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 ✓ in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. 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  Hillcrest Park
other names/site number  Reservoir Hill

2. Location

street & number  200 Brea Boulevard
N/A  not for publication
city or town  Fullerton
N/A  vicinity
state  California  code CA  county  Orange  code 059  zip code 92831

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 □ state-wide □ locally. ( □ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title  Date

California Office of 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 commenting or other official  Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
✓ entered in the National Register
□ See continuation sheet.
□ determined eligible for the National Register
□ See continuation sheet.
□ determined not eligible for the National Register
□ removed from the National Register
□ other (explain): ____________________

Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action
Edgar M. Beall  8/11/04
**Hillcrest Park**

Name of Property: __________________________

County and State: Orange, California

### 5. Classification

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

### 6. Function or Use

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### 7. Description

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Social History

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance
1920-1943

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Seupelt, Johann George

McKown & Kuehl

King, John W.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References
(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:
Fullerton Community Services Dept., Launer Room,
Fullerton Public Library, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane, Orange County Archives,
Santa Ana
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 35.6 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debora Richey
date November 24, 2003
street & number 1233 Luanne Avenue (drichey@fullerton.edu)
television (714) 278-3094 (O), 525-6411 (H)
city or town Fullerton state CA zip code 92831

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 the SHPO or FPO.)
name Susan Hunt, Director, City of Fullerton Community Services Dept.
street & number 303 West Commonwealth telephone (714) 738-6582
city or town Fullerton state CA zip code 92832

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 the 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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Constructed on 35.6 acres, Hillcrest Park is the City of Fullerton's largest, most beautiful, and historically significant park. Aside from the former oil fields of the Coyote Hills area, 72 acres of which have been set aside for the Robert E. Ward Nature Reserve (2002), Hillcrest Park is the largest open space in the city. Centrally located in Fullerton on land purchased in 1920, the Park has retained its historic character while the city around it has grown and developed. Fullerton's first Park Superintendent Johann George Seupelt, a Bavarian-born horticulturist, forester, and landscape architect, developed the Park's landscaping plans in 1920. Much of the original design intent remains. The first city reservoir is still located within the parklands, as well as the original roads and trails created by horse and plow in 1923-1924. Still present in the Park, which originally had been barley fields, are several layers with historic significance: vistas, topography, circulation, vegetation, and public use facilities. Also intact are the structures, lawns, roads, stonework, and other landscape features constructed with funds received from the Work Projects Administration (WPA) and other Depression-era programs. From 1931 to 1941, relief workers transformed the Park into a truly unique environment. A large scale park with formal and naturalistic elements, Hillcrest Park includes several major active and passive recreation features such as picnic areas, tot lots, a turf bowl, a pond area, large rolling and terraced lawns, a stone fountain, and public facilities. Although the Park was planned with both passive and active activity areas in mind, it was also seen from the start as a natural retreat in an otherwise urban environment. Overall, the Park is in good condition and contains a high degree of integrity as a historically designed landscape, retaining integrity of location, design intent, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Additional acreage was added to Hillcrest Park in the 1950s and 1960s, and while this parkland does not detract from the historic area of the Park, it is the original acreage that is being nominated. A master plan for the Park was adopted in 1996 which will guide its redevelopment over the next 20 years. The master plan requires the restoration, retention, and preservation of historic features and buildings, in particular the stonework that was completed in the 1930s and early 1940s.

The Park contains 20 contributing resources and 12 noncontributing features. Contributing resources include two buildings, six sites, six structures, and five objects. Noncontributing elements include 8 buildings, two sites, one structure, and one object. Hillcrest Park's two contributing buildings, both used for recreational purposes, are the Hillcrest Park Recreation Center, the former American Legion Post #142 headquarters, constructed in 1932, and the former Boys and Girls Library moved from its location on Wilshire Boulevard in 1940. There is also one noncontributing recreation building, the Izaak Walton Cabin, originally built in 1931, but reconstructed in 1996, located in the middle of the Park.

In 1980, Hillcrest Park was designated Local Historic Landmark Number 6. The designation states that the Park qualifies for "designation as a local landmark because it contains significant features of craftsmanship and construction detail representative of the 1930's and WPA projects, plus the first City reservoir." It also qualifies as a local landmark because of "its value as part of the heritage of the City, being a visual landmark that is known throughout the County."

Setting and Location

Hillcrest Park is a 35.6 acre municipal park located at 200 Brea (formerly 1300 North Harbor) Boulevard. The large, extremely hilly Park is bounded on the east by Lemon (formerly Harvard) Avenue, on the south by East Valley View, on the west by North Harbor (formerly Spadra) Boulevard, and on the north by Brea Boulevard. It is bordered by condominiums,
Fullerton Elks Lodge #1993, and a restaurant to the north with single family homes constructed primarily in the 1920s and 1930s and newer apartment buildings and condominiums to the south and east. The west side is bordered by a shopping center, the North Orange County Courthouse, and professional office buildings. A barranca, a deep gulley with steep sides, runs along the west boundary. The property consists mostly of hills with steep slopes and contoured valleys with elevation changes of over 165 feet. Hillcrest Park is an example of a large-scale municipal park with distinctive features, such as winding roads, path systems, and vistas, which includes both naturalistic and formally planned areas.

Circulation and Parking

For south bound vehicles, the main entrance into the Park is located on the east boundary at the crest of Lemon Avenue. Vehicles can also access the Park through the northwest parking lot and from East Valley View Drive. Interior circulation consists of a winding roadway (Hillcrest Road) throughout the Park. The curvilinear roadway, which allows visitors to view designed spaces and a variety of vegetation, connects various activities in the Park. The road is both one- and two-way. Parking lots are located on the perimeter of the park with limited turn-out parking in the interior. There are approximately 300 parking spaces. Harry F. Byerrum, Sr., Fullerton's second Park Superintendent, as a city employee, built the original footpaths and roads in Hillcrest Park using a mule team, a plow, and Fresno scraper. These roads are still very much the same as when he laid them out in 1923-24.

Interior pedestrian circulation is facilitated through a series of stone staircases, some quite steep, which connect the various activity areas. Paths and walkways are both paved and unpaved. The Park's original entrance is off East Valley View Drive, and aside from a protective iron fence running along the barranca, the Park is open on all sides, devoid of any fencing. The Park is closed from sunset to 7:00 a.m. daily.

Depression-era Stonework

One of Hillcrest Park’s most distinctive features is the flagstone that runs throughout the parkland. Aside from a row of flagstone pilasters constructed in 1934 in Amerige Park (1914), Fullerton’s first city-owned park, this stonework is unique to Hillcrest Park. Flagstones of varying sizes and shapes are used in Hillcrest Park to pave and decorate walkways, stairs, benches, lawn and plant borders, walls, curbs, columns, pilasters, stoves, tables, barbecue pits, a fountain, and a bridge over a former lily pond. The stonework, which was used as an exterior finish over concrete, also delineates activity areas, creating separate spaces within the Park, and serves as a unifying element, providing design continuity throughout the parklands. The hand-crafted use of natural materials, common for WPA park construction, also lends a rustic and woodland feeling to the Park.

Although WPA workers are often credited with crafting the Park’s unique stonework, the rock work actually began with laborers hired by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, then continued with workers funded by the Civil Works Administration, the State Emergency Relief Administration, and the Work Projects Administration. Rock for these projects was quarried by city employees in Pomona and the Imperial Valley, then trucked to Fullerton. Fullerton officials relied on skilled rockmasons (assisted by helpers) to construct the stonework. Because New Deal programs were designed to put men to work, all the labor-intensive stonework was completed by hand from 1933 to 1941.

In 1999, a Conditional Assessment Report, which supplements the master plan, examined the rockwork within the Park, making recommendations for the repair, stabilization, and preservation of specific flagstone structures. The rockwork features are in reasonably good condition.
Entrance, Sycamore Grove, Turf Bowl, and Izaak Walton Log Cabin

Located on East Valley View is the original entrance to Hillcrest Park (see map, p. 14). A rustic wooden sign stands in front of a small set of flagstone steps that lead into the Park. The individual activity areas within this section of the Park—the tot lot, Sycamore Grove, the Big Bowl, and the log cabin—are delineated by rock walls, embankments, and roads.

Pedestrians move from section to section via flagstone stairways. These areas are served by a small 18-stall parking lot adjacent to the entrance. The parkland from the base of the parking lot slopes steadily north.

Entrance into the Park leads immediately to a rectangular-shaped tot lot added to the Park in the 1980s. A small noncontributing restroom with a tile roof services this area. Rock steps on the north side of the tot lot lead into Sycamore Grove, a large lawned picnic area laid out in the early 1920s, that is also known as the lower picnic area. When Hillcrest Park was formally dedicated on May 3, 1924, Sycamore Grove consisted primarily of lawn, sycamore trees, and a few tables. Originally, sycamore trees ran along the east and west sides of the Grove, but blight destroyed these trees, and they were subsequently replaced primarily by eucalyptus and California live oak trees. These now mature trees shelter 6 19- by 3-foot wooden picnic tables supported by concrete bases. In the center of the Grove is a barbecue area which includes three metal barbecues, a sink, three tables for food preparation, and a brick 5- by 10-foot broiling pit with a turning spit. Sycamore Grove is a natural hollow in a steep hillside and is bordered on the east and west by steep tree-covered embankments. Access out of the Grove on the east and west sides is via steep stone staircases. Three flights of steps on the east side lead to Hillcrest Road, then an additional flight of steps leads to the upper picnic area laid out shortly after Sycamore Grove in the early 1920s. Sixteen steps on the west side lead to Hillcrest Road, then three flights of stairs lead up to the Izaak Walton Cabin. Two sets of steps on the north side (and a cement ramp for disabled users) lead to Hillcrest Road, then a grass covered turf bowl. A small turn-out of six parking spaces serves this area.

The turf bowl, known locally as the Big Bowl, is a natural indentation in the hillside that has been used over the years as a spot for speakers and small musical and dramatic performances. A 24- by 77-foot mini-stage, positioned on a concrete slab, sits on the northwest rim of the Bowl. The open stage is covered by a wooden roof supported by four metal posts. Until the Crystal Ice House (1910) on Walnut closed its doors in the 1980s, children used ice slabs to surf down the Bowl's slope, but more recently, boards have been employed for the same purpose. The rim of the Bowl is lined with mature California fan palms.

As early as 1923, plans were proposed to convert the Bowl into a natural amphitheater to seat 2,500 to 3,000 persons, and there was some slight excavation done in the area in 1933 by RFC laborers. These plans, and several other proposals, were never completed.3

Centrally located in the Park, and west of Sycamore Grove, lies the Izaak Walton League of America, Fullerton Chapter 15, Cabin, which was constructed in 1931, and reconstructed in 1996. Adjacent to the log cabin, 32 feet from the front porch, is a small picnic area that includes a metal barbecue and two 19- by 3-foot wooden picnic tables set into a concrete slab. The small lawn area is sheltered by ficus and eucalyptus trees. A Washington palm (Washingtonia robusta) is adjacent to the front entrance. The log cabin is positioned atop a hill, which provides a spectacular 180-degree view of the Park and Orange County. A pathway at the rear of the Cabin is lined with old telephone poles that match the 1931 poles used to construct the original Cabin. Old square-shaped railroad ties are used as a retaining wall on the east side of the road.
Polychromatic Electric Fountain, Pond, Barranca, and Great Lawn

Because the parkland along Harbor Boulevard was relatively flat and accessible by motor vehicles, it was the first section of the Park to be developed and used. It originally contained an auto camp, lily pond, formal flower garden, and a cactus garden. A fountain and terraced lawn were added in 1935-1936. An unpaved barranca runs along North Harbor and Brea Boulevards. Adjacent to the barranca, on the southwest corner of Valley View and Harbor Boulevard, is a large terraced lawn, known as the Big Lawn or Great Lawn, which slopes west toward a fountain. The lawn, fountain, and lily pond are sheltered by a wide variety of trees, including sycamore, jacaranda, eucalyptus, palm, pine, and southern magnolia. A small turnout (four spaces) and street parking along Valley View provide vehicular access to the fountain, and a turnout and 17 parking spaces off Brea Boulevard serve the pond area. Cement pathways at both parking lots provide foot access to the fountain and pond.

The polychromatic electric fountain was constructed in 1936 by WPA laborers at a cost of $20,000. The base of the two-tiered fountain is approximately 50- by 80-feet, with the top circular tier 13 feet in diameter. The wall of the fountain base is both two feet thick and two feet wide. The original plans, designed by John W. King, Assistant City Engineer and Supervisor of City Surveyors and Draftsmen, indicate that the fountain is a “Novalux 7-projector electric fountain basin type.” When the fountain was originally built, a central jet shot water 28 feet into the air, three large nozzles sent out fan-shaped spray, and a ring of 65 jets around the outside provided different spray combinations. Twenty-two projectors of green, blue, and amber set below the water surface illuminated the water. Every six minutes the fountain went through 62 color, light, and water changes. At 2:00 p.m. the sprays were turned on, with the lights coming on from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. The fountain soon became a major local attraction. The fountain operated for decades, but when repair costs became too prohibitive in the mid-1970s, it was turned into a planter. The jets and lights mechanisms are still inside the core of the fountain. A 17-foot bench and other seating areas are positioned east of the fountain. The approach to the fountain, constructed earlier, includes a 5½-foot wall which runs north to south. The wall is divided by three staircases—one in the center and one on each side—which lead toward pathways to the fountain. Wall niches are positioned on each side of the expansive central stairs. Stone pathways on both sides of the fountain lead up to Hillcrest Road and other areas of the Park. All of the architectural elements in the fountain area—benches, walls, staircases, etc.—are faced with flagstone. Southwest of the fountain is a granite monument constructed in 1987 to honor Fullerton servicemen who died serving their country. Positioned in front of the fountain, adjacent to the barranca, is an eight-foot bench donated by the Soroptimists Club of Fullerton in 1997.

A stone staircase northwest of the fountain, adjacent to the barranca, leads to a winding dirt road which heads toward a pond area. Steep concrete steps going down the North Slope also provide access to the pond. Now drained, the pond has a concrete bottom, and features a small flagstone arched bridge constructed in 1934 by SERA workers. A chain link fence runs along the sides of the pond and bridge. One concrete and two metal benches face the pond. The area is served by a noncontributing brick restroom with a composition roof. Hillcrest Road leads northeast from the pond area to two ball fields, Lions Field and Jim Hutcheson Field, added to the Park in the 1960s.

Reservoir, Booster Pump House, and Upper Picnic Area

The entrance to the Park from Lemon Avenue is marked by two seven foot flagstone pilasters constructed in 1936 and a 1920s street lamp. Originally a chain was strung between the pilasters to close off Hillcrest Road at night, but two metal gates are now used for that purpose. Hillcrest Road from the Lemon Avenue vehicular entrance heads north passing a booster pump building immediately on the east side of the road, then up toward the reservoir, and into the upper picnic area.
area. CWA workers in 1934 were responsible for paving and asphalting the road and parking lot in this area, as well as construction of the booster pump building (razed, 1988). Situated atop Reservoir Hill (a mean elevation of 320 feet) is Fullerton’s first reservoir. Land for the reservoir was purchased in 1913, bids went out in 1920, and the reservoir was constructed in 1922. The oval-shaped, metal-covered reservoir has a capacity of five million gallons. A chain link fence encircles the reservoir, which is inaccessible to the public. A small set of stone steps, opposite the booster pump building, lead up to a grassy area covered by trees that encircles the reservoir. A concrete block retaining wall constructed by SERA workers in 1934 is situated on the southwest corner of the reservoir. A flagstone staircase west of the reservoir leads down to the Bowl area.

Southwest of the reservoir is the upper picnic area, also known as the hilltop picnic grounds. Laid out in the early 1920s, this section became in the 1930s and 1940s one of the most heavily used areas of the Park. In 1937, when picnickers ran out of recreational space in this area, nearby Sycamore Grove was expanded into a picnic area as well. The upper picnic area, which provides an extensive vista of the park, contains four stand-alone metal barbecues, a 4½- by 5-foot flagstone barbeque with two separate grilles, nine picnic tables, two sinks, two food preparation tables, a drinking fountain, a brick 10- by 5-foot barbeque pit, and a smaller 4- by 5½-foot pit. The flagstone sinks, two barbecues, and two pits were constructed by WPA workers. A 14- by 20-foot concrete platform or mini-stage next to the picnic area was used for presentations and small musical performances. A parking lot with 35 spaces services this area, along with a noncontributing wooden storage shed and a brick bathroom with a composition roof.

In 1988, the original 1934 booster pump building was razed and replaced by a similarly styled building. Situated approximately 45 feet from the metal entrance gate off Lemon Avenue, the current small booster pump house serves the adjacent reservoir. The modest 18- by 23-foot Spanish Colonial Revival building faces east, employing the 1934 building’s orientation and footprint. The pump house is set back five feet from the road and is situated close to a steep slope that runs along the west side. As a protective measure, wrought iron railing, decorated with a fleur-de-lis pattern, is positioned on the northeast corner of the structure’s 4- by 6-foot concrete front porch. Access to the building is through a single wooden door on the east side. The pump house has no windows. Instead stucco has been molded into arches—two each on the east, west, and south sides—to give the appearance of windows. The building is constructed of slump block, but the exterior stucco, low-pitched tile roof, molded arches, and wrought iron are designed to resemble the 1934 Spanish Colonial Revival pump house. The building’s interior, one small room with a concrete floor and a wood beam ceiling, contains two pump motors and other equipment. The building is accessible only to City of Fullerton workers.

Plans have been approved, and work is expected to begin in 2004, on a 2.2 million upgrade to the 1922 reservoir. Plans include capping the reservoir to create additional lawn space for picnickers and visitors.

Hillcrest Park Recreation Center Area, Lower Lawn, and Pine (North) Slope

Located on the southeast corner of East Valley View Drive and Lemon, the Recreation Center area contains two of the Park’s most recognizable buildings: the two-story Hillcrest Park Recreation Center (1932) and the small, single-story former Boys and Girls Library (1927). Between the two buildings lie a tot lot, two metal benches, and a drinking fountain. A small lawn area on the corner contains two 28- by 96-inch picnic tables sheltered by three mature holly oak (Quercus ilex) trees. Vehicle access to this area is through a road off East Valley View, which leads into a small parking lot, known as the lower parking lot, with 45 stalls. This road and the noteworthy stonework in the area, which covers walkways, walls, stairs, curbs, and plant and lawn borders, were constructed by State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA) laborers in 1934–
1935. Pedestrian exit from the area is by two steep stairways (45 steps), which lead up to Hillcrest Road, then the upper picnic area. Eight stairs adjacent to the Library building lead to a large lawn, known as the lower lawn, that fans out and slopes steeply north toward the city reservoir. The crest of the slope is rimmed with California live oak, jacaranda, palm, and eucalyptus trees. In 1940, members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mojave Chapter, donated a row of jacaranda trees adjacent to the lawn in memory of their former chapter members, but those trees have not survived. A metal backstop is situated at the base of the lawn, which was designed for quick pick-up games, but is also used for a variety of informal purposes.

In 2003, changes were made to this area as part of the master plan adopted in 1996 for Hillcrest Park. Six 3- by 8-foot concrete picnic tables and benches were added adjacent to the tot lot, which served in the 1930s and 1940s as a playground area with swings and a merry-go-round. The picnic tables are sheltered by a low-pitched red tile roof supported by twelve stone and concrete columns. Also added was a noncontributing 9- by 11-foot restroom, a cement ramp for disabled users that links the Recreation Center to the picnic tables, and additional stonework designed to match the original SERA work. Two dozen granite street lights, which match those in nearby historic neighborhoods, were also installed to provide additional lighting.

The extensive Pine Slope runs through the northwest section of parkland. Known also as the North Slope or the Pine Forest, this naturally steep and hilly terrain was originally planted with hundreds of pine trees in the early 1920s, and then later with eucalyptus trees in the 1930s, and now also includes California live oak, cedar, pepper, and other trees. Conceived as a man-made forest, the Pine Slope contains trails, paths, and some lawn space, but no buildings or structures.

Recreation Buildings

Fullerton Boys and Girls Library (1927)

Located at 1207 Lemon, the former Boys and Girls Library is a modest, single-story Spanish Colonial Revival structure. The building was constructed at a cost of $3,779.62 in 1927 for service as Fullerton's only Boys and Girls Library. It was located on Wilshire Boulevard, near Pomona Avenue, slightly west of the main Carnegie Library, where it faced south. The Library was designed by Arthur M. Thompson, a well-known local builder and contractor, and constructed by another local builder, Robert Ben Carey, who also built the American Legion Patriotic Hall. The person most responsible for both the exterior and interior design, however, was children's librarian Mary Campbell, a seminal figure in the development of Fullerton's library system, who oversaw and supervised all aspects of the Library's construction. When the building was to be demolished for erection of a new WPA library in 1940, the Fullerton Rotary Club, then an active sponsor of Girl Scouting in Fullerton, purchased the Library for $511.00 and moved it to Hillcrest Park adjacent to a playground area laid out by WPA workers in the late 1930s. The building was used by the Girl Scouts for regular meetings, special programs, overnights, training sessions for both girls and adults in Scouting, and as headquarters for Girl Scout and Brownie Scout Day Camping in Hillcrest Park. In 1974, the building was given to the City of Fullerton, and city officials turned the building over to the American Red Cross on a conditional use agreement, and from 1975 to 2003 it served as the North County Service Center, Orange County Chapter, of the American National Red Cross. Currently, the building is used by the City of Fullerton for adult and children's recreational activities. The building retains almost all of its exterior integrity and some of its interior integrity.

Facing south, the pale yellow stuccoed building features a flat composition roof hidden by parapets on the south and north sides. An arched recessed doorway on the north side serves as the main entrance. A single metal door on the west side
provides additional access. Positioned on each side of the entrance are two large rectangular windows, both of which feature two casement windows separated by a stationary sash window. All windows have five lights. Similarly styled casement windows run along the other sides of the building: the west side features three sets of casement windows, the north side two, and the east side three. The south (rear) side also includes two single casement windows which provide air to the building’s two small restrooms. Above each of the large windows on the north (front) side are red tile-covered canopies. Thompson’s building proposal for the Library indicates that both the recessed doorway and tiled canopies were to match the entryway and tiled roof on the then adjacent main Carnegie Library. Changes to the exterior have been minor and do not detract from the historic character of the building. Aside from the replacement of two lights on the south side and the blockage of a door on the west side, the exterior remains historically intact.

The interior of the 48- by 30-foot building consists of walled off office space near the south entrance, a large work area, then running along the north wall, west to east, a small workroom, separate male and female restrooms, and a kitchenette. Original closets and storage cabinets are located in the workroom and kitchenette. Window seats with storage space, original to the building, are located under both of the large south windows. A brick fireplace is situated on the west wall. When the Red Cross took over the building in 1975, the original tile floor was covered over with vinyl floor tiles and acoustical panels were added to the ceiling along with new lighting. Temporary walls were added near the front entrance to create office space. Air conditioning was added and upgrading and remodeling was completed on the kitchenette. The original interior layout of the building remains the same. The original furniture designed and built by McKee and Wentworth in 1927 is now located in the children’s room of the main branch of the Fullerton Public Library (353 W. Commonwealth).

Izaak Walton League Cabin (1931, 1996)

Facing south, the noncontributing Izaak Walton League Cabin is centrally located in Hillcrest Park at 1280 North Harbor Boulevard. The rustic building, Fullerton’s only cabin, is a reconstruction of a 1931 cabin that was destroyed by fire on December 24, 1990. In the early 1930s, discarded utility poles were dropped near the train depot off Harbor (then Spadra) Boulevard. Members of Fullerton Chapter 15 of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), one of the oldest conservation organizations in the United States, decided to use these telegraph poles to construct a cabin in Hillcrest Park. City permission was granted, and the cabin was constructed by volunteers at a cost of $165.00. Additional logs were donated by the Southern California Edison Company (the Alhambra yard) through Frank Hamilton, the Fullerton district manager. The Ikes used the United States Agricultural Farmers’ Bulletin Number 1649 (Construction of Chimneys and Fireplaces) as part of the basis for their building plans. John C. Gregory, President of the Fullerton Ikes, was responsible for the overall planning and construction of the building. The Cabin was dedicated on October 4, 1931, and the Ikes handed over the key to city officials. Fullerton was to own the Cabin, but the Ikes were free to use it whenever they wanted, and any Orange County group could book the building as well. This arrangement is still in place, and the Ikes are responsible for showing and booking the Cabin for public use. Shortly after the Cabin was built, it was featured in Outdoor California, the official publication of the Izaak Walton League, and the Fullerton Chapter received requests for information from other chapters around the nation on how to construct a similar building. Aside from the years they were displaced by the fire, the Ikes have met continuously at the Cabin the second (later the third) Wednesday of each month since 1931. The woman’s chapter, known as the Anne Newman Chapter, met the fourth Wednesday from 1937 until the early 1970s, when the two groups were combined. The Anne Newman Chapter, organized August 27, 1927, had the distinction of being the first IWLA women’s chapter in America. Since 1946, the Cabin has also been home to Boy Scout Troop 292, the oldest continuously existing Boy Scout troop in Orange County. Over 5,000 boys have participated in the organization. When the Cabin was rebuilt in 1996 by Sierra Log Homes at a cost of around $145,000, the 1931 plans were used, and architect Gregory A. Peitz tried to match the original design and materials while adhering to city building codes.
Access to the Cabin from the east is via two flights of WPA-constructed stairs that lead to the building from Hillcrest Road. A tall, rectangular-shaped tower in front of the staircases contains an electric outlet for one light bulb. Wheelchair access is facilitated by a cement pathway on the immediate west of the Cabin, which leads back to Hillcrest Road and a small turnout parking area.

Built on the original slab of concrete, later reinforced, the 70- by 30-foot Cabin is constructed of nine-inch wide lodgepole pine logs. The building's exterior features a sloping roof covered with asphalt shingles. Two single wooden doors on the south side and a single wood door on the west side provide entrance into the Cabin. Three metal double sash along the south side, and are matched by two windows each on the west and east sides. Windows on the south side are covered by metal grilles. Two concrete sets of stairs, each with metal railings, lead up to a porch added to the cabin in 1938. Stonework on the porch's columns and 3½ -foot walls were constructed by WPA laborers. Exterior lighting is provided by recessed lights in the porch ceiling and one street light adjacent to the cabin. The east side of the cabin extends over the side of a hill and is supported by concrete brick walls below. These walls enclose a small room, original to the Cabin, which serves as additional meeting space for Boy Scout Troop 292. Two sets of double metal casement windows, each with six lights, on the east side, and one matching casement window on the south side, illuminate this room.

The interior of the Cabin is basically one large meeting room with a concrete floor. The Cabin has a capacity of 290 people for assembly and 130 for dining. A 30- by 9-foot platform for speakers is positioned along the east wall. Running along the north wall, west to east, are a 20- by 12-foot kitchen, two restrooms, and a storage room. Two single wooden doors provide access to the kitchen, which includes built-in wood cabinets and laminate counters. Two wooden windows in the south wall of the kitchen assist with the quick distribution of food to large groups.

Additions were made to the original Cabin over the years. In 1932, the Ikes added a kitchen, which had been requested by groups meeting in the cabin. In 1936, a speaker's platform was installed along the west wall. In 1938, WPA workers replaced the wooden entrance porch on the south side with a flagstone one, and added the staircases and tower leading to the Cabin. To accommodate the Boy Scouts, who wanted a clubhouse of their own, the east side of the Cabin was extended over the hillside in 1947, and a small concrete building was constructed below. This addition expanded the length of the Cabin by twelve feet. In 1956, a restroom was added. When the building was reconstructed in 1996, the original cement floor, north wall, east room, and WPA-constructed porch, which had all survived the fire, were retained, while the telegraph poles were replaced by pine logs. The interior layout was kept, but the stone fireplace on the north wall was not. While the reconstructed cabin has a rustic quality, it lacks the cruder, handmade appearance of the 1931 building.

American Legion Patriotic Hall (1932)

Situated on the southwest corner of Valley View and Lemon (1155 N. Lemon) is the American Legion Patriotic Hall, Fullerton Chapter 142, constructed in 1932 on land donated by the City of Fullerton in 1927. Under the direction of attorney Harold McCabe, chairman of the building committee, plans were developed in June 1932, and Robert Ben Carey and Willie B. Potter were selected as the Hall's builders. The Hall, the most architecturally sophisticated building in Hillcrest Park, is a two-story, irregularly-shaped 7,840 square-foot structure of poured concrete. The Spanish Colonial Revival building faces east and is dramatically positioned on top of a small hill. The building's typical Spanish Colonial Revival design characteristics include arches, decorative ironwork, flat stuccoed surfaces, and low-pitched red tile roofs. The building retains almost all of its exterior integrity and most of its interior integrity. American Legion members used the building for official and social functions until 1959 when it was sold to the City of Fullerton for $20,000. The building is now
used for recreational and social purposes, including yoga, tai chi, dance lessons, weddings, receptions, and family celebrations.

Access to the building is through recessed double wooden doors and two single recessed doors on the east side, two single wooden doors on the north side, double wooden doors topped with four-light transoms on the south and north upper level, which lead out on to a large patio, and double doors on the south side which provide access to a veranda. The east (front) side features a large arched 16-light picture window set off by scallop-shaped stucco below. Beneath the picture window are two large metal casement windows. Each of the casement windows features three lights and a stationary panel. Two single casement windows serve a small restroom, covered with a red tile roof, which juts out from the east side. Similarly styled casement windows run along the other sides of the structure: two double casement windows on the upper level and five single casement windows on the lower level of the south side, and five double casement windows along the north side on the upper floor. The five double casement windows running along the north side are topped with six light transoms. Three casement windows on the north side have been changed to picture windows and are covered by plexiglass panels to discourage vandalism. Spanish-styled decorative iron work covers small single casement windows on the south and east sides. A narrow tower rises from the east side. As a decorative touch, small square- and rectangular-shaped holes have been cut into the white stuccoed walls. On the south side of the Hall, 18 steps lead up to a small veranda. The west (rear) and north sides of the building feature a newly constructed, terraced three-tiered patio with wood and flagstone trellises.

Changes to the exterior have been relatively minor and do not detract from the historic character of the building. In 1934, SERA workers added landscaping and flagstone curbs to the area around the Hall, then in 1935, completed additional landscaping and the approach to the building, including the flagstone steps and lawn and plant borders. In 1959, when the Hall was sold to the City, the American Legion circular plaque, situated above the east picture window, was removed and stuccoed over. Only one original single door on the east side, leading to an office, remains. Three casement windows on the north side were replaced by picture windows. In 1990, Dames and Moore completed a retrofit of the east side of the building. In 2003, the Hall's rear enclosed patio was expanded to include a three-tiered patio area on the north side configured to enhance the uses of the building. Plans for the terrace area were designed by architect Milford Wayne Donaldson of San Diego. The patio and terrace area, which is accessible from double doors on the north and south sides of the assembly hall, is designed to now accommodate small, intimate gatherings of 100 to 125 people.

The interior of the Hall is simple, but functional. The original layout is intact and reflects the functions of the American Legion. The first floor was designed to provide kitchen and dining room use; the second served as an assembly area. The first floor consists of four rooms: a restroom and kitchen on the east side, a small office on the south side, and a large eating area. Two windows on the west side of the kitchen, which originally had shutters, allow for the distribution of food. The kitchen cabinets are original, but the tile has been replaced. The large dining area has two rows of three concrete columns. The concrete floor is covered with vinyl tiles, and lighting is provided by fluorescent ceiling lights. A staircase on the south wall (19 steps) leads to a second floor landing, a small restroom, and a large assembly hall, the focal point of the building. This large meeting room, which takes up most of the floor, remains the most historically intact room in the Hall, and features a wood floor, wood beamed ceilings, a wrought iron screen on the north wall, and 14 ceiling lights with white shades. Three additional contemporary fans have been added for air circulation. The interior has been somewhat altered, but the changes do not detract from the historic character of the building.

War Monuments and Plaques

Hillcrest Park has two war monuments and three plaques that honor Fullerton servicemen killed during major wars fought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Since 1983, memorial services have been held annually on Veterans Day at the
Located north of the Izaak Walton Cabin, on top of a hill, is a World War II redwood memorial plaque constructed with funds raised by members of Fullerton Chapter 15 of the Izaak Walton League of America. The memorial is an 11-foot redwood slab, painted black, supported by a stepped cement pedestal faced with flagstone. The 2000-year-old redwood ring was trucked from Sequoia National Park to Fullerton in June 1946. The names of 55 local servicemen are engraved on the slab along with the epitaph “To forget them would be cruel to their spirit.” The monument is surrounded by a 24- by 13-foot wrought iron fence donated by Kisner Iron Works (515 S. Spadra). When the monument was dedicated on May 31, 1948, 54 small redwood trees (Sequoia sempervirens) were planted around the memorial but only five remain.24 Southwest of the fountain off Harbor Boulevard is a granite monument constructed for $30,000 from funds raised by Fullerton Emblem Club Number 469. Dedicated December 7, 1987, the grey granite monument is a 10-foot tall obelisk with four erect slabs at the base—one for each of the major wars fought in the twentieth century. There are 110 names on the memorial honoring Fullerton servicemen who were killed serving their country in World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. An epitaph (“To forget them would be cruel to their spirit”) has been engraved in the center of the obelisk.25

Hillcrest Park also has three memorial plaques. Embedded in the base of the flagpole in front of the fountain off Harbor Boulevard is a 7- by 7-inch metal Greek cross honoring Fullerton soldiers of the Spanish American War. The plaque was donated by members of the United Spanish War Veterans (Warwick Camp) in 1938. Each side of the cross is engraved with a geographical location associated with the War: Porto Rico, Cuba, the Philippine Islands, and the United States. In front of the American Legion Patriotic Hall is a 2½- by 8-foot plaque dedicated in 1948 by members of the American Legion Post Fullerton Chapter 142. The plaque lists the names of all Fullerton servicemen killed in World War II. Embedded in the lawn at the corner of Valley View and Lemon Avenue is a 17- by 11-inch plaque donated by members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2073 and Auxiliary in 1941. Engraved in the plaque is the entreaty "Stop and offer a prayer for peace." Each of the plaques has been mounted in concrete.

Flora

Hillcrest Park contains thousands of trees which serve not only as sources of natural beauty, but are also employed to form and modulate spaces and to create vistas. Banks of trees are positioned as backdrops for the staging of natural areas, including the two large lawns and Big Bowl. Clusters of trees are also used to screen out the Park's urban setting, such as the beefwood (Grevillea striata) and cedar trees (Cedrus deodora) along Lemon Avenue. New trees, including Chinese elm and coastal live oak, were added to the Recreation Center area in 2003, but the mature trees were planted primarily from 1920 to 1940. The North Slope, which was conceived as a man-made forest, contains the most concentrated number of trees, primarily Monterey (Pinus radiata) and Aleppo pine (Pinus halepensis), with some California live oak (Quercus agrifolia), cedar, and California pepper (Schinus molle) trees. Other trees around Hillcrest Park include the Arizona cypress (Cupressus arizonica), black acacia (Acacia melanoxylon), California sycamore (Platanes racemosa), Chinese elm (Ulmus parvifolia), jacaranda (Jacaranda acutifolia), Mexican ash (Fraxinus uhdei), Montezuma cypress (Taxodium mucronatum), pecan (Carya illinoensis), rusty fig (Ficus rubignosa), Southern California black walnut (Juglans californica), southern magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora), white mulberry (Morus alba), and several varieties of eucalyptus (e.g., Eucalyptus camaldulensis, Eucalyptus globus, Eucalyptus polyanthemos, Eucalyptus robusta, Eucalyptus sideroxylon). Park workers
initially planted conifers and other evergreens, but in the 1930s and 1940s, different and more exotic species were added. The Catalina cherry (Prunus lyonii), grown off the coast of Southern California, was planted in Sycamore Grove. The natal plum (Carissa grandiflora), native to South Africa, the Australian tea tree (Melaleuca alternifolia), native to the Australian outback, and the queen palm (Cocos plumosa), from southern Brazil to Argentina, were planted in the parking lot next to the upper picnic area. The India rubber tree (Ficus elastica), native to India and Malaysia, was planted in the upper picnic area. In 1939, John Silva, a Fullerton Park Department employee, compiled a survey of the more exotic flora in Hillcrest Park ("Trees and Shrubs of Interest in Hillcrest Park"). With the exception of the pampas grass near the upper picnic area stairs, all of the vegetation listed remains in the Park. Many of the mature trees in Hillcrest Park are 70 to 80 years old. Some of the trees have been adversely affected by crowding, drought, pests, and lack of proper pruning. As part of the master plan, a survey of tree conditions ("Tree Management and Preservation Component") was completed. The report contains a representative sampling of the total tree population with suggested maintenance and treatment plans for specific trees. When Fullerton acquired the land for Hillcrest Park in 1920, plans for an auto camp site were immediately developed by Park Superintendent Johann George Seupelt, a Bavarian-born horticulturist, forester, and landscape architect. The city had few hotels and officials hoped that the camp would attract tourists. The southwest corner of Valley View and Harbor (then Spadra) Boulevard was selected as the site because the land was relatively flat, and Harbor Boulevard, then only a two lane road, was a major thoroughfare through the town. The Fullerton Municipal Auto Camp, which had water, gas and electric lights, officially opened in October 1920. The City Clerk notified the American Automobile Association, and the site was listed in the organization's Directory of Motor Courts and Camps. To attract tourists, Fullerton allowed visitors to stay for free for the first three days, then pay 50 cents per day thereafter. By July 1921, over 300 people were staying at the camp, including permanent residents of Fullerton. Throughout the 1920s, Fullerton made improvements to the camping accommodations. The wooden bridge over the barranca on Brea Boulevard was replaced in 1928, making access easier, comfort stations were built, a barbeque pit, septic tank, drainage, and landscaping were added, and picnic tables with palm thatched roofs were constructed. In 1926, a 30- by 48- brick Park Superintendent's house (razed, 1936) was built adjacent to the auto camp.

In 1921, excavation began on the reservoir and a 60- by 150-foot municipal plunge. The reservoir was completed in 1922, and in 1925, the first of a series of Easter sunrise services, attended by thousands, were held on the reservoir hilltop. The swimming pool project was abandoned. In 1922, Harry Byerrum, Sr., then caretaker of Hillcrest Park, began to lay out the Park's roads using a plow, mule team, and Fresno scraper. Grading went slowly but picked up with the addition of "three head of mules." Park workers began planting trees, including pine, ash, poplar, and eucalyptus, in recently graded areas. In July 1927, the City Council approved the purchase of an additional 400 pine trees at a cost of $150.00 for the hill facing Brea Boulevard. This area, known as the Pine Forest or Pine Slope, was designed as a man-made forest. The trees clustered into a forest provided the Park with a verdant, naturalistic atmosphere, but were probably planted for their imagined role in preventing malaria and other diseases. At the time, "pine forests were valued on the theory that the turpentine they diffused into the air would purify it by destroying deleterious gases." Seupelt also believed that the oxygen produced by trees "aided respiration" that was greatly needed in city environments. By 1928, 1000 pines dotted the Pine Slope. For the next twenty years, Fullerton park workers would continue to add trees to the Park. The tree planting required considerable piping for irrigation, and as a result, piping and watering lines were increased.

After the Auto Camp was opened to the public, Seupelt developed plans for adjacent areas. Sycamore Grove, originally conceived as a large lawn area sheltered by sycamore trees, was developed in the early 1920s. A lily pond, formal flower garden, and cactus garden were added to the northwest corner of the Park off Brea Boulevard. The approximately 100-
50-foot pond, which was constructed in 1924 from water dammed up from Brea Creek, with its blooming Nile lilies, papyrus, California tules, and bamboo, quickly became a tourist spot. The upper picnic area was also laid out and came to be used on a regular basis by residents and service groups. By the mid-1930s, use of this picnic area was so heavy, Sycamore Grove was turned into a full picnic area, complete with tables, barbeque equipment, and sinks.

In 1930, members of the Ebell Club developed plans for the Pepper Tree Plaza, a picnic area sheltered by a grove of trees off Lemon Boulevard adjacent to the lower lawn. The beginnings of a small zoo and aviary were also started in a small area south of the pond. Squirrels were introduced into the Park in 1936, and during this same period, quail and pheasants also roamed the parkland. In 1931, Fullerton received permission from the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Division of Fish and Game, to keep a male deer in the Park, but when the deer was killed by a gun-toting visitor and maintenance of the zoo became too difficult, it was abandoned, and the aviary was transferred to Amerige Park. When Hillcrest Park opened, visitors were allowed to camp throughout the parkland, but by the late 1930s, this activity was discouraged, and city workers closed the Park at night. Supervised Boy and Girl Scout troops were allowed to stay overnight. Additional lighting was added to the Park in 1931, but the interior of the Park has never been well lit.

When the Great Depression hit Fullerton in 1930, the Park's sites were laid out, but a number of areas were still only partially landscaped. While the city had formal plans in place, there was no money available for additional projects. It would take funding from state and federal work programs authorized by the United States Congress to finally complete the Park. Funding received from local, state, and federal relief agencies from 1931 to 1941 allowed the city to transform Hillcrest Park into a truly unique environment. Relief workers built roads, parking lots, pathways, and bridges, planted trees and shrubbery, established sewage and drainage systems, laid out new activity areas, including picnic areas, playgrounds, and an informal ball field, constructed a booster pump building, a garage and warehouse, and a pistol range, eventually leaving no area of the Park untouched. As buildings—the Izaak Walton League Cabin (1931), American Legion Patriotic Hall (1932), Girl Scout Headquarters (1940)—were added, laborers enhanced their appearance with landscaping and rock work. Rock work and landscaping were employed to define established areas within the Park, including the Big Bowl, Sycamore Grove, and the upper picnic area. Workers added additional features, such as a bridge over the lily pond, to existing areas, and replaced the Pepper Tree Plaza with a playground, which included swings, teeter totters, and a merry-go-round. The Auto Camp was also gradually dismantled, and the Park Superintendent's house was replaced by a fountain area.

The onset of World War II resulted in a substantial scaling back of the intensity of development, and the Park changed only slightly during the following decades. In the 1950s, the lily pond was turned into a duck pond but remained a tourist attraction, and new playground equipment was added. When maintenance of the pond became too difficult and costly, the pond was drained and became part of the barranca. The fountain stopped working, and when a 1976 study showed that repair costs would be extremely high, it was turned into a planter. Hillcrest Road, which was two way, was turned into a single-lane road to provide more space for larger cars. After the Girl Scouts left the park in 1974, the playground area off Lemon was turned into a tot lot, and an additional tot lot was added adjacent to Sycamore Grove.

In the 1950s, the City acquired an additional 7½ acres along Brea Boulevard for the Park, and a land exchange in 1959 netted additional acreage, but also allowed a small section of land to be zoned commercial. In 1965, Lions Field was added to Hillcrest Park, and the vacant lot was turned into a sports field. The Lions Field Club House was constructed in 1969, and additional buildings were added near the ball fields in the 1970s and 1980s. The WPA-built garage and warehouse, used by city maintenance workers, and the police pistol range were dismantled to make room for a parking lot to serve ballplayers and their families. The additional acreage, situated north of the original parkland, was used for recreational purposes, and does not detract from the original area of the Park.

In May 1995, the firm of RHA Landscape Architects-Planners, Inc. was retained by the City of Fullerton to prepare a master plan for Hillcrest Park. The purpose and goals of the master plan are to bring Hillcrest Park back to its status as
Fullerton's premier park. The plan, which is in agreement with the Park's original design intentions, requires the restoration, retention, and preservation of historic features.

Contributing and Noncontributing Elements

Contributing Resources (19)

Buildings (2)
- Boys and Girls Library
- American Legion Patriotic Hall (Hillcrest Park Recreation Center)

Sites (6)
- Big Bowl
- Great Lawn
- Lower Lawn, Hillcrest Recreation Area
- Pine Forest (North Slope)
- Sycamore Grove
- Upper picnic area

Structures (6)
- Park roadway system
- Path and trail system
- Depression-era rockwork (e.g., stairways, walls, curbs, pilasters, columns, etc.)
- Barranca
- Reservoir
- Lily/duck pond

Objects (6)
- Fountain
- Izaak Walton League memorial
- Veterans of Foreign Wars memorial plaque
- American Legion memorial plaque
- Spanish American War memorial plaque

Noncontributing Resources (12)

Buildings (8)
- Booster pump house
- Izaak Walton League Cabin
- Wooden storage building, upper picnic area
- Picnic shelter, Recreation Center area
- Restrooms (4), Recreation Center area, pond area, upper picnic area, Sycamore Grove

Sites (2)
- Tot lots (2), Sycamore Grove, Recreation Center area

Structures (1)
- Mini-stage, Big Bowl

Objects (1)
- Fullerton Emblem Club memorial

All of the noncontributing elements are of more recent construction.
Boundary excludes section shown in stripes at north end of park
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Hillcrest Park is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A for its association with local, state, and federal unemployment relief programs of the 1930s and 1940s, such as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), Civil Works Administration (CWA), State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA), the Work Projects Administration (WPA), and the National Youth Administration (NYA). These programs were established during the Great Depression to provide employment in public works of lasting value, and Hillcrest Park contains a comprehensive collection of Depression-era designed and built recreational structures for the public. The Park also is significant under Criterion C. It stands as a legacy of New Deal and other relief programs and serves as an excellent example of the types of recreational resources made possible by public works projects. Its developed amenities, particularly its handsome stone masonry, stand as a fine local example of the New Deal's beneficial impact on park facilities throughout the nation. Section 7 of this nomination details the fine physical features of this premiere park. Hillcrest Park has also served as an important recreational and cultural facility since its establishment in 1920 as Fullerton's only "great" park. The Park had a significant social impact on the welfare of citizens of Fullerton and Orange County, filling a recreational void in the community. The period of significance, 1920-1943, encompasses the establishment of the Park through the year in which the final work of the New Deal programs in Fullerton ended.

Historical Background

In January 1920, the City of Fullerton purchased 33.649 acres from Fred M. West for $67,298 for use as a park. Two acres of the property had been acquired earlier for a reservoir on September 8, 1913, and the remaining property was considered ideal for park purposes. At the time of the purchase, the property was vacant aside from a few wildflowers and barley fields. Two local businesses were using the parkland: Dean Hardware was storing a cache of dynamite in the hillside off Brea Boulevard, and Arthur W. Purdy was leasing land at the base of the hill off Lemon Avenue for his diary business. Fullerton had only 4,415 residents in 1920, but town boosters, who were primarily transplants from other areas of the nation, recognized that they were building a town and were eager to establish a park system. Then known as Reservoir Hill, the parkland property was selected because it would be a recognizable landmark from the northern approaches to the city. It was also envisioned as Fullerton's "great" park. The Fullerton Board of Trade was entrusted with naming the site, and after soliciting suggestions from the general public, the parkland was christened "Hillcrest Park" on May 19, 1920.

When the land for Hillcrest Park was purchased, Fullerton's park system was in its early development stage. The Park Commission, established in 1914, oversaw one city-owned park, Amerige (formerly Commonwealth) Park, and the library and grammar school grounds. Park planning progressed on a piecemeal basis until the Park Commission decided to hire a park superintendent. The Fullerton City Council instructed the City Clerk to advertise for the position on July 24, 1918, and Johann George Seupelt was hired as Fullerton's first park superintendent on October 18, 1918. Seupelt quickly developed plans for Amerige Park, and when the land for Hillcrest Park was purchased, began preliminary plans for what was to be Fullerton's largest park. By 1922, Seupelt had completed formalized plans for Hillcrest Park. When Seupelt's contract was not renewed in 1925, Harry Byerrum Sr., who had been responsible for the Auto Camp and Park maintenance, took over the position he was to hold until 1954. Unlike Seupelt, Byerrum had no formal landscape architecture education, and continued to implement the plans laid out by his predecessor. During the Depression, he worked closely with Herman Hiltscher, Fullerton's City Engineer, in planning and then implementing relief projects completed in the Park. From the start, the landscape vision and uses for Fullerton's two parks differed widely. Because
its location to the town's center, Amerige Park, a much smaller area of nine acres was seen as a more intensive and active area with playgrounds, baseball fields, and a bandstand, whereas Hillcrest Park was viewed as a natural and more informal area with meandering roads and luxuriant plantings. Newspaper and promotional literature from the 1920s describe Hillcrest Park as a "beauty spot" and Seupelt referred to his Park design as the "plan beautiful." Seupelt's original plans for Hillcrest Park called for a theater, suitable for outdoor entertainment, a memorial plunge, picnic grounds, large lawns, forests of trees, formal gardens, a Japanese tea garden, wading pools, tennis courts, and beautiful drives, lined at suitable distances with parking places, that would wind through the Park. The entire project was expected to cost over $200,000. Seupelt hoped to have distinctive spots within the Park funded by local groups, such as the Ebell and Kiwanis Clubs. In 1925, Seupelt's plans for Hillcrest Park won a Southern California landscape competition, and his drawing were displayed at the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles and at the Anaheim and Santa Ana Chambers of Commerce.

Johann George Seupelt (1877-1961)

Bavarian-born Johann George Seupelt arrived in Baltimore in 1904. He served as a horticulture instructor at Washington State Agricultural College in Pullman from 1906 to 1908, then as Spokane's city forester from 1908 to 1915. During this time, he wrote articles on gardening and delivered speeches on tree planting and management. In 1908, Seupelt became the first student from Washington State Agricultural College to receive an M.S. in horticulture and landscape architecture. In 1917, Seupelt moved to Los Angeles to assist the great California landscape architect Paul G. Thieme, who was then establishing a private practice. Born and educated in Germany, Thieme specialized in Italian and Spanish gardens of great size and intricate detail, most notably the grounds of the Doheny or Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills, now a public park. In October 1918, Seupelt accepted the position as Fullerton's first park superintendent. After assuming his position, Seupelt quickly implemented changes to Fullerton's park system. In November 1918, he completed plans for Amerige Park, which were immediately approved, and the park grounds were quickly developed. That same year, Seupelt began systematic tree planting in the city. Over 2,500 trees were planted at a cost of $4,883 throughout the city's thoroughfares. He completed plans for the grounds of Wilshire Avenue School (1914), Fullerton's second elementary school, which were implemented over the next two years. For his landscaping projects, Seupelt initially trucked in free plants and trees from Santa Ana and other nearby cities, but by 1920, he had established a nursery that provided many of the plants needed for public landscaping. He also continued to purchase plants and trees from local growers in Fullerton, Anaheim, and Placentia. After his services with the city were discontinued in 1925, Seupelt opened a landscaping business in downtown Fullerton (109 N. Spadra). While in Fullerton, Seupelt also completed landscaping plans for the Fullerton Hospital, the La Habra Women's Club, Whittier College, the Montebello City Park, and grammar schools in Anaheim, Brea, and Placentia. In addition, he designed four electric city signs for the Chamber of Commerce, which were placed at the principal gateways to Fullerton.

In 1926, Seupelt returned to Spokane where he worked privately and as the consultant landscape designer for the cities of Chewelah and Colfax, then as principal landscape designer for the architectural firm of Whitehouse and Price. Seupelt completed projects for Ernest V. Price and Harold C. Whitehouse, who designed hundreds of buildings throughout the northwest, until his death in 1961. His most significant project during this period was landscaping the Spokane Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist (1925-1954), an elaborate Gothic Revival church designed by Harold C. Whitehouse (1884-1974), and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Seupelt's papers are on file with the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, part of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, in Spokane.

Eminently qualified for horticulture and landscaping work, Seupelt was in the unfortunate position of being employed in government positions during World War I when anti-German sentiment was high. While living in Spokane, Seupelt was attacked by the editor of the Hunters Leader, a weekly newspaper published in Hunter, Washington, for being "un-American," and after moving to Fullerton in 1918, he experienced similar anti-German discrimination. Seupelt was
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reappointed as Fullerton's Park Superintendent on May 5, 1920, but in September 1921, a petition circulated calling for his dismissal. The Fullerton City Council dismissed the petition "owing to the fact that no charge or reason for such action was set forth." When Seupelt was not reappointed in 1925, his German ancestry appeared to play a primary part. The excuse given at the City Council meeting was that the city was not in the position to spend money for the development of its parks and was therefore discontinuing Seupelt's services. Harry Byerrum, Sr. was then immediately moved in to replace Seupelt. Throughout his lifetime, Seupelt assisted new German immigrant arrivals, and authored pro-American patriotic speeches ("On Patriotism") and essays. In 1936, he returned to Fullerton and visited Hillcrest Park where he expressed his approval of the new rockwork.

The Great Depression hit the City of Fullerton hard. Banks foreclosed on homes, businesses closed, and the town began losing residents when many left to look for work elsewhere. By 1931, over 500 Fullerton men were unemployed, and by 1933, Orange County's relief rolls contained 17,000 people, nearly 15 percent of the total work force. To create needed jobs, city officials in 1931 proposed a $60,000 bond to develop Amerige and Hillcrest Parks. The Beverly Hills landscaping firm of McKown & Kuehl was called in to develop preliminary improvement plans for the two parks. In keeping with Seupelt's original design intent, the plans maintained Hillcrest Park as a "naturalistic beauty spot", while calling for the grading of roads to improve circulation and traffic, the opening up of vistas, and the addition of lawn areas, fountains, and pathways. When the bond failed to receive the two-thirds majority required, city staff looked to state and federal relief programs for assistance. Despite its conservative and Republican reputation, Fullerton applied for and received funds in record number, and by the end of the Depression the city had received more New Deal monies than any other city in Orange County. While other cities in the County were reluctant to ask for aid, Fullerton requested funds as soon as they became available. As Herman Hiltscher noted: "We just made our work relief applications in the proper form and followed through. Other towns seemed to think there was too much red-tape involved in the procedure and didn't go after the help offered by the government." Just how well Fullerton handled the Depression years is found in a statement issued by the Southern California office of the WPA Division of Information: "A record of self-improvement considered unique in the United States has been made by Fullerton, California . . . While other places moaned with depression-born financial headaches, this little city . . . built nearly $3,000,000 worth of public improvements and simultaneously reduced its public debts while holding down the tax rate . . . Literally, the unemployment helped Fullerton and Fullerton helped itself and the unemployed." During its ten depression years, Fullerton invested $5,614,000 in private and public funds in city improvements. Of this amount, over $400,000 alone was spent on Hillcrest Park.

The first workers to be hired under the relief programs were Fullerton residents, but they were quickly joined by men from various other cities in the County. At one time, during flood construction work, there were as many as 850 workers, but the average was around 400 men. When funds became available from a new local, state, or federal relief agency, Fullerton officials immediately funded projects in Hillcrest Park. City staff and residents alike wanted Hillcrest Park developed, and the Park's sizeable acreage made it ideal for the employment of a large number of workers. Much of the parkland work also did not require skilled laborers. In addition, Hillcrest Park's Auto Camp proved beneficial to many of the initial homeless relief workers who found it cheap and convenient to camp in the Park overnight, then work on the grounds during the day. Each Hillcrest Park application, which was usually drawn by up City Engineer Herman Hiltscher, outlined the type of project, man days required to finish, and the amount of money Fullerton would furnish for materials, labor, supervision, and equipment rental. Laborers would receive work orders from government officials in Santa Ana, then show up at Hillcrest Park where Harry Byerrum, Sr. would oversee the project. On occasion, it was necessary to ask for additional man days to carry on a project, and it was difficult to plan ahead as there were no assurances that the work would continue for any length of time. When the first RFC project began in 1933, officials in Santa Ana telephoned that they were sending 200 men to work on Hillcrest Park. Fullerton staff had to scramble all over Southern California to find enough picks and shovels for the project. As Byerrum recalled: "We did the work by hand. It was primarily a relief project, but we provided work for as many men as we possibly could. Instead of machinery we used manpower. If we had used up-to-date equipment we might have gotten the job done quicker, but that would have defeated the purpose of
City workers started the first local relief program in 1931 by donating one day's pay each month to put the city's unemployed to work in Amerige and Hillcrest Parks at a salary of $4.00 a day. These workers did general clean-up and landscaping of the two parks. On April 13, 1933, the city began the first federal government emergency employment program—the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (1932-1939) created by the Herbert Hoover Administration—that provided needed work for over 400 unemployed residents. The program provided labor only while Fullerton furnished the supervision, materials, and equipment necessary for particular jobs. RFC Project D3AX ($30,678) entailed reinforcing walls, building retaining walls, installing drainage and sprinkler systems and water and sewer lines, excavating and leveling of the grounds, and the planting of trees and shrubbery. Approximately 2,300 feet of roads were widened, straightened, and rebuilt, and the Big Bowl was excavated and shaped for the proposed amphitheater. Workers constructed 420 feet of rock wall using desert flagstone for face and concrete for backing—the first part of a rock project that was to continue throughout the Park into the 1940s. A large number of men were used in hoeing, weeding, taking care of flowers and shrubbery, and general work in the Park. RFC workers also began to dismantle the Auto Camp and started planting and landscaping the Great Lawn area.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation was replaced in late 1933 by the Civil Works Administration (1933-1934). While the RFC provided only for labor, not materials, and limited workers to three to ten days of work a month, the CWA was a true works program, providing the jobless with real employment that was outside the realm of charity. Under the CWA, the federal government, for the first time in United States history, assumed the complete responsibility to undertake projects, hire workers, and place applicants according to their skills. In earlier programs, recipients had to apply for relief, submit to a needs test, and establish the amount of aid needed. The CWA required no needs test. Those who were hired received regular wages and worked regular hours without regard to the number of members in their families or the size of their budget deficits. CWA workers in Hillcrest Park (140 total) were paid according to their line of work, with wages ranging from 45 cents to $1.10 per hour, and were required to work five days a week, six hours a day. For CWA Project 0-19 ($38,365), CWA park workers installed additional sprinkler systems, paved and asphalted roads, constructed parking lots, graded lawns, and excavated the barranca. Laborers also built a booster pump house off of Lemon Avenue, which took the place of one formerly in use at Brea and Lemon Avenue. The new booster plant, which had two units, eliminated the excess load placed on the former single unit, and provided steady water pressure to residents for the first time. To service the booster station, 1,400 feet of ten inch pipe was laid from Brea Boulevard to the building. The rock work continued to be constructed, but the pay differential allowed the city to finally hire skilled rockmasons who could direct needed projects. An additional CWA project, Project D3BX ($9,802), consisted of excavating a 3,000 foot channel along the north side of Hillcrest Park to prevent flooding.

In 1934, uncompleted Hillcrest Park projects were taken over the by State Emergency Relief Administration (1933-1935). SERA received allocations from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and for the first time, members of the Fullerton City Council were required to approve formal proposals which were then forwarded to Santa Ana and...
Sacramento for final approval. For Project 31-B12-13 ($14,569) and Project 31-B1-223 ($36,271), SERA laborers built additional rock steps, gas stoves for outdoor cooking, a retaining wall around a portion of the reservoir, a rock bridge at the lily pond, leveled a play area to be used as a ball field off Lemon Avenue, and made improvements to Sycamore Grove. Workers also constructed a rock wall and steps in front of the American Legion Patriotic Hall, as well as the roadway to the building, and continued to support sloping banks and plant trees and shrubbery.

When SERA funds ran out, Fullerton officials looked to the Work Projects Administration (1935-1943), formerly the Works Progress Administration. From 1936 to 1942, over $200,000 of WPA funds were spent on Amerige and Hillcrest Parks. In 1936, WPA workers, at a cost of $25,000, razed the Park Superintendent's house, using the salvaged materials to build a 20- by 40-foot garage and warehouse (razed), and constructed an electric fountain on this same site. In addition, WPA workers widened and paved roads, added trails, trimmed and planted trees, widened and smoothed the barranca, which had flooded in 1938, laid out an informal ball field, improved the hilltop picnic grounds, constructed a new bridge over the barranca at Valley View, finished dismantling the Auto Camp, and built a police pistol shooting range. Rock masons continued to add flagstone to the Park, concentrating on road walls, pathways, and stairways, and constructed the Izaak Walton League Cabin front porch. Carpenters built tables and benches for picnic tables. The WPA also provided funds for the purchase of playground equipment.

By the end of the Depression, relief workers had transformed Hillcrest Park into a truly unique environment, one with imaginative landscaping and a comprehensive and representative collection of leisure and recreational structures for the public. The transformation of the Park could only have been accomplished so extensively through the WPA and its predecessor agencies. At the time, money was scarce, but the ready availability of workers coupled with government public works projects served as an economic stimulant for the further development of Fullerton's finest park. The mass utilization of labor produced a public landscape that could not be recreated today, and Hillcrest Park stands as a legacy of New Deal and other work programs of the 1930s.

Entertainment and Recreation Context

Hillcrest Park has served as an important recreational and cultural facility in Fullerton since 1920. Fullerton's population grew dramatically during the decade following the Park's establishment, rising from 4,415 residents in 1920 to 10,860 in 1930. This population and urban expansion led to a growing demand for recreation, and Hillcrest Park filled a recreational void by providing new forms of leisure and entertainment for the town's residents. The Fullerton Municipal Auto Camp served as the city's first and only motor court for both visitors and residents until the mid-1930s. The lily pond (later the duck pond) and formal gardens were a local tourist attraction, and the polychromatic electric fountain, with its colorful light and spray combinations, became a nightly event as visitors parked their cars along Harbor Boulevard to view the light changes. The upper picnic area was heavily used by both city and county residents. Local organizational records show that many volunteer, fraternal, and patriotic groups, such as the Kiwanis Club, Ebell Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, used the hilltop picnic tables for their annual picnics. The area's 30 picnic tables, which seated from 14 to 16 persons, proved so inadequate that additional tables were added to Sycamore Grove and the Pepper Tree Plaza in 1936-37. The Park's sizeable acreage made it ideal for parties and family reunions, and large groups came from all over Southern California to use the parklands. After the Izaak Walton Cabin was constructed in 1931, the log cabin was booked almost every day by local organizations. It was common for a group to picnic in one of the areas, then move to the Cabin for evening card games and other types of indoor recreation. The Big Bowl area was used for a variety of small musical and theatrical events starting in the 1920s. Reservoir Hill became the site for Easter sunrise services, attended by thousands, and beginning in the 1940s, the Izaak Walton Cabin served as the site for Easter morning breakfasts. From 1938 to the start of World War II, the Fullerton Service Club Council, which represented 12 local groups, annually decorated the trees along Lemon Avenue with holiday lights. Hillcrest Park also served as a safe haven for residents after the disastrous 1933 Long Beach earthquake, and again in 1938, when flood waters covered the
southern part of Fullerton. Residents from around Southern California camped out at the Park, many for weeks, with the American Legion Hall’s dining area serving as a food distribution center for the displaced. As the Park developed, usage increased. By 1937, use of Hillcrest Park had grown so dramatically that Fullerton employed WPA funds to hire two hostesses to oversee park accommodations, book groupings, and picnic table preparations. The hostesses tabulated that 2,000 people were using the Park weekly.57

With the economic downturn of the Depression, development of Fullerton's parks ended just at a time when recreational facilities were most needed. The unemployed and partially employed and their families found themselves with a great deal of time on their hands when there was a serious lack of recreational facilities. Economic hardship was reflected in the ‘lessened attendance at commercial recreation attractions’ and increased ‘demands for the use of municipal and voluntary agency facilities.’58 The Roosevelt Administration placed a high value on recreation, and leisure and sports were factored into the economic recovery efforts.59 The public works programs for parklands, such as the ones sought by Fullerton, were first designed to provide immediate temporary employment while constructing a visible point of civic pride. When the recreational facilities were finished, additional government funds for employment were then available for park instructors or supervisors. To take advantage of this second phase, non-construction funding, Orange County applied for and received WPA Women's and Professional Division funds to hire recreational workers for all incorporated and unincorporated communities in the County. Authorized on January 23, 1936, Work Project 9752-0 provided park workers for Hillcrest Park. The relief workers led children in a variety of activities, including games, handicrafts, hikes, gardening, and picnics.60 In addition, Fullerton arranged to have the Orange County WPA Band, part of the Federal Music Project (1935-1943), perform summer concerts in the Bowl. Taking the lead from the County, Fullerton established a playground commission in March 1936 whose sole function was to apply for and administer federal relief funds for the training and hiring of park workers.61 From 1936 to 1943, the city received WPA funds to hire park instructors and supervisors to oversee playground activities in both Amerige and Hillcrest Parks. To keep children off the street during summer months, a summer playground program was instituted and various activities for boys and girls, such as crafts and sports, were offered at Hillcrest Park. Fullerton also received National Youth Administration (NYA) funds to hire high school, college, and graduate students from nearby institutions to supervise recreation programs in the Park. A subdivision within the WPA, the NYA (1935-1943) provided work training for unemployed youth and part-time employment for needy high school, college, and graduate students, allowing them to continue with their education while benefiting the communities in which they lived. These WPA personnel funds provided additional employment for needy youths and adults while increasing entertainment and recreational activities within Hillcrest Park and made a great social impact on the welfare of citizens of Fullerton and Orange County.
Bibliographical References

1. "City of Fullerton, Historical Landmark Commission, Landmark No. 6." Both the resolution and staff report are on file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library.

2. Orange County property records place the property at 200 Brea; earlier historic surveys place the Park at 1300 North Harbor.

3. The flagstaff pilasters now define the baseball field at Amerige (formerly Commonwealth) Park (300 W. Commonwealth). The pilasters were originally situated about 120 feet south of Commonwealth Avenue, but when the ball field and grandstand were redesigned in the 1980s, the pilasters were relocated to their present position, about 15 feet from the street. The stone pilasters at Amerige Park are a Fullerton Historic Landmark. (Fullerton Through the Years: a Survey of Architectural, Cultural & Environmental Heritage. Fullerton: Development Services Dept., 2002, p. 114.)


5. Johann George Seupelt, Fullerton's first park superintendent, drew up the first formal plans to turn the Bowl into a Greek theater. Using Seupelt's original idea, the landscape firm of McKown & Kuehl also prepared preliminary plans to turn the Bowl into an amphitheater. In 1930, the Ebell Club drew up formal plans to position their headquarters adjacent to the Bowl, with the rear portion of the building used for cultural presentations, but the project was never completed. In 1938-39, the Fullerton Service Club Council, a group of 12 local organizations, approached the City with a plan for a community bowl. Additional plans for the Bowl area, including plans by M. Purkiss Associates, a local landscaping firm, are on file in the Community Services Department. The master plan also calls for amphitheater seating.

6. John W. King. "Plan of Electric Fountain Hillcrest Park." August 1935. Drawn by JWK noted on plans. On file in the Community Services Department. Plans for the fountain were first submitted to SERA, but funding was obtained from the WPA. (Also: "New Fountain at Hillcrest Park Looms." Fullerton Daily News Tribune June 24, 1935, p. 1; "Park's Electric Polychromatic Fountain Tested and Found Ready to Be Dedicated." Fullerton Daily News Tribune December 18, 1936, p. 1; "Fullerton's New Electric Fountain Fronting Hillcrest Park Dedicated." Fullerton Daily News Tribune December 19, 1936, p. 1.)

7. Arthur M. Thompson came from Los Angeles around 1918 to erect a home for banker Frederick Krause on the corner of Malvern and Spadra (523 N. Spadra). This two-story Colonial Revival house was later moved to 865 N. Grandview. Thompson remained in Fullerton (217 N. Berkeley) doing extensive building until 1939 when he moved to Santa Rosa, where he died on September 28, 1943. (A. M. Thompson, Contractor. Dies." Fullerton Daily News Tribune September 29, 1943, p. 1.)
8 Campbell was responsible for selecting and hiring Thompson and insisted that the Library be built to her specifications. She also worked closely with the interior designer and furniture company McKee and Wentworth to ensure that the Library's interior was both functional and inviting. Born in North Dakota in 1896, Mary Campbell moved with her family to Fullerton in 1902 where she went through Fullerton grammar and high schools. In 1926, Campbell was appointed as Fullerton's first children's librarian. She began the first children's summer reading program in 1927 in the then new Boys and Girls Library, and went on to establish the libraries in Fullerton's earliest grammar schools, setting a precedent for later schools. She also began the school mobile library service program. While serving at the Boys and Girls Library, Campbell began collecting every landmark children's book published in English from 1659 to World War I. This collection, continued by her successor Carolyn Johnson, now known as the Mary Laura Campbell Collection, is one of the premier children's literary collections in the nation, and is housed in the main branch of the Fullerton Public Library. Campbell retired in 1959.

9 Boys and Girls Library, Corner of Pomona and Wilshire Avenues, Fullerton, California." On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library. The main library was a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival building constructed in 1907 with funds ($10,000) received from Andrew Carnegie. The architects were Hunt & Eager. Additions were made in 1923 and 1926, but more space was needed, and it was demolished in 1940 to make way for a new WPA library. Before the Boys and Girls Library was built, the children's section of the library was housed in a 10- by 12-foot alcove off the main reading room. One table, six chairs, and a few shelves of material were all that was available.


11 “Plan of Izaak Walton Cabin Created in Hillcrest Park.” 1931. On file in the Community Services Department.


13 John C. Gregory served as President of the Fullerton Chapter from 1928 to 1942. He went on to serve as conservation chairman of the state group, and director of the national organization. In 1938, he was chosen by then Governor Merriam to help survey wildlife and game refuges in California. He served as Fullerton Police Chief from 1940 to 1950, and was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Orange County Police Officer Association in 1929. He retired from the City in 1951, and died in Anaheim in 1955.

14 In the 1930s, the Cabin could be rented for $2.00 a day ($3.00 for kitchen use). Currently, the likes charge $20.00 to $40.00 per hour, depending on whether the group is nonprofit or profit, and the funds are split equally between the City of Fullerton and the League.


16 Anne Newman (later Anne Shoemaker) was a very active staff worker in the national offices of the Izaak Walton League in Chicago in the 1920s and 1930s. She left the League in the 1940s to work on the war effort in Washington, D.C., then retired to Winter Park, Florida. She later visited the women in the Fullerton Chapter. (William Voigt, Jr. Born with Fists Doubled: Defending Outdoor America. Spirit Lake, Iowa: Izaak Walton League of America Endowment, 1992, p. 73; Carol Mullen. “Women Given Role in Conservation.” Fullerton Daily News Tribune June 20, 1967.)
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18Interview with Robert J. Green, President, Izaak Walton League of America, Fullerton Chapter, August 2, 2003. See also: "Waltonians Seek to Build Log Cabin in Hillcrest Park." Fullerton Daily News Tribune February 4, 1931, p. 1; "Cabin Details to be Planned." Fullerton Daily News Tribune, February 12, 1931, p. 1; "Walton Cabin is Dedicated: More than 400 Attend Hillcrest Event." Fullerton Daily News Tribune October 5, 1931, p. 5. Plans for the Cabin reconstruction are on file in the Community Services Department.

19Harold McCabe was appointed the City Attorney for La Habra in 1930 and was appointed chief deputy for the District Attorney in 1931. In 1938, he opened up law offices in the Chapman Building. ("Harold McCabe New Sam Collins Deputy." Fullerton Daily News Tribune August 14, 1931, p. 1; "Harold McCabe Opens Fullerton Law Office." Fullerton Daily News Tribune August 8, 1938, p. 1.)

20"Club Building (Fullerton)." Southwest Builder and Contractor June 3, 1932, p. 53 and June 24, 1932, p. 50. Carey (115 S. Maiden) and Potter (211 Jacaranda), local builders, worked together and separately on Fullerton building projects. Carey's major project in the area was the Brea Creek Bridge. In addition to being a contractor, Potter was elected to the Fullerton City Council in 1928 and 1930. Their project just before the Hall was a storeroom for Fullerton Union High School (Southwest Builder and Contractor July 15, 1932, p. 54.)

21Plans for the Dames and Moore retrofit are on file in the offices of the Community Services Department.

22Plans for Hillcrest Terrace are on file in the Community Services Department.

23There were actually 56 servicemen killed. All of the names are listed on the American Legion plaque.


25"Hillcrest Veteran's Memorial, December 7, 1987 [dedication program]." On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library. The Fullerton Emblem Club Number 469 was initiated in November 1971 by a group of women related to members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

26John Silva. "Trees and Shrubs of Interest in Hillcrest Park." Fullerton: Fullerton Park Dept., 1939. On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library. This survey was included in the time capsule that was placed in the cornerstone of the Fullerton City Hall in 1942.

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28"308 Auto Camp Tourists, July." Fullerton Daily News Tribune August 5, 1921, p. 5.

29Report of Committee to Municipal Plunge Association. Fullerton, July 24, 1922. On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library. In September 1921, the Ebell Club launched a movement to build a memorial plunge in Hillcrest Park that would be both a swimming pool and a permanent memorial to those who had died in World War I. Seupelt included the memorial plunge in his original plans. The bond issue failed to pass and the plunge was abandoned.

30"Park Grading is in Progress." Fullerton Daily News Tribune April 30, 1923, p. 1.


32"Says Shade Trees Are Health Giving; City Forester J. G. Seupelt Gives Sanitary Planting Streets and Parks." Newspaper article; on file in Seupelt’s papers at the Eastern Washington State Historical Society.

33Plan of Garage Hillcrest Park." August 1935. Plans are on file in the Community Services Department.


35The reservoir property was purchased from G. F. and Myrtle L. McDermont for $4,000. The property included a five foot right-of-way for pipe and a 20 foot right-of-way for road.

36Purdy, the owner of the Fullerton Sanitary Dairy (215 E. Amerige), was allowed to plant a crop of hay until his lease ran out. After complaints by J. G. Seupelt, the Fullerton City Council ordered Dean to remove the dynamite in 1922.

37"Brilliant Gathering." Fullerton Daily News Tribune May 20, 1920, p. 1; "Reservoir Hill Names." Fullerton Daily News Tribune May 7, 1920, p. 1. The Board of Trade’s advertising committee was entrusted with making the final selection. The winning contest names were Altamira and Skyline, but when these names were rejected by the Board of Trade members at-large, Hillcrest was selected. Mrs. Bessie E. Smith (209 E. Commonwealth) came up with the winning name. Founded in 1897, the Fullerton Board of Trade later became the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce.

38When Byerrum retired in 1954 after 31 years of service, Fullerton had a municipal network of 14 parks covering about 100 acres. The highlight of Byerrum’s career was the formation in 1945 of a cooperative plan between the city and school officials to combine a park site with school property purchases. The City of Fullerton named Byerrum Park (501 N. Raymond) after him in 1951. A lifelong Fullerton resident (129 N. Cornell), Byerrum died in 1971. ("Outstanding Service: Fullerton’s Park System Great Tribute to Work of Byerrum." Fullerton Daily News Tribune May 8, 1954, p. 3.)


41Thiene came to California about 1910, finding working as a garden designer in San Diego’s Panama-California
Exposition in 1915 where he eventually became head gardener. With the close of the fair, he moved to Los Angeles and later to Pasadena where he quickly acquired wealthy clients from the real estate, motion picture, and oil industries. Information on Thiene and his estate landscaping projects will be found in Jere Stuart French's *The California Garden and the Landscape Architects Who Shaped It* (Washington, D.C.: Landscape Architecture Foundation, 1993) and Winifred Starr Dobyns' *California Gardens* (New York: Macmillan, 1931).


44 "City Signs To Be Installed." *Fullerton Daily News Tribune* December 1924. On file in Seupelt's papers at the Eastern Washington State Historical Society. In February 1926, Seupelt was asked to design similar entrance signs for the City of Beverly Hills.


48 Robert L. Pritchard. "Orange County During the Depressed Thirties: A Study in Twentieth-Century California Local History." *Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly* vol. 50 no. 2 (June 1968), p. 194. Orange County's population had grown from 25,000 in 1900 to 188,000 in 1930, with a 90 percent increase from 1920 to 1930.

49 Russell L. McKown, a resident of Westwood Hills, and Alfred C. Kuehl, a resident of Los Angeles, opened their landscaping business in Beverly Hills (221 Heegaard Building) in the late 1920s, but never incorporated. (*Beverly Hills City Directories;* "Kiwanis Club Told System by Architect." *Fullerton Daily News Tribune* January 18, 1932, p. 1.) The Committee on Park Improvement paid the firm $150 for preliminary plans, and expected to pay $750 for the final plans, specifications, and estimates if the bond passed. The final plans were never completed.


54 Plans for the tables and benches are on file in the Community Services Department.

55 Interview with Warren Bowen, September 13, 2003.

56 Xmas Tree Strings Donated by Service Clubs." March 28, 1939. In the *Papers of the Fullerton Service Club Council* on file in the Launer Room of the Fullerton Public Library. The Fullerton Service Club Council was formed in 1937.
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disbanded, then formed again in January 1939 and originally included representatives from seven Fullerton service clubs. Nineteen Fullerton groups donated lights.

57"2,000 Persons Use Park Weekly, Report Reveals." Fullerton Daily News Tribune June 22, 1937, p. 4. Mrs. S. Kemper and Mrs. E. Hope were the two hostesses.


60"Narrative Report Showing the History, Activities and Accomplishments of Work Project No. 9752-0, Recreation." In Narrative Reports, Works Progress Administration, Orange County California, Women's and Professional Division. May 1939. On file in the Orange County Archives, Santa Ana, California. The Project continuously employed between 130 and 150 people, with an average of 115 during the school year and 200 during the summer vacation months. Workers were required to attend Recreation Training Schools in Anaheim, Costa Mesa, or Orange. The Project's justification was: "Under the conditions prevailing and with so much leisure time at the disposal of the ordinary citizen, and with the children running wild, it is more than ever necessary that the recreation project be operated in every community, especially as an aid in juvenile delinquency control" (p. 1).


Additional References:


Fullerton California Circa 1967. Fullerton: Fullerton Public Library, 1967. On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library. This collection of black and white photographs includes pictures of Lions Field shortly after it opened as a ball field.

Fullerton City Directories, 1919-1926. On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library.


“Irrigation Plans.” Civil Works Projects. Fullerton: Office of the City Engineer, November 1933. Maps and plans are on file in the Community Services Department.

Los Angeles City Directory, 1919. On file in the Los Angeles Public Library.


“Notice Calling for Bids for the Purchase of Library Building.” On file in the Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library.

Park Inventory Data Sheets. Fullerton: Community Services Dept., 1988.

Riley, Anne. Cobwebs to Catch Flies or a Sample of Books from the Mary Laura Campbell Collection. Fullerton: Fullerton Public Library, 1990.


“Topographic Map of Hillcrest Park.” January 1932. On file in the Community Services Department. This map offers a representative view of how Hillcrest Park looked before the federal relief work projects started.


Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:
Sec C 27 T 3 R 10 Swly 33.2 8 Ac S1/2 NW 1/4 -Wly of Harvard Ave—thereof .63 AC in Sec 28 T 3 R10

Boundary Justification:
The nominated property includes the original 35.6 acre park established in 1920, including the buildings, park features, and stonework that have been historically association with Hillcrest Park. The adjacent 10.7 acres north of the original Park along Brea Boulevard, which includes Lions Field, has been excluded because the land was not acquired until the 1950s and 1960s.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Black and White Photographs:

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
Fullerton Chamber of Commerce
1923
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Fullerton Municipal Auto Camp, Harbor and Valley View Blvds.
1 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
Fullerton Chamber of Commerce
1927
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Sycamore Grove
2 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
April 1, 1927 (opening day)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Boys and Girls Library, south elevation
3 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
1932
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Izaak Walton League Cabin, south elevation
4 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
1934
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
American Legion Patriotic Hall, east elevation
5 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
October 17, 1934
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Bridge over lily pond, facing southwest
6 of 23
Black and White Photographs (cont.):

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 1936
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Fountain, facing west
7 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
1937
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Fountain area, facing east
8 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
March 3, 1938
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Barranca, west of fountain
9 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
July 1938
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
WPA staircase, south corner of Big Bowl
10 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
August 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Boys and Girls Library, south elevation
12 of 23
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number ___ Page ___

Black and White Photographs (cont.):

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
August 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Izaac Walton Cabin, south elevation
13 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Staircase to Izaak Walton Cabin, facing northwest
14 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Hillcrest Road, facing north
15 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
American Legion Patriotic Hall, east elevation
16 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
1931
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Aerial photograph
17 of 23
Hillcrest Park, Orange County, CA

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Sycamore Grove
18 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
WPA Fountain
19 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Hillcrest Road, facing south, east of fountain
20 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Staircase east of Big Bowl
21 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Staircase to upper picnic area
22 of 23
Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
Staircase to upper picnic area
22 of 23

Hillcrest Park
200 Brea Boulevard
Fullerton, California 92831
Orange County
November 2003
Kathryn Morris (Fullerton Heritage)
Launer Room, Fullerton Public Library
SERA bridge over barranca
23 of 23