

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Moeur Park

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 715 North Mill Avenue

City or town: Tempe State: AZ County: Maricopa

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<u>James W. Gawron</u>	<u>15 SEPTEMBER 2014</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>AZ STATE PARKS / SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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


Signature of the Keeper

11.5.14
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>24</u>	<u>26</u>	objects
<u>34</u>	<u>29</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor Recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Rustic Architecture

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Sandstone, Basalt Rock, River Rock, Concrete, Steel

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Moeur Park is located at 715 North Mill Avenue in Tempe, Arizona. Built in the Rustic architectural style, this roadside park is typical of the New Deal era Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects. Local field stone and concrete materials were used to construct a rest area along regionally significant U.S. Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89 at the entryway to Tempe. The park is located within the much larger Papago Park, which forms the north, east, and south boundaries. Moeur Park is also bordered to the west by North Mill Avenue. The district contains thirty-four contributing resources, including raised planters, stairs, planter borders, benches, tables, ramadas, an automobile bridge, retaining walls, and an irrigation box; it excludes the parking lot near Curry Road. The contributing resources are all fine examples of Rustic architecture produced by the WPA under the New Deal. Most of these contributing resources were created by the WPA between 1936 and 1938, in cooperation with the Tempe Garden Club and the Arizona Highway Department. Although alterations have occurred since its establishment, Moeur Park maintains a high level of historic integrity, making it eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Description

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Moeur Park, a well preserved park owned by the City of Tempe, is located north of the Salt River in the Tempe portion of Papago Park in the southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 10 (T1N, R4E) and the southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9 (T1N, R4E) in Tempe, Arizona. Composed of thirty-four contributing resources, Moeur Park serves as a great example of the development of WPA Rustic architecture. Ten of the nineteen acres of Moeur Park are considered eligible for the nomination of this historic district. The ten acres are split into a north (Parcel 132-04-002G) and south (Parcel 132-04-002E) portion separated by the intersection at North Mill Avenue and Curry Road. The larger northern portion of Moeur Park is bounded by Papago Park to the north and east. Curry Road forms the southern boundary, and North Mill Avenue, which was known as East Van Buren Street or US Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89 in the 1930s, forms the western boundary for the north portion of Moeur Park.¹ The smaller southern portion of Moeur Park is bordered by Curry Road to the north and a parking lot to the east. This portion is bounded by Papago Park to the south, and North Mill Avenue comprises the western boundary.

The original 1930s setting of Moeur Park is well intact, reinforcing the historic character of the park. The surrounding natural environment of Papago Park is characterized by the Sonoran Desert landscape. The sandstone buttes situated to the north of the district and Hayden Butte to the south contrast the rolling cactus and shrub-covered hills of Papago Park. The surrounding landscape consists of various types of vegetation: both the northern and southern portions of the park contain various grasses and shrubs, while Sonoran soil pervades the small area of the park located northwest of Operations Drive. Mature mesquite and palo verde trees, historic date palms, and creosote bushes inhabit the northern portion. The southern portion also features mature mesquite trees, historic date palms, and creosote bushes.²

The structures and objects are the dominant physical features in the district. The resources are clustered together in the north and south portions of the somewhat dense park. All of the resources are organized in a "service-based design" and are set back from the roadways, demonstrating their intended recreational function.³ The 1930s ramadas in the south portion of the district are situated in a semi-circular fashion. The north portion of the park features a Salt River Project easement—also known as the Cross-Cut Canal—maintained by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. The physical environment around Moeur Park contains several archaeological features and other cultural resources, modern roads and freeways, and recreational facilities.

The current feeling of Moeur Park perpetuates the original recreational experience as it originated in the 1930s. The spatial relationship of the structures and objects to the other desert landscape features, including the location of some resources near the trees, reflects their intended recreational function and conveys a sense of recreational experiences during the historic period

¹ North Mill Avenue, East Van Buren Street, the Phoenix-Tempe Highway, and US Highways 60, 70, 80, 89 will be used interchangeably throughout this document.

² Florie, *Cultural Resources Survey of the Tempe Crosscut Canal Multi-Use Path Phase II, Papago Park, City of Tempe, Maricopa County, Arizona*, p. 1.

³ Collins, *The Emerging Metropolis: Phoenix, 1944-1973*, p. 130.

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of significance. The enduring aesthetic appeal of the structures and objects in Moeur Park support its high level of historic integrity. The traffic noise along North Mill Avenue parallels the loud hum of automobile motors and the thud of rubber tires on the pavement heard frequently on the historic U.S. Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89. The sound of the hot, dry desert air blowing through the trees contributes to a sense of the rest and repose that weary travelers and Tempe locals experienced at this historic rest stop.

Taken collectively, the location, setting, and feeling of Moeur Park exude its historic integrity of association with WPA projects in Arizona and across the nation. Since this district ranks among Tempe's earliest parks, its location, setting, and feeling reinforce its close association with early city planning. The park's connection with early recreation in Papago Park and transportation along U.S. Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89 help to convey its integrity.

Architectural Style

The 1930s structures and objects in Moeur Park reflect a specific architectural style. Rustic architecture was used by the National Park Service (NPS) in the 1920s and 1930s throughout the West. Responding to climactic conditions, builders of Rustic architecture combined local wood and stone as construction materials drawn from the surrounding area in order to create a rugged and naturalistic style. The use of these construction materials allowed buildings and structures to meld with the environment. Early examples of the NPS Rustic architectural style in Arizona include Desert View Watchtower and El Tovar Hotel at Grand Canyon National Park. Architect Mary Colter was instrumental in the development of a southwestern architectural style, including the Rustic style seen at the Grand Canyon. The WPA employed a similar approach to Rustic architecture in Moeur Park that resembled earlier manifestations throughout Arizona. As an architectural style, WPA Rustic diverged slightly from National Park Service Rustic because of demarcations between the built environment and the landscape. At Moeur Park, WPA administrators and laborers used local materials that were compatible with the desert climate and thus blended aesthetically with the sandstone buttes, geological formations, and vegetation. Composed of sandstone, basalt and river rock, and concrete, the structures and objects at Moeur Park embodied a non-intrusive design.⁴

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Moeur Park contains both contributing and non-contributing structures and objects. Thirty-four of the sixty-three total resources are contributing and twenty-nine are non-contributing. Twenty-eight of the contributing structures and objects include benches, tables, ramadas, an automobile bridge, raised planters, planter borders, retaining walls, an irrigation box, and an irrigation drain. These contributing resources are included in the district because they are representative examples of WPA Rustic architecture, are physical manifestations of the WPA program, and reflect

⁴ Tweed et. al., *Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942*; Berke, Mary Colter: *Architect of the Southwest*, pp. 17-18; McClelland, *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*, p. 420.

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evolving approaches to park planning. The five steel ramadas and the concrete staircase, which were constructed in the 1950s, are also considered to be contributing. The 1930s structures and the 1950s additions characterize broad national trends related to tourism and recreation facilities. The non-contributing resources are modern alterations or intrusions to the landscape added in the 1970s or later, making them less than fifty years old. They make no contribution to the park's integrity and are therefore not included as contributors in the historic district.⁵

Structures and Objects, South Moeur Park (11 Contributing)

Steel Ramadas (5), 1950s

When traveling by car, the easiest way to access the southern portion of Moeur Park is by way of the paved parking area south of Curry Road. Once on top of the hill, the four steel ramadas (approximately 18' x 27') are immediately visible. Each ramada is constructed from Carnegie Steel railroad rails, and has a low-pitched gabled roof fashioned of corrugated galvanized steel. They feature non-contributing concrete benches and tables. One of the steel ramadas (approximately 17' x 27') is located at the base of the natural incline near the concrete staircase and possesses the same characteristics as those in the parking area.

Concrete Staircase (1), 1950s

Exiting the ramadas from the west, the next contributing structure is a concrete staircase, which features a steel railing for visitor safety. Visitors are able to walk down this concrete staircase (built into the natural incline) and arrive on the well-manicured grass lawn. This allows for a view of the other structures and objects within the southern portion of the park.

Stone Benches (2), 1936

Looking east from the sidewalk along North Mill Avenue, two ramadas, one retaining wall, and two benches are visible. The two stone benches (approximately 3' x 10') are situated between the ramadas and face away from North Mill Avenue toward the park. The benches are made from a combination of concrete, sandstone, and basalt rock.

Stone Ramadas (2), 1936

Two ramadas (approximately 12' x 23' and 12' x 31') rise from the foundation to the low-pitched gable steel roofs. The ramadas possess a similar blend of concrete, sandstone, and basalt rock and have stone tables and benches intended for shaded leisure. Since these tables and benches are built into the ramadas, they are not counted separately as contributing resources. Additionally, steel plates built into the ramadas read "USA WPA."

⁵ "Aerial Photograph Map, 1959," *The Flood Control District of Maricopa County; Summary of Inventory of Physical Accomplishments by the Works Projects Administration*, pp. 22-23.

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Retaining Wall (1), 1936

A stone and concrete retaining wall is located near the natural incline of the southern portion of the park. The retaining wall inhibits erosion and prevents the destruction of the landscaping. On top of the hill, the retaining wall creates a terracing effect with vertical sides and a flat base. A steel ramada sits on each successive "terrace."

Non-contributing Resources (24)

The southern portion of Moeur Park has several non-contributing resources. Two picnic tables, one large stone sign that reads "Moeur Park," twenty concrete tables and benches under the steel ramadas, and one metal bench along Curry Road are considered non-contributing resources because they are modern additions.

Structures and Objects, North Moeur Park (23 Contributing)

Stone Benches (4), 1936

A small stone and concrete bench is visible when facing east from the sidewalk near the corner of Curry Road and North Mill Avenue. A tree grows within the semi-circular shaped bench, allowing the visitor ample shade. Another bench with a similar semi-circular design is positioned near the entrance to the Tempe police substation. Two additional benches are located opposite the stone tables directly behind the northernmost stone ramada. Each bench is comprised of concrete, sandstone, and basalt rock.

Concrete Sidewalk (1), 1936

A concrete sidewalk runs parallel to North Mill Avenue, stretching from Curry Road to the Tempe police substation driveway. Several markings in the sidewalk read "W.P.A Project 65-2 1936."

Stone Staircase (2), 1936 and 1938

The first staircase seen from the sidewalk is attached to a raised planter. This staircase is constructed from river rock and concrete and leads eastward into Papago Park. It is stamped "W.P.A. Project 1938." The second staircase is L-shaped, comprised of concrete and sandstone, and is attached to the irrigation box near the northeastern boundary of the park.

Raised Planters (2), 1936 and 1938

Two adjacent stone raised planters are located on the east and west sides of the road leading to the automobile bridge. One of the raised planters is attached to the stone staircase, which is constructed from river rock and concrete. This also bears a stamp reading "W.P.A. Project 1938."

Automobile Bridge (1), 1936

Moving north from the raised planters, visitors may walk or drive on the stone automobile bridge over the the Salt River Project easement (also known as the Cross-Cut Canal) that bisects the park. This bridge is constructed from concrete, sandstone, and basalt rock, with wider buttresses near the ends of the bridge. Two small staircases at each end allow visitors access to the canal.

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Depressed Retaining Wall (1), 1936

An additional cluster of WPA objects is positioned to the north of the automobile bridge. The area north of the bridge is unpaved and landscaped. A semi-circular wall rises slightly from the ground and could have been used to guide motorists during Moeur Park's rest stop era.

Stone Ramada (1), 1936

A stone ramada of sandstone and concrete rises from the base to the low-pitched steel roof. It contains stone benches and tables for picnics and relaxation. The design of this ramada is slightly different than the stone ramadas located in the southern portion of Moeur Park. The concave walls of this ramada indicate its intended use for the growth of shade trees.

Planter Borders (6), 1936

Two larger planter borders are positioned near North Mill Avenue and the westernmost raised planter. The four other circular planter borders are strategically located around the north ramada. It is possible that these were once connected to an irrigation system originating in the box on top of the incline.

Irrigation Box (1), 1936

The rectangular irrigation box is built into the slight incline in the landscape. It is possible that the box served as the starting point for water to continue down the gradation through a series of pipes in order to reach the planter borders. Some of the pipes are still visible within the concrete. A ditch may have connected the Cross-Cut Canal to the irrigation box.

Stone Tables (3), 1936

Two stone tables sit next to the stone benches directly behind the north ramada. Additionally, one smaller table is located to the northeast of the ramada. All are constructed of basalt rock, cement, and sandstone, in conformity with the Rustic style of architectural.

Irrigation Drain (1), 1936

A small square irrigation drain is located at the northernmost boundary of Moeur Park. This drain appears to be connected to the irrigation system.

Non-contributing Resources, (5)

The northern portion of Moeur Park has several non-contributing resources: One picnic table; one bus stop; one large stone sign that reads "Moeur Park"; the entrance to the Tempe Cross-Cut Canal Multi-Use Path in Papago Park; and a City of Tempe police substation. A 1970s restroom is positioned near the police substation and is considered a non-contributing building. These non-contributing resources are modern additions.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation

Community Development and Planning

Entertainment/Recreation

Politics/Government

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Period of Significance

1936-1960

Significant Dates

1936

1938

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

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

Moeur Park is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under Criterion 'A' for its association with Politics/Government, Community Development and Planning, Transportation, and Entertainment/Recreation. The structures and objects in Moeur Park, constructed between 1936 and 1938, are a lasting vestige of the New Deal era WPA program in Arizona and, more specifically, in Tempe. The establishment of the park relates to pre-World War II advancements in transportation that included affordable mass-produced automobiles and paved highway systems. The automobile facilitated the expansion of roads and rest stops, buttressed local economies, and sustained the growth and development of Tempe. The appearance of the park also indicated the advent of early community park planning. Beginning in 1936, Moeur Park's ramadas and benches provided tourists with an opportunity for shade and repose while traveling on U.S. Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89, all of which converged in Tempe. By the 1950s, heavy use of the park prompted the construction of additional facilities, which served a similar purpose. Local residents and visitors used the space for active recreation through 1960. The period of significance ends in 1960. The exact construction date of 1950s contributing resources is unknown, and 1960 encompasses the entire 1950s decade.⁶

⁶ Cochran, *Advancing Gardening for 75 Years: The Story of Tempe Garden Club, Tempe, Arizona 1936-2011*, p. 45; "Garden Club Marks 50th, Still Proud of Past Projects," *Tempe Daily News*, October 17, 1986.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Politics/Government

Moeur Park is nationally significant for its broad association with New Deal policies and programs, and more specifically with the WPA federal relief program. During the Great Depression, Tempe (like other towns and cities across Arizona) suffered from economic crisis. Beginning in 1933, the federal government implemented programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Civil Works Administration, and the Public Works Administration to mitigate poverty and unemployment. These programs provided opportunities for skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers and facilitated public spending in the form of numerous construction projects. Locally, these construction initiatives produced new buildings and infrastructure, including facilities at Arizona State Teachers College, recreational resources in Papago Park, Tempe Beach Park's WPA Stadium, road improvements, schools, bridges, public housing. The park was designed as part of a larger WPA highway improvement project and was one of two WPA park projects in Tempe. It is representative of New Deal construction projects and the federal government's efforts to deliver economic stimulus to Arizona. Built with cheap local materials, the structures and objects are tangible results of the WPA's work along U.S. Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89. Moeur Park is thus representative of the impact of New Deal programs in Tempe.⁷

Community Development and Planning

In the 1930s, Tempe existed as a small agricultural town within (but still detached from) the growing Phoenix metropolitan area. Tempe's growth propagated a concomitant demand for recreational facilities, which in turn spurred the development of local sites like Papago Park and Tempe Beach Park. After 1930, park planning nationwide and across the Salt River Valley led to the establishment of smaller, more standardized parks. Moeur Park is significant because it embodied a "service-based design" and was intended to function as a rest stop along U.S. Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89.⁸ The park was among the earliest projects undertaken by the Tempe Garden Club in 1936. It demonstrated early planning efforts to enhance the natural landscape and conserve it as a scenic area, allowing it to serve a recreational purpose for tourists and citizens.⁹

⁷ VanderMeer, *Desert Visions and the Making of Phoenix, 1860-2009*, pp. 79-82; Collins, *The New Deal in Arizona*, pp. 273-295; Vargas et. al., *Hayden Flour Mill: Landscape, Economy, and Community Diversity in Tempe, Arizona*, Vol. 1, p. 95; *Summary of Inventory of Physical Accomplishments by the Works Projects Administration*, pp. 10-12, 22.

⁸ Collins, *The Emerging Metropolis*, p. 130.

⁹ Collins, *The Emerging Metropolis*, pp. 129-130; "Tempe Garden Club Boasts History of Beautifying Parks," *Tempe Daily News*, May 31, 1982.

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Transportation

Increasing use of automobiles in the 1920s and 1930s allowed Salt River Valley residents to travel further distances and provided the impetus for highway and bridge construction. Automobiles facilitated the export of agricultural commodities and other locally-produced goods to peripheral regions and also precipitated greater human mobility between local municipalities. These trends signaled Tempe's integration into the regional economy and supported the town's territorial and demographic growth. Prior to the 1930s, few bridges linked the northern and southern banks of the oft-flooded Salt River. This restriction caused the convergence of U.S. Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89 at the Tempe Bridge, one of the few reliable river crossings at that time. Moeur Park's strategic location along this regionally significant highway system made it the northern gateway to Tempe, giving drivers an opportunity to quickly withdraw from the busy road before entering the town's business district. After World War II, Moeur Park continued to serve as a scenic rest stop for tourists and other individuals seeking a warm recreational climate, educational opportunities, employment, and even residency in Tempe.¹⁰

Entertainment/Recreation

The structures and objects in Moeur Park are significant for their association with Entertainment/Recreation. The growth of automobile ownership and an increase in leisure time in the early twentieth century allowed greater numbers of Americans to take vacations. Despite the economic hardships of the Great Depression, Americans retained their enthusiasm for vacationing during a time when Salt River Valley tourism and recreation gained in popularity. Similar to Tempe Beach Park or Papago Park, residents and tourists alike held picnics and participated in active recreation at Moeur Park. The wide range of recreational uses for the park made it an integral community amenity well into the postwar period.¹¹

Development of Moeur Park

The development of Moeur Park was a cooperative effort between the Works Progress Administration, the Arizona Highway Department, and the Tempe Garden Club. The decommissioning of the Papago Saguaro National Monument in April 1930 gave way to the creation of Moeur Park and facilitated Works Progress Administration (WPA) construction of park infrastructure. Following the sale adjacent land, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior gifted 480 acres of Papago Park to Tempe to "be used by the city for parks and playgrounds."¹² A small percentage of the 480 acres of the Tempe portion of Papago Park became the roadside Moeur Park.

¹⁰ Vargas et al., *Hayden Flour Mill: Landscape, Economy, and Community Diversity in Tempe, Arizona*, Vol. 1, pp. 75-79; "Gardeners Work Noted On Roadways: Tempe Roadside Beautification Attracts Visitors," *Arizona Republic*, November 15, 1941.

¹¹ VanderMeer, *Desert Visions and the Making of Phoenix*, pp. 65-68, 90; Aron, *Working at Play: A History of Vacations in the United States*, pp. 3-5, 10, 182, 238.

¹² "Senate Passes Papago Park Bill," *Tempe News*, April 5, 1930; Solliday, "The History of Tempe Papago Park," 1990.

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Tourists and Valley residents traveled to Phoenix, Tempe, or Papago Park in the 1930s using US Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89, also known as the Phoenix-Tempe Highway. This busy road was one of the main routes through Arizona at the time. The heavy use of these highways, the growth of tourism, and increased visitation to Papago Park necessitated the creation of a stopping point near the newly constructed 1931 Tempe Bridge. Unfavorable economic conditions during the Great Depression, however, made it difficult for the Arizona Highway Department to complete improvement projects without obtaining outside funding.

During the Great Depression, federal agencies implemented New Deal programs and provided funding for state and local projects. According to WPA supervisor Harry Hopkins, the federal government recognized that drastically increasing unemployment had detrimental effects on the economy. During the Second New Deal, the Works Progress Administration aimed to ameliorate high unemployment rates through economic stimulus projects that provided young men with temporary jobs. The WPA assisted laborers by providing them with “jobs that would save a worker’s skills and restore his self-esteem, jobs that would, as nearly as possible, match the conditions of private employment and thus avoid the stigma of charity.”¹³

The WPA in Arizona facilitated the employment of unskilled or semi-skilled workers on improvement and construction projects. The program also employed men and women in professional jobs. Through the partial or full allocation of federal funds, the WPA cooperated with the counties, cities, and the Arizona Highway Department to construct or improve highways, roads, streets, schools, airports, playgrounds, state fairgrounds, bridges, culverts, sidewalks and other similar projects. The availability of partial federal funding encouraged these construction projects making all sorts of new development possible.¹⁴

Moeur Park was included in the completion of a larger WPA improvement project stretching along U.S. Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89 from 16th Street in Phoenix to the Tempe (Mill Avenue) Bridge. WPA laborers also performed roadside landscaping and beautification from 24th Street in Phoenix to the Salt River in Tempe along East Van Buren Street. The construction project and beautification efforts resulted in the arrangement of the structures and objects in a “service-based design” between 1936 and 1938.¹⁵ Laborers used a combination of concrete, sandstone, and basalt rock to build the benches, tables, ramadas, irrigation box, automobile bridge, and other features.¹⁶

Members of the Tempe Garden Club played an important role in the creation of Moeur Park. The organization was inaugurated in October 1936 under the direction of Helen Wexler. Much like other civic organizations striving for community improvement, the Tempe Garden Club worked to beautify the city. Honor Anderson Moeur, wife of Governor B. B. Moeur, was

¹³ Badger, *The New Deal: The Depression Years, 1933-1940*, p. 201; *Works Progress in Arizona*, Vol. 1, June 1936, p. 7.

¹⁴ Collins, *The New Deal in Arizona*, p. 280; *Summary of Inventory of Physical Accomplishments by the Works Projects Administration*, pp. 10-12; Collins, *The Emerging Metropolis*, p. 129.

¹⁵ Collins, *The Emerging Metropolis*, p. 130; *Works Progress in Arizona*, Vol. 1, March 1936, p. 3; *Works Progress in Arizona*, Vol. 1, February 1936, p. 5.

¹⁶ *Summary of Inventory of Physical Accomplishments by the Works Projects Administration*, p. 22.

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instrumental in coordinating the beautification of the park, which was the first major undertaking of the Tempe Garden Club. "It was really a great thing," Helen Wexler explained. "In those days there was nothing but desert all the way from here to Phoenix."¹⁷ While the WPA laborers developed the site in 1936, the Tempe Garden Club assisted in the beautification of the roadside rest stop.¹⁸ Club members selected the palm trees and other flora to complete the project.¹⁹

Between 1936 and 1960, Moeur Park continued to function as a rest stop for travelers and members of the Tempe community. The City of Tempe and the Arizona Highway Department maintained a somewhat ambiguous relationship during this time; the city acted as the legal proprietor, while the Highway Department managed the rest stop because of its location along four state routes.²⁰

Since the exact construction date of the 1950s ramadas is unknown, 1960 is an appropriate ending to the period of significance. Tempe entered a new phase of development after 1960, with infill construction between the town and neighboring Phoenix effectively connecting the two and rendering Tempe a suburb community. Over the ensuing decades, freeway construction and downtown redevelopment plans diminished the Moeur Park's significance. Freeways eliminated the use of U.S. Highways 60, 70, 80, and 89 as primary travel corridors. When the City of Tempe simultaneously began planning downtown redevelopment, Mill Avenue was transformed from a highway through town into a local business street, representing the end of an era and signifying the terminating point of Moeur Park's historical period of significance.²¹

Integrity

The contributing stone and steel resources at Moeur Park maintain a high level of historic integrity; their location, setting, feeling, and association make them eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Over the past seventy-eight years, some of the structures and objects in the park withstood minor alterations which, along with the addition of non-contributing features, adversely impacted the integrity of setting. The majority of these alterations occurred in the 1970s, when the City of Tempe assumed responsibility for managing the park in place of the Arizona Highway Department.

As evidenced by a 1940s photograph, Moeur Park had a semi-circular driveway and parking area, outlined by a row of palm trees in the southern portion of the park that continued across Curry Road and through the northern extremity. Originally, visitors entered either the northern or southern segment of Moeur Park at the intersection of Curry Road and East Van Buren

¹⁷ "Tempe Garden Club Boasts History of Beautifying Parks," *Tempe Daily News*, May 31, 1982.

¹⁸ Cochran, *Advancing Gardening for 75 Years*, pp. 5-8.

¹⁹ "Gardeners Work Noted On Roadways: Tempe Roadside Beautification Attracts Visitors," *Arizona Republic*, November 15, 1941.

²⁰ Kenneth McDonald to Roy Miller, March 19, 1973, *City of Tempe Recreation Services Collection*.

²¹ When it functioned as a U.S. highway system, Mill Avenue continued north from downtown Tempe, across Tempe Bridge, and past Moeur Park.

Moeur Park
Name of Property

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Street.²² In 1976 the driveway was removed and the original automobile entrances were blocked off. The City of Tempe subsequently paved the parking areas in the northern portion of the park, which are now concealed by the Tempe police substation.²³ Two of the WPA stone ramadas and planter borders were also removed from the southern portion of the park.²⁴ Furthermore, one building, one ramada, and several tables and benches were extracted from the northern portion of the park in 1976.²⁵

The City of Tempe added concrete bases to each of the stone and steel ramadas in 1976. The low-pitch gabled rooftops on all of the ramadas were originally covered with palm thatch and have since been replaced with corrugated steel. Both of the ramadas in the southern portion of Moeur Park have been wired for electricity. Additional restrooms were added to both the northern and southern portions of the park in 1976. The southern restroom has since been removed and the 1976 restroom currently lies within the boundaries of the police substation. In 1976, lighting was both added and removed, landscapes were graded, and city staff removed water fountains, walls, barricades, and ditches. Handicap-accessible playground equipment was also installed, along with benches, water fountains, swings, raised sandboxes, a merry-go-round, and monkey bars. This playground equipment was subsequently removed. Other small additions include light poles, utility boxes, and grills. Three modern retaining walls are located in the northern portion of the park as well.²⁶

Overall, the alterations and additions are purposeful and only slightly diminish the integrity of Moeur Park's historic structures and objects. Most of the alterations were minor and therefore are not immediately recognizable to visitors. The largest and most visible modifications include the Tempe police substation, a bus stop, and the entrance to the Tempe Cross-Cut Canal Multi-Use Path.

²² City of Tempe Public Works Department, Division of Engineering, "Phase 1, Sitework—Grading & Removals, Moeur Park, Project No. 74061, January 1, 1975," *City of Tempe Recreation Services Collection*.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Miller, "Photograph of United States Highway 60 and 80, West of the Tempe Bride in Phoenix," Arizona State Library Archives and Public Records, History and Archives Division: RG Highway Department.

²⁵ City of Public Works Department, Division of Engineering, "Phase 1, Sitework—Grading & Removals, Moeur Park, Project No. 74061, January 1, 1975," *City of Tempe Recreation Services Collection*.

²⁶ Ryden, *City of Tempe Multiple Resource Area Update*; City of Tempe Public Works Department, Division of Engineering, "Phase 1, Sitework—Grading & Removals, Moeur Park, Project No. 74061, January 1, 1975," *City of Tempe Recreation Services Collection*; "Department of Public Works, Division of Engineering, Moeur Park, Project No. 78071, November 13, 1978," *City of Tempe Recreation Services Collection*.

Moeur Park
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Primary Sources

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Vargas, Victoria D., Thomas E. Jones, Scott Solliday, and Don W. Ryden. *Hayden Flour Mill: Landscape, Economy, and Community Diversity in Tempe, Arizona*. Vol. 1. Tempe, AZ: Archaeological Consulting Services, 2008.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Moeur Park
Name of Property

Maricopa, AZ
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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 10 Acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 12N | Easting: 412337 | Northing: 3700181 |
| 2. Zone: 12N | Easting: 412486 | Northing: 3700033 |
| 3. Zone: 12N | Easting: 412426 | Northing: 3699897 |

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

The larger northern portion of Moeur Park is bounded by Papago Park to the north and east. Curry Road forms the southern boundary, and North Mill Avenue provides the western boundary. The southern portion of Moeur Park is bounded by Curry Road to the north and a parking lot within Papago Park to the east. This portion is bounded by Papago Park to the south, and North Mill Avenue provides the western boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the northern portion coincides with a natural gradient in the landscape. The 1950s ramadas indicate the eastern boundary of the southern portion. North Mill Avenue and Curry Road also create solid boundaries for the north and south portions of Moeur Park.

Moeur Park
Name of Property

Maricopa, AZ
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alyssa Gerszewski
organization: City of Tempe
street & number: 31 E 5th Street
city or town: Tempe state: AZ zip code: 85281
e-mail: Alyssa_Gerszewski@tempe.gov; joe_nucci@tempe.gov
telephone: 480-350-8870
date: May 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Moeur Park

City or Vicinity: Tempe

County: Maricopa

State: AZ

Photographer: Alyssa Gerszewski

Date Photographed: 10/15/2012

Moeur Park
Name of Property

Maricopa, AZ
County and State

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

1 of 10 WPA ramada looking East.

2 of 10 View of automobile bridge, looking south.

3 of 10 View of raised planters looking east. Notice river rock composition at right.

4 of 10 View of non-contributing entrance to Cross-Cut Canal Multi-Use Path.

5 of 10 View of concrete sidewalk looking North.

6 of 10 View of concrete sidewalk.

7 of 10 View of WPA ramada looking northeast.

8 of 10 View of WPA ramada. Notice WPA steel plate.

9 of 10 View of south portion of Moeur Park.

10 of 10 View of steel ramada roof.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Moeur Park

Name of Property

Maricopa / Arizona

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 21

Historic Images (To accompany photographs listed in Section 11).

1 of 3 1940s photograph of Moeur Park.¹

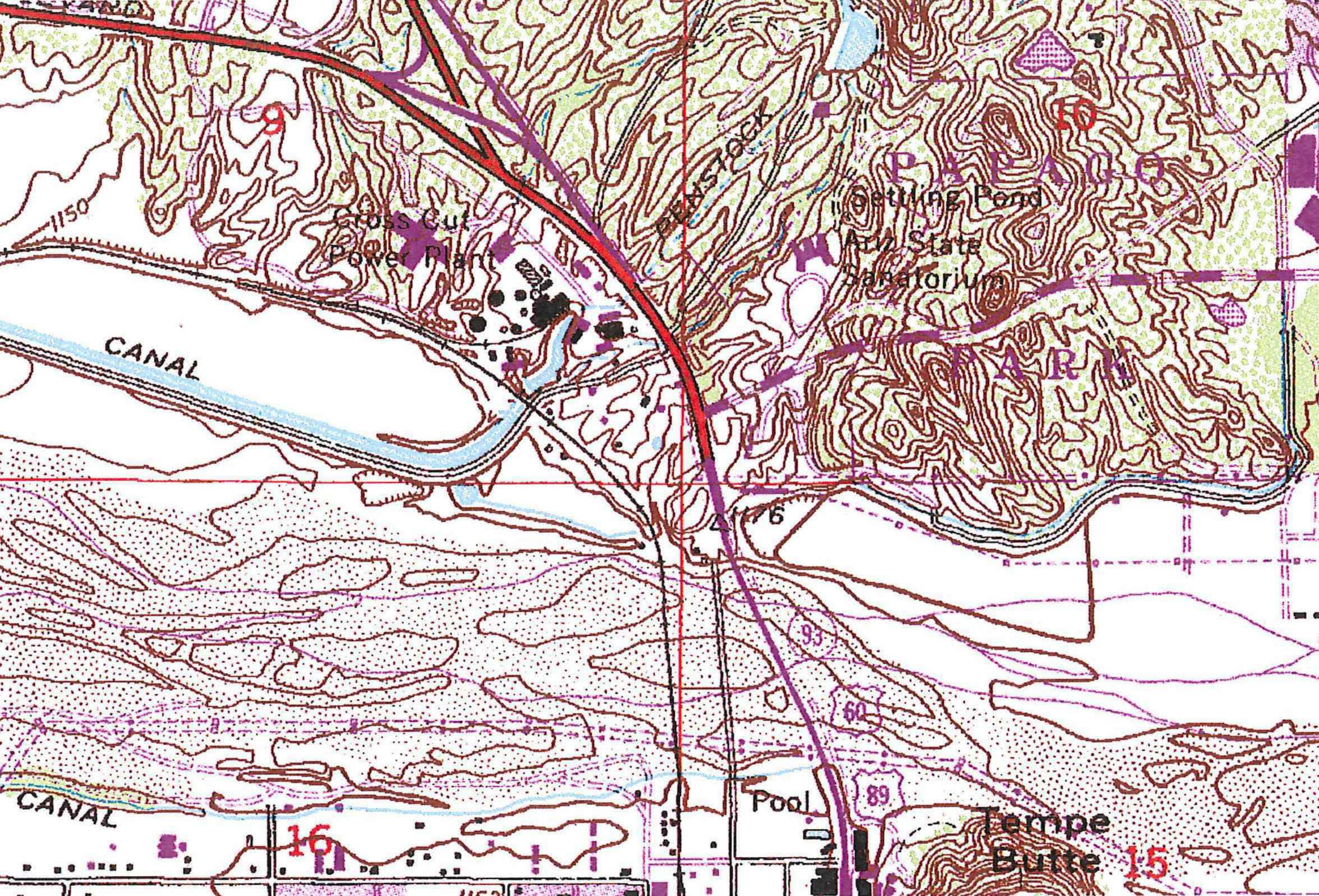
2 of 3 1949 aerial photograph.²

3 of 3 1959 aerial photograph.³

¹ Miller, "Photograph of United States Highway 60 and 80, West of the Tempe Bride in Phoenix (Ariz.);" Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records History and Archives Division: *RG Highway Department*, <http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/histphotos/id/12221/rec/22> (accessed November 11, 2012).

² "Aerial Photograph Map, 1949" *The Flood Control District of Maricopa County*, <http://www.fcd.maricopa.gov/Maps/gismaps/apps/AerialsOrder/application/index.cfm>, (accessed November 12, 2012).

³ Ibid.





Contributing Resources (Shown in Red)

South Portion of Moeur Park

1. Stone Benches (2)
2. Ramadas (7)
8. Retaining Wall (1)
10. Staircase (1)

Total Contributing Resources in South Portion: 11

North Portion of Moeur Park

1. Stone Benches (4)
2. Ramada (1)
3. Stone Tables (3)
4. Irrigation Box (1)
5. Irrigation Drain (1)
6. Concrete Sidewalk (1)
7. Planter Borders (6)
8. Retaining Wall (1)
9. Automobile Bridge (1)
10. Staircases (2)
11. Raised Planters (2)

Total Contributing Resources in North Portion: 23

Total Contributing Resources in Moeur Park (North & South combined): 34

Non-Contributing Resources (Shown in Blue)

South Portion of Park

- C. Picnic Tables (2)
- E. Park Sign (1)
- F. Metal Bench (1)

Concrete Tables and Benches (20). These are located beneath the 7 ramadas (shown as "2" on the map, but the tables and benches are not visible from the air due to their being covered by the ramadas).

Total Non-Contributing Resources in South Portion: 24

North Portion of Park

- A. Police Sub Station (1)
- B. Cross-Cut Canal Trailhead (1)
- C. Picnic Table (1)
- D. Bus Stop (1)
- E. Park Sign (1)

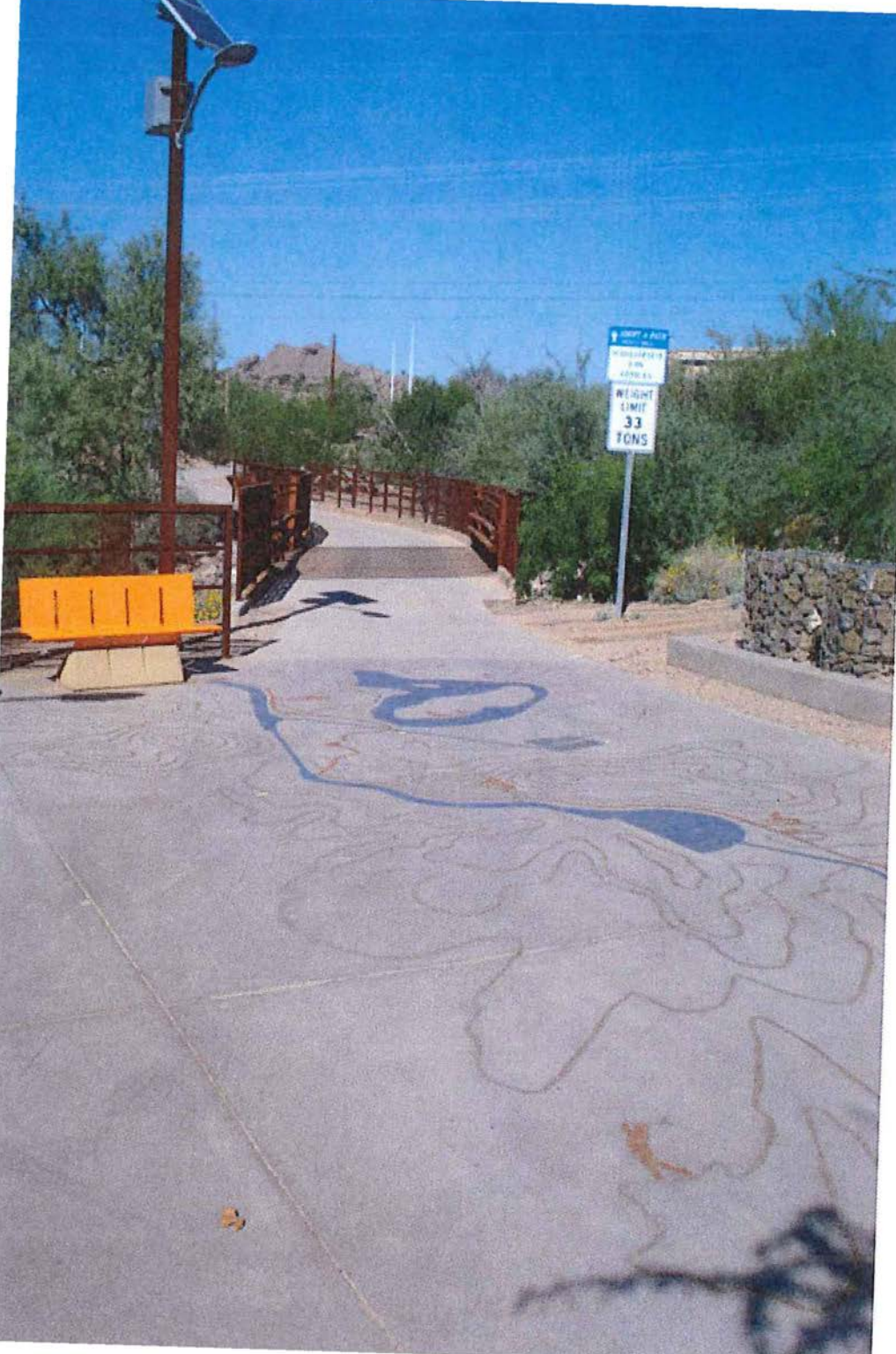
Total Non-Contributing Resources in North Portion: 5

Total Non-Contributing Resources in Moeur Park (North and South combined): 29

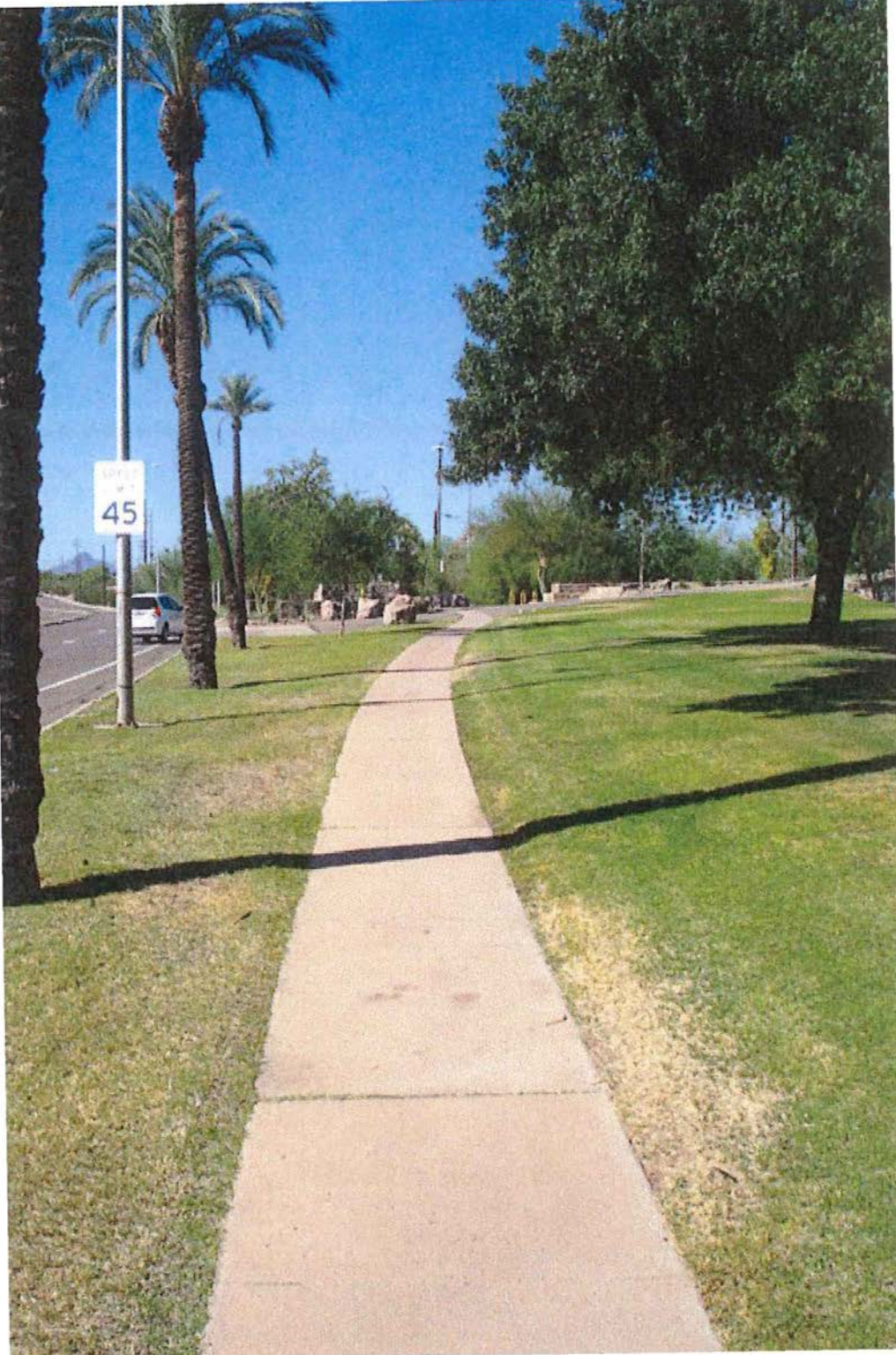




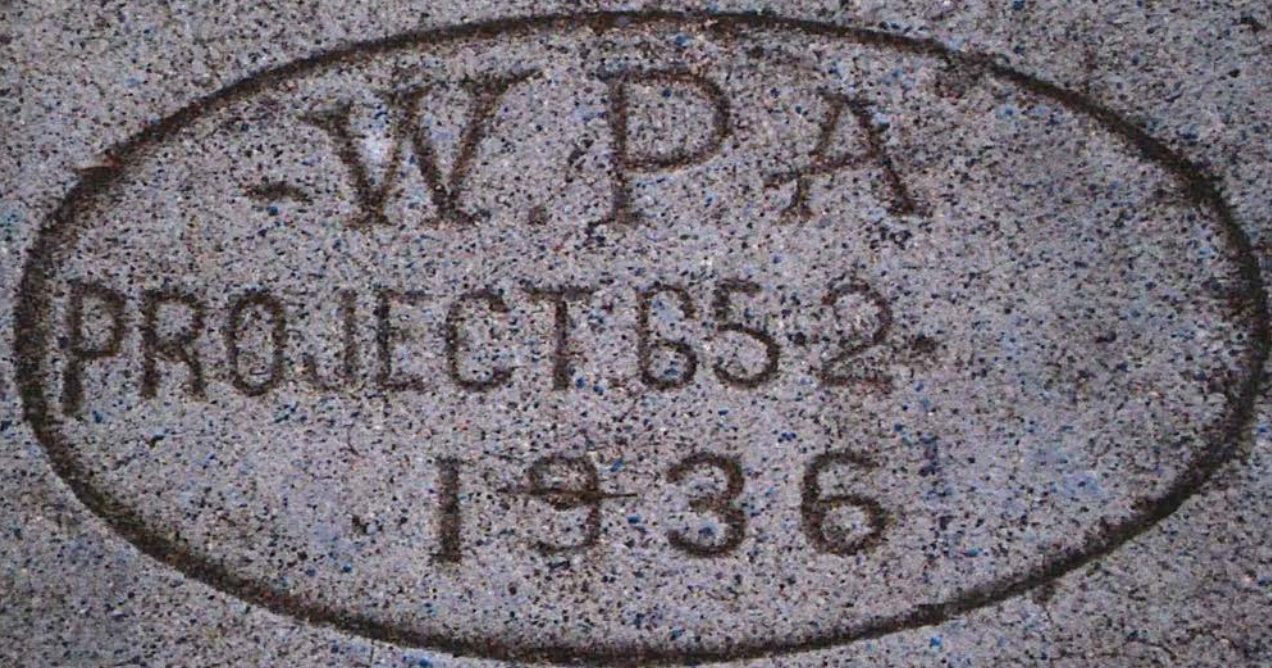




ADMIT A PAIR
WEIGHT
LIMIT
33
TONS



45



W.P.A.

PROJECT 65-2

1936













Flight Date: Feb. 17, 1949



Flight Date Feb 15, 1959

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Moeur Park
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARIZONA, Maricopa

DATE RECEIVED: 9/19/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/05/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000888

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11.5.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
the National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Bryan Martyn
Executive Director



Board Members

Alan Everett, Sedona, *Chair*
Walter D. Armer, Jr., Vail
Mark Brnovich, Phoenix
R. J. Cardin, Phoenix
Kay Daggett, Sierra Vista
Larry Landry, Phoenix
Vanessa Hickman,
State Land Commissioner

September 15, 2014

Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th Floor (MS2280)
Washington, D.C. 2005-5905



RE: MOEUR PARK
715 North Mill Avenue - Tempe, Maricopa, AZ

Dear Ms. Shull:

I am pleased to submit the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the property referenced above.

Accompanying documentation is enclosed, as required. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me at vstrang@azstateparks.gov or at 602.542.4662.

Sincerely,

Vivia Strang, CPM
National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
Arizona State Parks

Enclosures

VS:vs