United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Denver Park & Parkway System Item number 1 & 2

Nominated Parks/Parkways

PARKWAYS

CITY PARK ESPLANADE East Colfax Avenue to East 17th Avenue

CLERMONT STREET PARKWAY East 3rd Avenue to East 6th Avenue

DOWNING STREET PARKWAY East Bayaud Avenue to East 3rd Avenue

FOREST STREET PARKWAY East 17th Avenue to Montview Boulevard

SOUTH MARION STREET PARKWAY East Virginia Avenue to East Bayaud Avenue at Downing Street

MONACO STREET PARKWAY East 1st Avenue to Montview Boulevard

MONTVIEW BOULEVARD Colorado Boulevard to Monaco Street Parkway

RICHTHOFEN PLACE PARKWAY Monaco Street Parkway to Oneida Street

SPEER BOULEVARD South, including the former Forest Drive, and North, West Colfax to Downing Street; and including the Speer Boulevard Triangles:

Cherokee - North side of Speer Boulevard at Cherokee Street Delaware - North side of Speer Boulevard at Delaware Street Elati - North side of Speer Boulevard at Elati Street Fox - North side of Speer Boulevard at Fox Street Galapago - North side of Speer Boulevard at Galapago Street Lincoln - North side of Speer Boulevard at Lincoln Street Inca - North side of Speer Boulevard at Inca Street

UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD East Iowa Avenue to East Alameda Avenue

WILLIAMS STREET PARKWAY East 4th Avenue to East 8th Avenue



OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

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

# **National Register of Historic Places** Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Denver Park & Parkway System Item number 7

and grassed and wide concrete steps to the lawns were installed (the terraces are in four levels on the north and south of the pavilion); formal rectangular beds of annuals replaced the auto court; a rose garden, with walks and benches and appropriate peripheral plantings, was installed to the north of the pavilion and repeated on the south approach; and the wading pools were refurbished and a single jet d'eau (not in the original plan) was installed in the central pool. The image of the pavilion, notwithstanding the removal of the platform and balustrades, remains as strong and central to the image of the park as ever.

In contrast to the pavilion, a rustic, open "Japanese Tea House," designed by Schuetze and provided for in his original plan, still graces the north lawn. Peeled log posts support the bracketed umbrella roof and provide a framework for the circular bench which encloses the space under the roof. This is one of the few remaining structures of the period in Denver which reflects the rustic and romantic country manner popularized in the great camps of the Adirondack Mountains. The spatial relationship of this shelter and the pavilion creates a perspective which makes the north lawn seem even longer than it is. One further reminder of Schuetze's original plan are the hills and dales of the children's playground (to the south of the East 12th Avenue entry to the park), remnants of the excavation for a lily pond included in Schuetze's original plan.

More mundane improvements include a well-styled Mission tool house and garage (with stucco walls and a tile roof), nicely hidden in the trees to the southeast of the pavilion, two freestanding contemporary toilet facilities (which replaced the basement facilities in the pavilion), and minimal pavement for the parking of automobiles. To the east of the pavilion is a small memorial wall which identifies the many species of trees planted in the park and which commemorates, reminiscent of Mayor Speer's memorial wall in the Civic Center, recent gifts to the improvement of the parks. To the west of the pavilion is a 1976 mountain view marker. This marker replaces the marker installed by the Colorado Mountain Club in 1913, but subsequently vandalized. The original marker was designed by James Grafton Rogers and Ellsworth Bethel and was engraved by the Denver jeweler, Paul Weiss.

The basic design and space of Cheesman Park have remained largely unchanged for nearly 85 years, a clear testimony to the strength and purity of Schuetze's composition and to the responsibility of DeBoer's stewardship. Cheesman Park was, and is, a classic work of art. Although some recent tree planting (in place and variety) is inconsistent with the design of the park, the space remains unencumbered by equipment and "improvements." Yet, the park is well used, as it always has been, for walking, picnics, people watching, field games, and, in the early day Denver tradition, watching the sunset from the pavilion.

WILLIAMS STREET: From Cheesman Park, Williams Street extends to the south for four blocks, ending in a "Y" island at East 4th Avenue.

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Continuation sheet Denver Park & Parkway System Item number



7

OMB No. 1024-0018

Distinctive houses face onto the street. Gateways near the island signal the beginning of the Country Club neighborhood.

Williams Street, East 4th Avenue, and Downing Street Parkway (as well as the Gilpin Street and East 3rd Avenue connecting links) were included in the 1912 Williams Street Parkway Improvement District. They were designed, as they should be considered, as a linkage between Cheesman Park and the Speer Boulevard/Cherry Creek corridor.

Olmsted Bros. were engaged in 1913 to design these parkways. To date, final plans have not been found for all of these segments. However, an undated Olmsted Bros. plan for the layout of Downing Street Parkway and part of East 4th Avenue is extant. Further, the selection of plant material, particularly on Downing Street Parkway, and the use of shrub plantings on Williams Street, is strongly suggestive of the Olmsted hand. Olmsted's connection with Denver for the most part ended here, however, when his plan to extend Williams Street directly through the Country Club neighborhood was blocked by local real estate promoters.

Specific planning for these parkways began in 1909. Land acquisition was completed and construction began between 1910 and 1912. The configuration of these parkways, as well as the planting schemes used in their development, vary substantially. Thus, the Williams Street right of way is 120'; that of East 4th Avenue is 128'; and that of Downing Street Parkway varies from 155' to 192'. The Williams Street and Downing Street Parkway roadways are 40' wide, whereas the East 4th Avenue roadway is 65' wide; and the parkings vary from 7' at one point on Downing Street Parkway to 51' on the north side of East 4th Avenue. Substantial funds were allocated to the planting of these parkways in 1914 and the most mature of the plantings in these parkways date from that time.

There is a double row planting of elms on both sides of Williams Street between East 4th and 7th avenues. Between East 7th and 8th avenues, the row is double on the west side, but single in the east side Cheesman Park Esplanade. The sidewalk is located outside this double row, thus creating a very wide parking lawn. The elms in each double row are planted along alternate centers, so as to create a thick, double canopy. Most of the elms are still intact. The result is an elegant tree-lined vista much like the vista which once existed along Hillhouse Avenue in New Haven, Connecticut (called the most beautiful street in America before the elm canopy was lost to Dutch Elm Disease). There are shrub remnants in the parking of an age which suggests that they were part of the original planting plan.

<u>EAST 4TH AVENUE</u>: East 4th Avenue extends for one block to the west from the south termius of Williams Street. The development of this parkway is limited to the 51' parking to the north and the small island in the "Y" at the end of Williams Street. Along the north edge of the parking is a formal row

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Denver Park & Parkway System Item number 8

<u>MONACO STREET PARKWAY</u> is a classic example of a parkway clearly defined by four rows of street trees (a canopy of American Elms in this case) and a median planted with fine specimen plant material, varied in shape and scale and including local Rocky Mountain species such as the Colorado Blue Spruce.

Dates: 1907-11. Design attributed to S.R. DeBoer. Level of significance: state.

MONTVIEW BOULEVARD, first laid out in 1892, is a straightforward yet very effective design, evidence of the fact that 19th century urban planning in Denver responded to the proposition that the new streetcar suburbs, like Park Hill, should be served and would be enhanced by tree-lined and city-maintained motorways.

Dates: 1902-11. Design attributed to Frederick W. Ameter. Level of significance: local.

<u>RICHTHOFEN PLACE PARKWAY</u>, which serves as an entry to the Montclair neighborhood from Monaco Street Parkway, varies in design from all other Denver parkways in its narrow median planted almost entirely with a wide variety of evergreens, deciduous street trees being confined to the peripheral parking strips.

Dates: 1911-12. Design attributed to Frederick W. Ameter. Level of significance: local.

<u>SPEER BOULEVARD</u>, a key diagonal transitway designed by the nationally-known planner George Kessler, symbolizes and commemorates, in planning, design, construction, embellishment, and planting, the City Beautiful movement in Denver as well as the political leadership and citizen support which made the Denver park and parkway system the city's historic design legacy. Embellishments, in addition to the street tree and median plantings, include the historic Cherry Creek (set within retaining walls in the median of the boulevard), a number of bridges which cross Cherry Creek, and several triangular grassed and treed areas (called the Speer Boulevard Triangles) adjacent to the boulevard.

Dates: 1906-18. Design by George Kessler and S.R. DeBoer. Level of significance: state.

<u>UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD</u> serves the South Denver neighborhoods as Montview Boulevard serves the East Denver neighborhoods. It was planted in sections between 1908 and 1920 with a wide variety of typical Denver street trees, including American Elm, Silver Maple, Honey Locust, Green Ash, and Rock Elm. Thus, as part of the original Robinson plan and as a connector between neighborhoods, it has an important community planning function as well as its landscaping significance.

Dates: c.1909-18. Designer, unknown. Level of significance: local.

WILLIAMS STREET PARKWAY, planned under contract with Olmsted Bros., is unique in Denver and features a double row of American Elms (planted on alternate centers to increase the canopy) and colorful shrub plantings on either side of a single roadway, the effect being to provide an elegant tree-lined vista in the New England tradition.

Dates: 1909-14. Design attributed to Olmsted Bros. Level of significance: state.

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheetDenver Park & Parkway System Item number 10

Item 10 Geographic Data

UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD Acreage: Approx. 19.3 acres (100' x 8420') Quadrangle Name: Englewood T4S, R68W, S13,24 UTM: A. 13/503570/4395480 B. 13/503570/4392860 C. 13/503520/4392860 D. 13/503520/4395480

## WILLIAMS STREET PARKWAY

Acreage: Approx. 6.9 acres (Approx. 120' x 2540') Quadrangle Name: Englewood T4S, R68W, S2 (SW, SE) S11 (NW, NE) UTM: A. 13/502990/4397480 B. 13/502990/4396710

EAST 4TH AVENUE PARKWAY Acreage: Approx. .7 acre (Approx. 128.32' x 260') Quadrangle Name: Englewood T4S, R68W, S11, NW4, NE4 UTM: A. 13/502980/4396720 B. 13/502990/4396690 C. 13/502880/4396660 D. 13/502880/4396700

EAST 6TH AVENUE PARKWAY Acreage: Approx. 70 acres (Approx. 200' x 15,260') Quadrnagle Name: Englewood T4S, R67W, S6, 5 (S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>) UTM: A. 13/508340/4397110 B. 13/508340/4397060 C. 13/505140/4397060 D. 13/505140/4397110

EAST 7TH AVENUE PARKWAY Acreage: 24.8 acres (Approx. 154.97' x 6980') Quadrangle Name: Englewood T4S, R68W, S2 (S<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup><sub>4</sub>) S1 (S<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub>) UTM: A. 13/505120/4397290 B. 13/505120/4397260 C. 13/502980/4397260 D 12/502980/4397260

D. 13/502980/4397290



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Continuation sheet

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

tate Denver County, COLORADO	
omination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
1. Williams Street Parkway	Elve Revign Keeper William B. Bu
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2.	Keeper
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3.	Keeper
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Item number

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

86002222

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Williams Street	Parkway (Denver Park a	nd	
Parkway System	TR)		Working No. / AUG 6 1986
Denver County		Substantive Tovier	trenting the
COLORADO		2400	Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87 Date Due: 9/4/86 - 9/20/86
			Date Due: 9/4/86 - 9/20/86
			Action:
resubmission			RETURN
	on or local government		REJECT
owner objection			Federal Agency:
appeal			
Substantive Review:	sample requ	est appeal	NR decision
Reviewer's comments:			
			a sei tout to
	See come o	mment	Recom./Criteria
			Reviewer Burnoy
			Discipline Astronom
			Date 9/ 17/86
			see continuation sheet
Nomination returned for	:technical corrections ci	ited below	States Constant States
	substantive reasons dis	cussed below	
1. Name			
2. Location			
3. Classification			
Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
4. Owner of Property			and the set of the set of the bench of
5. Location of Legal Des	scription		and the second
6. Representation in Exi	sting Surveys		and the second the approximation of the
Has this property been d	etermined eligible? 🛛 ye	es 🗌 no	
7. Description	Service and Service		
Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	original site
good	ruins	altered	moved date
☐ fair	unexposed		
	original (if known) physical ap	pearance	
summary paragraph			
completeness			
Clarity			
alterations/integrity			
C dates			

boundary selection

#### 8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify b	below
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Specific dates Builder/Architect Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
completeness
clarity
applicable criteria
justification of areas checked
relating significance to the resource context
relationship of integrity to significance
justification of exception
other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

10.	Geograp	hical	Data
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Acreage of nominated property	
Quadrangle name	
UTM References	

Verbal boundary description and justification

### 11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation O The evaluated significance of this			
national	statelocal		
State Historic Preservation Office	er signature		
title d	ate		
13. Other			
<ul> <li>Maps</li> <li>Photographs</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>			
Questions concerning this nomin	ation may be directed to		
Signed	Date	Phon	9:

Warran Selfice

GPO 918-450



DENVER PARK AND PARKWAY SYSTEM Denver County, Colorado

Date: 1986 Photographer: Don Etter Negatives: Don Etter

Williams Street View looking north from 4th Avenue Parkway

Photo 46 of 73



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Denver Park & Parkway System
Denver County, CO
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Gloria Mills March 1986
Negatives: OAHP, 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO
Roll # 1
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Williams Street Parkway
View looking south from 7th Avenue
Photo # 46A
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# Please refer to the map in the Multiple Property Cover Sheet for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000072