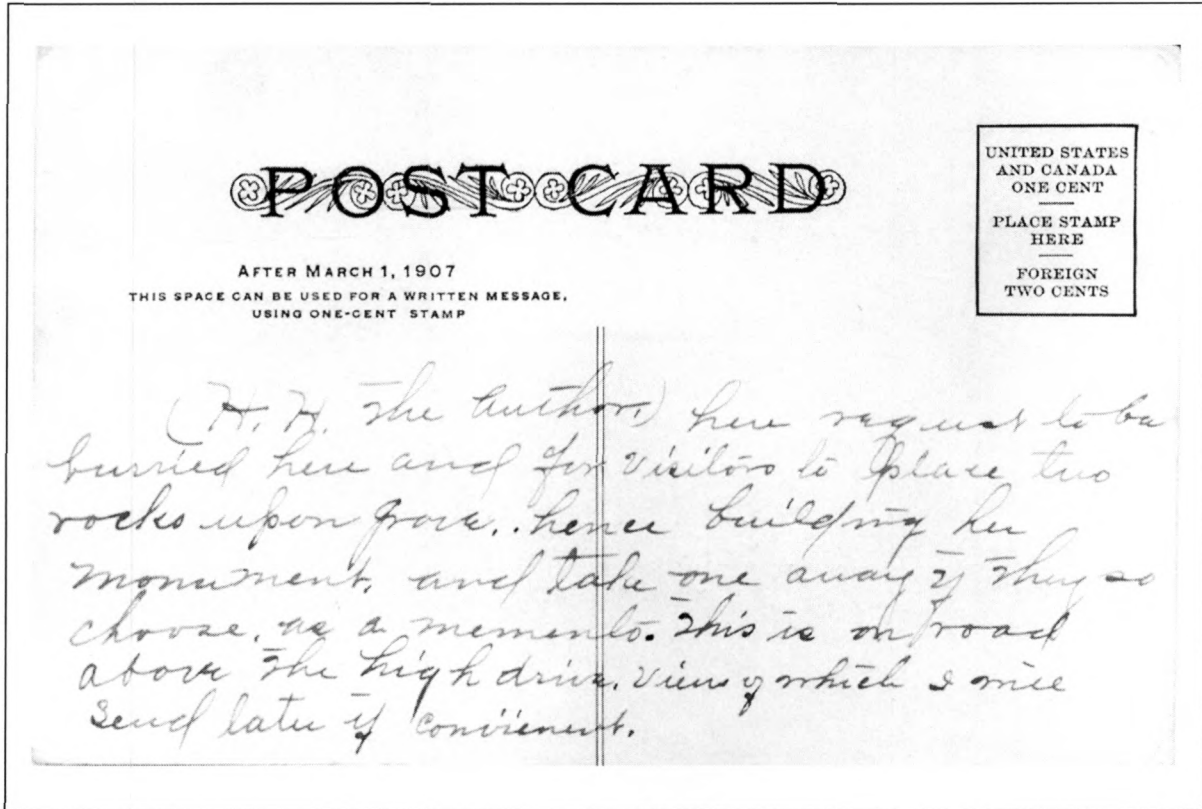
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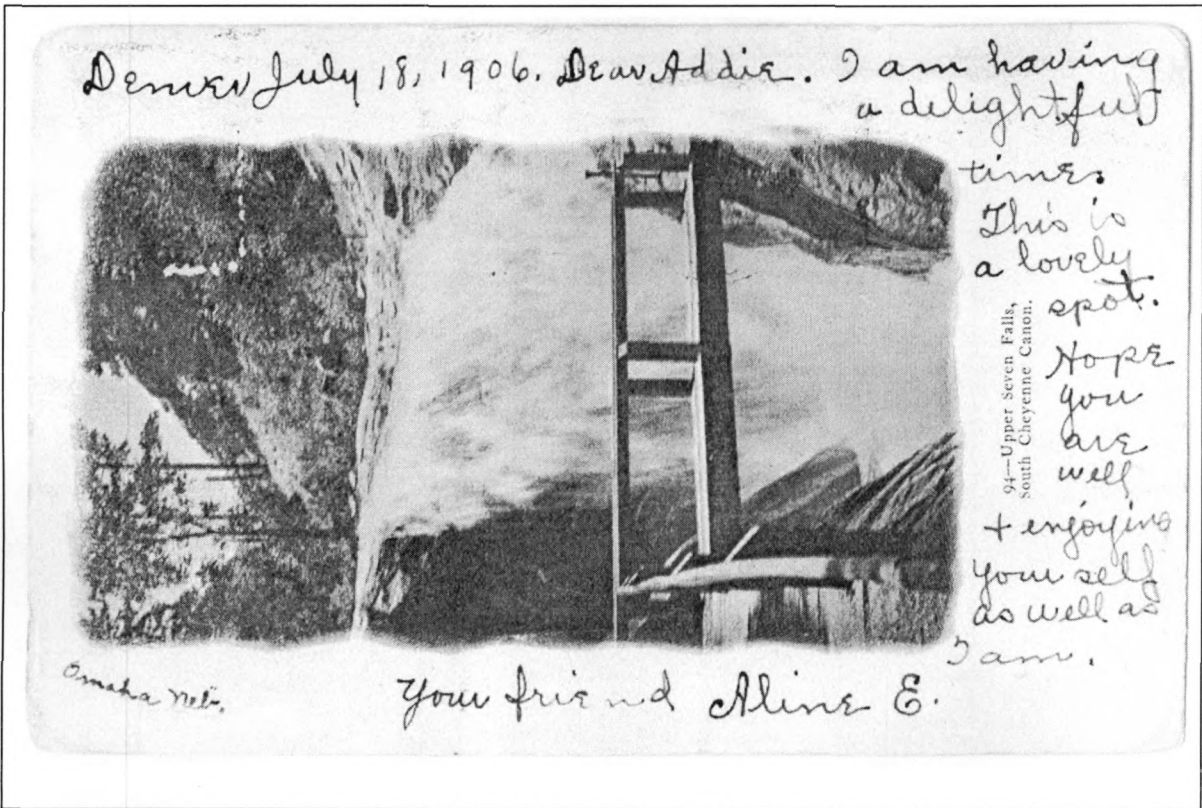
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H5



H6



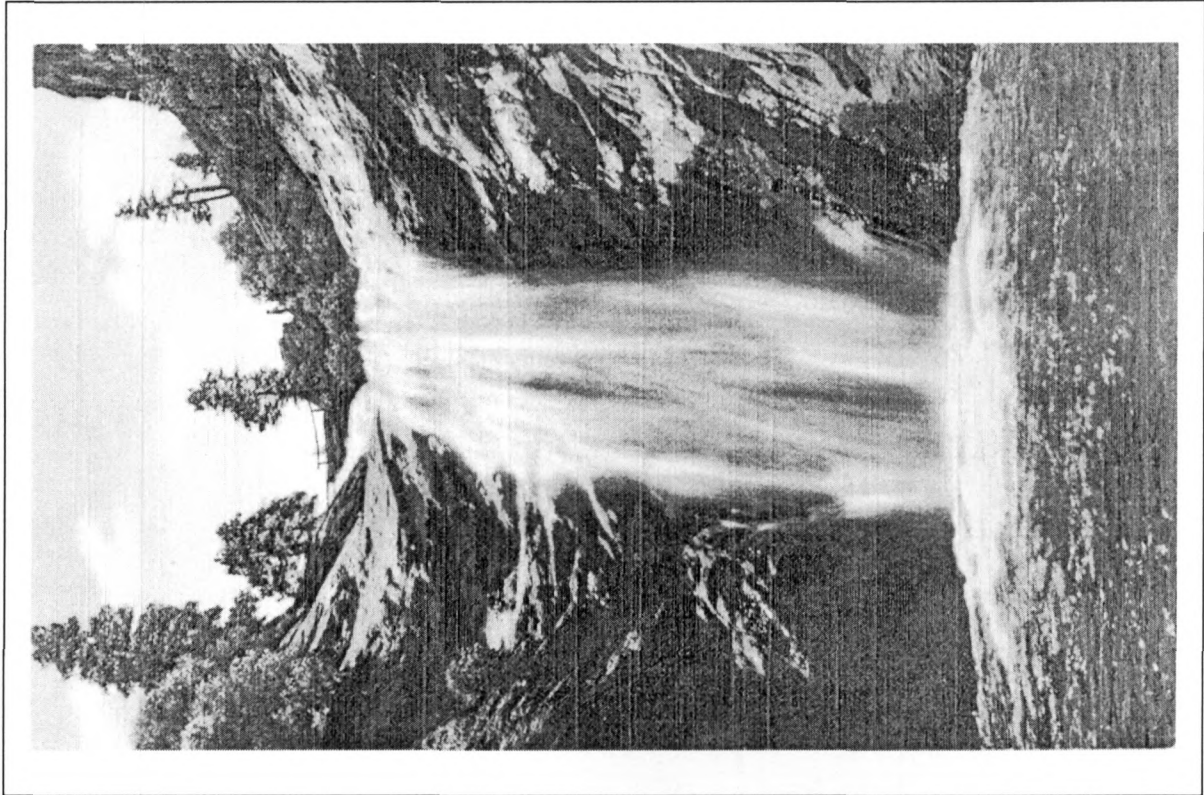


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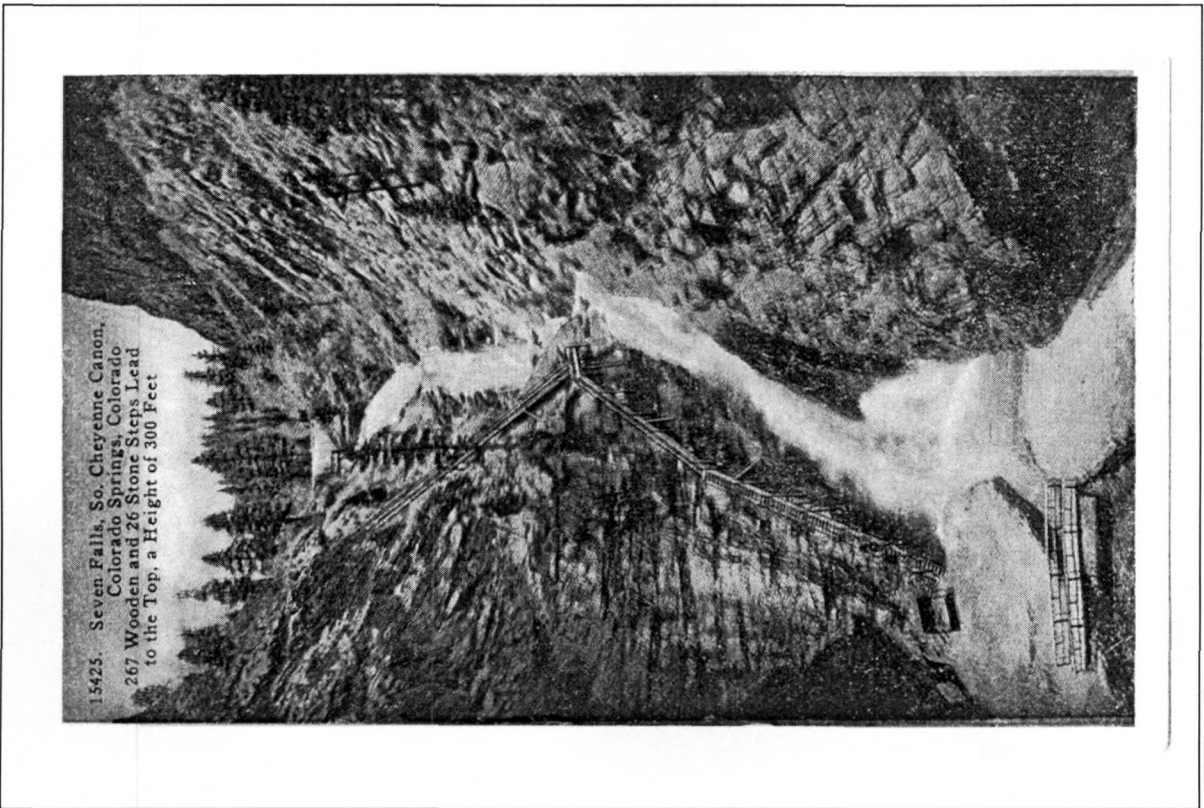
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H7



15425. Seven Falls, So. Cheyenne Canon,  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
267 Wooden and 76 Stone Steps Lead  
to the Top, a Height of 300 Feet

H8

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13619 CASINO AND CAR, STRATTON PARK, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.

H9