



GLEN HUNTINGTON BANDSHELL

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT REPORT



DRAFT MARCH 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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IMAGE CREDITS

Current-day (2020) photographs provided by Mundus Bishop, RATIO, and JVA. Historic photographs (pre-2020) provided by the City of Boulder or from online archives at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History and Boulder Historical Society Collection, unless otherwise noted.

DISCLAIMER

The Resource Assessment Report documents the history, significance, integrity and current condition of the resource. It does not evaluate for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If the resource has been previously listed or evaluated it is referenced and footnoted.



This report is funded in part through a grant from History Colorado, State Historical Fund

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*Figure 1-1. Glen Huntington Bandshell within Central Park in Boulder, Colorado, 1940s
(source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)*

COMMON TERMINOLOGY

State/National Register Terminology^{1 2}

Area of Significance - an aspect of historic development in which a property made contributions for which it meets the National Register criteria, such as architecture, entertainment or recreation.

Character-Defining Features - the elements that account for the overall shape of the building, its materials, craftsmanship, decorative details, interior spaces and features, as well as the various aspects of its site and environment.

Contributing Resource - a building, site, structure, object, or feature adding to the significance of a property.

Designation Boundary - the boundary defined by the Landmarks Board and City Council that encompasses a historic property. This boundary represents a physical area in which any future alterations have historic preservation review associated with them.

Eligibility - ability of a property to meet the State/National Register criteria.

Evaluation Criteria - the established criteria for evaluating the eligibility of properties for inclusion in the State/National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Context - information about historic properties based on a shared theme, specific time period and geographical area.

Landscape Characteristics - the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape from a historic period; these aspects individually and collectively give a space its historic character and aid in understanding its historical importance.

Local Landmark - a local area or building that has been determined to have a special character and historic, architectural, or aesthetic or value to the city.

Period of Significance - the span of time in which a property attained the significance for which it meets the State and/or National Register criteria, and/or Local Landmarks criteria.

Property Type - a grouping of properties defined by common physical and associative attributes.

Integrity³

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. It is assessed to determine if the characteristics that shaped the property during the period of significance are present as they were historically.

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property.

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

1 US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *How to Complete the National Registration Bulletin* (Washington DC: National Park Service Cultural Resources, 1997), Appendix IV.

2 US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (Washington DC: Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, 1996).

3 Ibid.

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Property Name: Glen Huntington Bandshell
Location: Central Park (northeast corner, north of Boulder Creek)
Property Address: 1212 Canyon Boulevard, Boulder, CO 80203
Latitude/Longitude: 40.0056 / -105.1643
Legal Property Description: Block 13 Boulder OT
Parcel Tag: 146330357003
Acreage / Square Footage: 1.1 Acres / 51,000 SF

Date of Construction: Bandshell (1938); Landscape (1939); Seating (late 1940s)
Designer(s): Glen H. Huntington, Architect (1938)
 Saco Rienk DeBoer, Landscape Architect (1939)

DESIGNATION, ELIGIBILITY, & CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

Current Designation Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Landmark <input type="checkbox"/> State Register of Historic Properties (SRHP) <input type="checkbox"/> National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP)		Ordinance & Listing Information City of Boulder Local Landmark No: <u>95-4</u> Ordinance No: <u>5751</u> Ordinance Date: <u>October 17, 1995</u> State ID: _____ Smithsonian Trinomial: <u>5BL5680</u> National Historic Landmark No: _____																			
State & National Register Eligibility <table> <tr> <td>State Register of Historic Properties</td> <td>National Register of Historic Properties</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Determined Eligible</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Determined Eligible</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Delisted</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Delisted</td> </tr> </table>		State Register of Historic Properties	National Register of Historic Properties	<input type="checkbox"/> Determined Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Determined Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Delisted	<input type="checkbox"/> Delisted	Areas of Significance <u>Architecture</u> <u>Landscape Architecture</u> <u>Entertainment / Recreation</u>													
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Recommended Period of Significance Date Range: <u>1938</u> to <u>1968</u>		Property Integrity: Aspects <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workmanship</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Setting</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Materials</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workmanship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Setting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Materials											
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Designation Boundary

Designation Boundary Description: Central Park (Southeast Corner of Broadway and Canyon Boulevard) North 170 feet of Block 13, Original Townsite to the City of Boulder.

The designation boundary includes the entire area embraced by the resource, including the Bandshell, the open area in front of the Bandshell, the seating area, and the bermed area to the south, including stone pathways and retaining walls (Figure 1-2).

In July 1995, the City of Boulder Landmarks Board recommended the Bandshell for designation as a Boulder Individual Local Landmark and amended the boundaries of the site to include a larger portion of the park associated with DeBoer. In October 1995, the amended boundary was approved by City Council and the Bandshell was designated as a Boulder Individual Landmark by Ordinance 5751.⁵

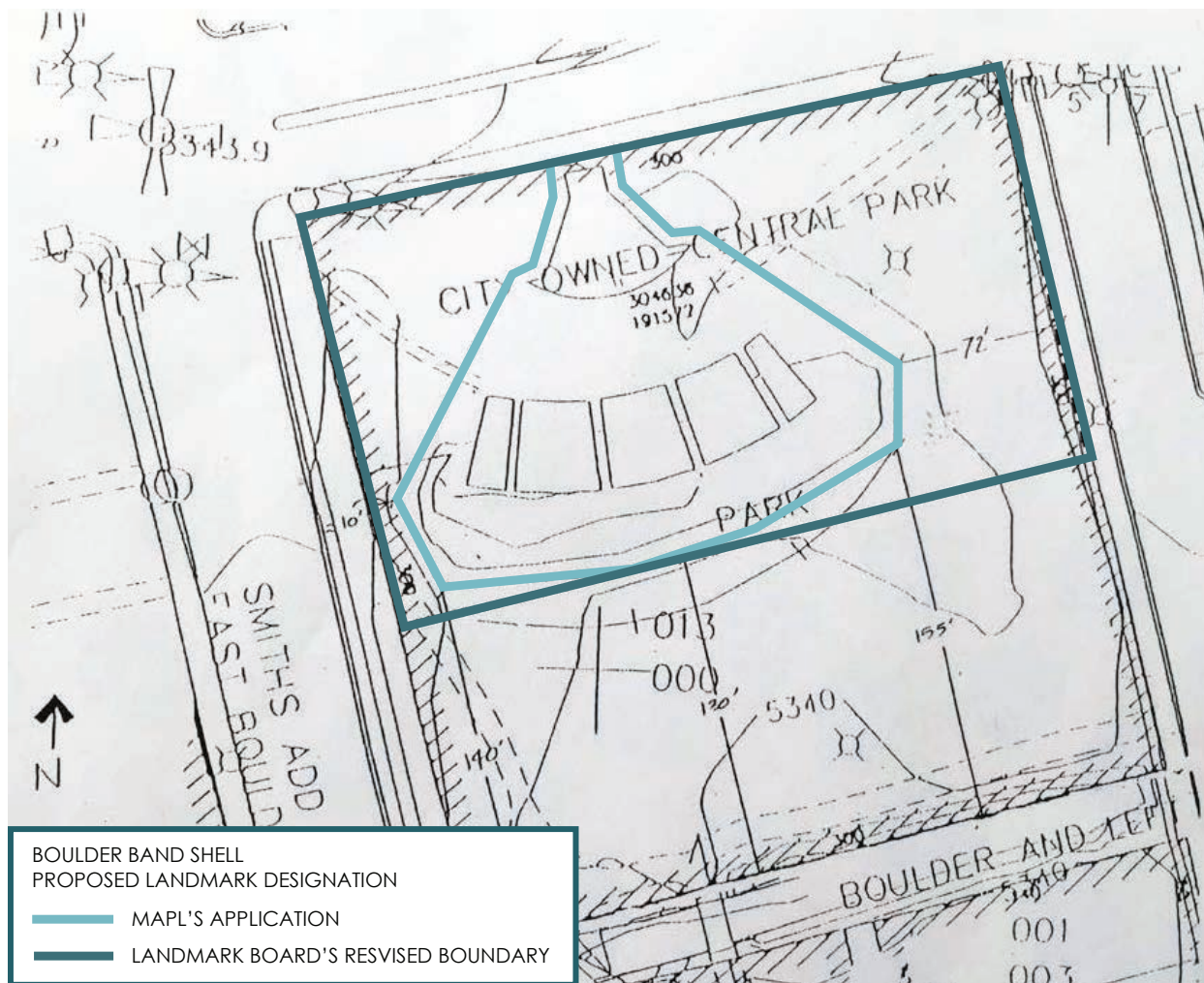


Figure 1-2. Designation Boundary of Glen Huntington Bandshell including adjustment by the Landmark's Board, 1995. (source: Landmark Designation Submittal); Edited for clarity by Mundus Bishop, 2021.

5 Glen Huntington Bandshell- Endangered Places Nomination. August 29, 2015, 3.

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Context

See Appendix

Statement of Significance

The Bandshell is historically significant for its importance to the “social and cultural life” of Boulder as a performance venue, for its role in the development of Central Park, and “for its association with the Boulder Lions Club and its program of improving Boulder Parks.” The structure is environmentally significant for “its planned and natural site characteristics.” The Bandshell acts as an established prominent visual landmark within an urban park. The Bandshell is “architecturally significant as a rare representative of Art Deco style in Boulder, as reflected in its streamlined composition, compound arch, and simplified design; as Boulder’s only example of park bandshell construction and one of a few such examples in Colorado; and as representative work of Saco Rienk DeBoer and Glen H. Huntington, noted landscape architect and architect, who are associated with site design and design of the structure.”⁶

According to *Boulder Bandshell Historical Study*, the Bandshell is significant under NRHP Criterion A for the role it has played in the social and cultural life of Boulder since 1938. It has been the site of numerous concerts, dances, festivals, and other varieties of community entertainment and social gatherings in its long history.⁷ The Bandshell expresses the cultural values of the City of Boulder and the Boulder Lions Club, and their mutual motivation to develop public parks and civic space throughout the City.

According to *Boulder Bandshell Historical Study*, the Bandshell is significant under NRHP Criterion C for its representation of the Art Deco style in Boulder; as an example of bandshell construction and park architecture from the twentieth century; and as a representative work of Glen H. Huntington and Saco Rienk DeBoer. The Bandshell reflects the Art Deco style in its streamlined composition, compound arch, and simplified design. Few Art Deco style buildings were erected in Boulder and the Bandshell is one of the best preserved examples. It is one of only two Art Deco style bandshells in Colorado, the other is located in Pueblo.⁸ The Bandshell’s integrity of design and setting highlight it as an important representative of park outdoor entertainment facilities of the early twentieth century.

The Bandshell is a representative work of two Colorado designers, architect Glen H. Huntington and landscape architect, Saco Rienk DeBoer. Huntington was a prominent Boulder architect who designed Boulder County Courthouse and Boulder High School. The design of the Bandshell is based on similar bandshells of the era, that were largely based on the design and success of the Hollywood Bowl. The site is representative of the work of DeBoer, first landscape architect for City of Denver, who served as a consultant for City of Boulder. DeBoer designed the landscape to reflect the urban form of the city and natural site characteristics.⁹ As a component of a central urban park, the Bandshell and its surrounding landscape became an established, familiar, and prominent visual landmark within Boulder, drawing people in with its arched design and its location near major thoroughfares.¹⁰

Recommended Period of Significance

The recommended period of significance for Glen Huntington Bandshell is from 1938 to 1968. The period begins with construction of the Bandshell and ends with the year Central Park was closed due to sanitary condition.

6 Dropinski, Chris to Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), “City Council Agenda for Landmark Designation”, August 24, 1995, 3,

7 Simmons & Simmons, *Boulder Bandshell Historical Study*, 16.

8 *Glen Huntington Bandshell- Endangered Places Nomination*, August 29, 2015, 2-3.

9 Simmons & Simmons, *Boulder Bandshell Historical Study*, 17-18.

10 Dropinski, Chris to Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), “City Council Agenda for Landmark Designation”, August 24, 1995, 3,

Summary of Use

Historic Use

"During more than fifty years of use, the Bandshell was the site of a variety of musical concerts, cultural programs, educational presentations, and civic gatherings. At the dedication of the structure, the Bandshell's role in promoting musical events in Boulder was emphasized. The scope of activities held at the Bandshell broadened over the years to include many forms of outdoor entertainment, although musical programs continued to be the primary use for the structure."¹¹

Date	Event
1930s to 1940s	Native American Tribal Dances
1930s to 1960s	Band Performances
1950s to 1960s	Children's Musical Programs; Park Acquisition Festival
1950s to 1970s	Christmas with Santa
1956	Community Entertainment Nights; Rotary Club Fishing Demonstration
1968	Summer Outdoor Concerts by CU Boulder
1985	Springtime Concerts
1995	Freedom Festival

Current Use

The Bandshell currently serves as an outdoor stage and backdrop for community use and performances. The Bandshell is offered as a venue for multiple City-sponsored programs and events throughout the year including:

Date	Event
1990s to present	Ballet at the Bandshell; Boulder Creek Festival
2000s to present	Boulder County Farmers' Market; Green Beer Festival
2015 to present	Snow Much Fun
Present	Annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil; Opera in the Park

¹¹ Simmons & Simmons, Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 10.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architecture Summary

The Bandshell's streamlined, simplified form possesses character-defining features of the Art Deco era such as a semi-elliptical opening at the theater stage and six concentric arches that taper towards the rear and allow the roof to slope down towards the ground. The theater is flanked by two thick buttresses that terminate at the bottom of the front facing arch framing the opening. The theater stage is elevated and flanked by steps containing pipe railings and wing walls.

Primary Materials

The Bandshell is situated on a raised concrete foundation. The buttresses and stair construction are made of concrete. There is also a series of four concrete, hollow lighting bollards positioned in front of the stage. The structure is wood framed with acoustical wallboard and wood panel finishing on the interior. The roofing contains rolled asphalt and galvanized metal flashing. The stage flooring is wood (currently covered with painted plywood sheathing) and is of a flexible construction so that the floor can be raised or lowered depending on the event.



Figure 1-3. Bandshell, post-construction, c. 1938-1946 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)

Construction & Alteration History

Date	Event	Source
1906 to 1933	The City of Boulder purchased the parcels of land to construct Central Park.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 5
1907 to 1910	Fredrick Law Olmsted Jr. was hired by the City of Boulder to develop an improvement plan for the city. In his report, "The Improvement of Boulder, Colorado" he recommended developing civic spaces like Central Park along Boulder Creek.	Endangered Places Nomination, 10
1921	The City of Boulder leases portions of Central Park land to the railroad	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 5
1937	The Boulder Planning and Park Commission received notice that the Major Activity Committee of the Lions Club sought to fund the construction a Bandshell for public concerts. Saco R. DeBoer, Landscape Architect for the City of Denver, was consulted on the location of the bandstand. He recommended the area north of the railroad right of way, with the location of City Hall at the east end.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 5
1938	Glen Huntington developed plans for the Art Deco style Bandshell. Construction of the Bandshell was completed in June of 1938. Trees were planted around the Bandshell site.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 9
1939	Saco R. DeBoer developed a landscaping plan for the site, which included planting trees to screen the structure. Paths were designed to the structure to prevent people from taking shortcuts to the site. DeBoer's final plan included both deciduous trees and pines adjacent to the structure.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 10
1947	DeBoer proposed a new plan for the Bandshell area which included amphitheater style seating.	Saco R. DeBoer sketch, 1947
1949 to 1951	The landscaping around the amphitheater was redesigned to include a paved levee with raised amphitheater seating. The seats had concrete bases and wood tops. A concrete sidewalk was installed on the along the southern edge of the amphitheater.	1949 to 1953 aerial photography
1956	First photograph appearance of the rectangular concrete piers/electrical bollards in front of the stage.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 4
1953	The Western Railroad's Engine No. 30 was moved to the area south of the Bandshell.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 5
1960s	Color scheme changes from green and light beige (original) to cream and gray that can still be seen today.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 4
1970	First time the Bandshell is proposed for relocation. This year marks the beginning of the decline of the site and Bandshell's use.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 13
1980s	General maintenance efforts took place and include: replacement of interior cladding, floor repair and replacement (not in full), and touch up painting. (The exact year(s) is non-determined).	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 4
1981 to 1985	Community events were once again held in the Bandshell, which helped revive it as a civic center.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 13
1987	Boulder County Commissioners consider moving Bandshell to fairgrounds in Longmont.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 13
1988	Boulder Train Depot Task Force, local officials, business people, and historians recommended removing the Bandshell and relocating the Train Depot to its spot in Central Park.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 13
1991	The "Save the Bandshell" campaign painted the Bandshell rainbow colors to raise community awareness in an effort to preserve the Bandshell.	Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 13
1995	The Boulder Bandshell is designated as a local landmark. This was also the same year the bandshell had been officially renamed the "Glen Huntington" Bandshell.	City of Boulder Landmark. L-95-4

Date	Event	Source
1997	Parks and Recreation complete rehabilitation of Bandshell. Rehabilitation and stabilization efforts included: replacement of the roofing and plywood sheathing, minor repairs to the framing and foundations, fresh coats of paint, waterproofing the stage flooring, and removing of all cementitious panels due to asbestos.	Structural Review and Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, 4
2014	JVA performed a structural assessment at the Bandshell and research was conducted to determine if the Bandshell should be relocated. The railroad tracks south of Bandshell were removed.	JVA Structural Assessment Memo Google Earth Aerial Imagery, 2013 - 2014



Figure 1-4. Bandshell aerial, 1949 (source: Colorado Aerial Photography Service)

INTEGRITY

Location

The Bandshell has resided in its original Central Park location since completing construction in 1938.

Setting

Surrounding landscape of the park has been well maintained by the City. The original oval shape of the entire setting is not as legible as it was historically. Overtime, alterations to the walks, seating, and vegetation transformed the setting into a less elliptical form.

Design

Art Deco Bandshell design remains intact. No major modifications have taken place since 1938. Previous rehabilitations in 1997 took place in order to maintain the stability of the structure but did not alter its original design and overall historic character.

Materials

Original materials were either maintained or replaced during the most recent rehabilitation in 1997. Materials replaced in-kind at that time include: asphalt roofing, plywood sheathing, interior wallboard cladding, and wood flooring. The Bandshell's color scheme and paint finish has changed several times since its original construction. All of the materials (new and original) appear intact.

Workmanship

Workmanship is consistent with the type of Bandshell construction seen across the United States in the 1920-30's. The Bandshell is most reminiscent of the Hollywood Bowl built in Los Angeles in 1928.

Feeling

The structure is open and creates the potential for community interaction and engagement. At present, the Bandshell is not fully utilized, and the structure and surrounding park have fallen into disrepair with a large transient population.

Association

The Bandshell retains its association and importance with Central Park and the greater Boulder Civic Area. It also maintains its associations with Boulder Lions Club and landscape architecture in Boulder.

CURRENT EXISTING CONDITION

LANDSCAPE CONDITION

Landscape Condition Summary

The Bandshell's original setting, features, and spatial relationships remain largely intact. The Bandshell is set on the site's north edge and oriented to the south. The setting is characterized by a sloped amphitheater (a concrete terrace with fifteen rows of wood and concrete benches) that faces the Bandshell. A landscaped berm and remnants of a sandstone retaining wall remain along the south boundary of the Bandshell's setting, separating it from the park and defining the southern edge of the amphitheater. The berm continues to mitigate seasonal flooding. Large mature trees frame the Bandshell on its east and west sides and define the edges of the amphitheater and the Bandshell setting. Concrete paved sidewalks extend from the east and west sides of the park into the Bandshell's setting. They end at a large level area between the Bandshell and amphitheater that is paved with loose gravel.

Summary of Landscape Characteristics

Topography

Topography of the Bandshell site, including the sloped amphitheater, the berm of the flood control levee, and the large level area between the Bandshell and amphitheater contribute to the significance of the Bandshell. The berm continues to mitigate flooding; however the oval shape is less legible. (Figure 1-5)

Vegetation

Groupings of mature deciduous and evergreen trees frame the east and west sides of the Bandshell. A band of vegetation defines the east, west and south edges of the sloped concrete terrace. Mature trees include Austrian Pine, Douglas Fir, Northern Red Oak, American Elm, Norway Maple, and American Linden. Understory vegetation is generally juniper and a mix of deciduous shrubs. Planting is consistent with DeBoer's designed landscape of a backdrop of evergreen and deciduous trees for the Bandshell and amphitheater. (Figure 1-6) Photographs from the 1940s and 1950s indicate that the area in front of the Bandshell's stage was planted with small shrubs. It is unclear when these plantings were removed. (Figure 1-10, 1-39)

Spatial Organization

Historic setting and spatial organization of the Bandshell remain largely intact. The Bandshell is flanked by trees, accessed by angled walks, and oriented towards the amphitheater. S.R. DeBoer's design for Central Park remains as a functional setting for the Bandshell that also mitigates flood waters from Boulder Creek.



Figure 1-5. Landscaped Berm, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-6. Mature grove of trees along Canyon Boulevard, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-7. Primary circulation to the Bandshell, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-8. Level area in front of the Bandshell, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-9. Aerial of Central Park, May 1938 (prior to completion of the Bandshell) (source: CU Aerial Photographs of Colorado)



Figure 1-10. Birdseye of the Bandshell, post-construction, 1940s (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)

Circulation

Two primary circulation routes associated with the Bandshell remain in the same or similar alignments as the original. It is unclear if the walkways were always paved concrete or composed of another material. These routes contribute the significance of the Bandshell. Historic aerial images indicate that there were additional paths to the southwest and southwest. It's unclear how long these paths were in place or when they were removed. In place of a path to the southeast are sandstone pavers, which are a modern, non-contributing addition. Additionally, there is a remnant stone path on the south side of the landscaped berm. It is undetermined if this path is original to the circulation of the Bandshell. (Figure 1-7, 1-8, 1-9, 1-10)

Accessibility

The Bandshell does not currently have a designated accessible route or accessible seating. Concrete sidewalks appear to be compliant in slope for accessible pedestrian access. The slope of the amphitheater is greater than 5% and is not compliant for accessible access or seating. However, the large level area in front of the stage is compliant in slope. The nearest accessible parking space is approximately 525 feet from the Bandshell located on 13th Street.

Structure

Character-defining features of the Bandshell include its original location and focal point within Central Park. Located on the northern edge of Central Park, the structure is prominent landmark along Canyon Boulevard. Its placement and its prominence within the park draw people in from surrounding thoroughfares to the amphitheater and front of the stage. Character defining features of the amphitheater include its sloped concrete terrace with fifteen rows, divided into three sections (Figure 1-11). The backside of the amphitheater is a planted berm/levee (Figure 1-12).

Small Scale Features

The sandstone retaining wall at the edge of the planting bed is a contributing feature (Figure 1-11).

Views and Viewsheds

Prominent views on site include the view towards Bandshell from within the park, views towards the Boulder Flatirons from the stage and the paved gravel area, and views from adjacent streets including Broadway Street and 13th Street. These views contribute to the significance of the Bandshell. (Figure 1-13, 1-14)



Figure 1-11. Seating at Bandshell, 2020
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-12. Sandstone retaining wall, 2020
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-13. View to Boulder Flatirons, 2020
(source: Mundus Bishop)

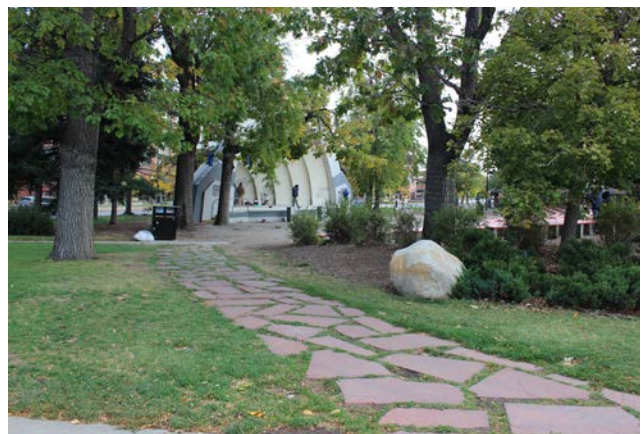


Figure 1-14. View from Broadway, 2020
(source: Mundus Bishop)

Table 1-1: Character-Defining Features

Feature	Condition	Contributing/ Non-Contributing
Topography		
Berm / Flood control levee	Good	Contributing
Vegetation		
Mature grove of trees surrounding the Bandshell	Good	Contributing
Understory shrubs planted on berm	Good	Non-Contributing
Circulation		
Concrete sidewalk (northeast)	Good	Contributing
Concrete sidewalk (northwest)	Good	Contributing
Sandstone pavers (southeast)	Good	Non-Contributing
Remnant stone path	Poor	Undetermined
Structure		
Glen Huntington Bandshell	Good	Contributing
Amphitheater seating	Good	Contributing
Small Scale Features		
Stone retaining wall along landscaped berm	Poor	Contributing
Views and Viewsheds		
View to Boulder Flatirons from the stage	Good	Contributing
Views from Broadway Street	Good	Contributing
Views from interior of Central Park	Good	Contributing

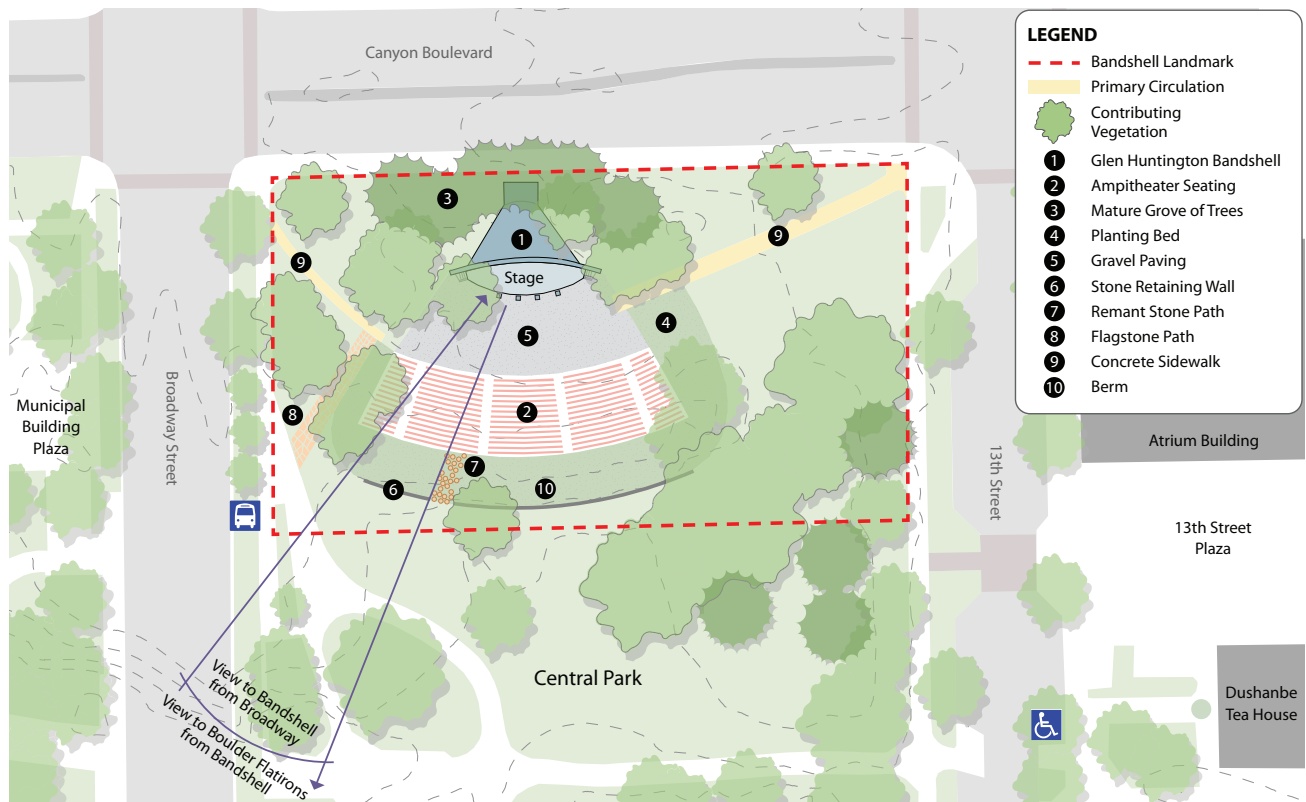


Figure 1-15. Bandshell Existing Condition, 2021 (source: Mundus Bishop)

ARCHITECTURAL / STRUCTURAL CONDITION

Foundation

Architectural

The crawlspace below the stage was inaccessible during field review. Visual inspection of the exterior portions appear to be in good condition. Visible vertical cracks in the foundation and chipped paint were observed on the rear side of the Bandshell.

Structural

The structure is founded on a perimeter concrete stem wall that encloses a crawlspace area and extends above grade several feet. Although unknown with no available original structural drawings and no excavation included as part of this scope, given the age of the structure it is likely that the stem wall bears on a continuous concrete footing. On the interior of the structure, there are four tapered concrete pedestals that support the floor framing of the stage. At the southern or front end of the structure, two concrete buttresses support the southernmost roof arch.

Overall, the foundation is in good condition. There is one vertical crack in the east foundation wall which is likely a naturally formed expansion joint (Figure 1-16) and the west foundation wall is covered in ivy which can be detrimental to the structure over time. There are relatively regularly spaced vertical cracks in foundation wall along the front of the stage that are likely natural formed expansion joints. The concrete buttresses on both sides of the largest arch have horizontal cracks at the same height; these are likely cold joints from the original concrete pour during construction. Both the vertical expansion joint cracks and the horizontal cracks at the cold joints are not of structural concern.



Figure 1-16. Vertical foundation crack on the east side, 2020 (source: Ratio and JVA)



Figure 1-17. Vertical foundation crack on the east side, 2020 (source: Ratio and JVA)



Figure 1-18. Renovation of the Bandshell framing, 1996 (source: City of Boulder)



Figure 1-19. View of rolled asphalt roofing. Note the blistering at the lower portion of the roof, 2020 (source: Ratio)

Roofing

Architectural

The lower portions of the asphalt roofing extend down to the concrete foundations and appear to have been subject to vandalism. The lower portions also show signs of blistering and separation from the surface below and are in fair to poor condition. The upper portions of the rolled asphalt roofing appear to be in better condition with minor signs of blistering. On the east end of the roof, one area of the asphalt roofing has been patched with a different material.

Structural

The shelter's roof structure contains five equally spaced three-point, glulam wood arches that decrease in size from the front (south) to the back (north) of the Bandshell. The roof framing was not exposed during this visit, however previous reports describe a hinged connection at the top of each arch and a tie rod within the depth of the stage framing that ties the bottoms of each arch together. 2x vertical lumber struts support the roof sheathing and 2x horizontal lumber extends between the glulam trusses to brace the structure. The wood arches bear on steel saddles that are anchored to the concrete foundation wall.

The shelter's roof structure contains five equally spaced three-point, glulam wood arches that decrease in size from the front (south) to the back (north) of the Bandshell. The roof framing was not exposed during this visit, however previous reports describe a hinged connection at the top of each arch and a tie rod within the depth of the stage framing that ties the bottoms of each arch together. 2x vertical lumber struts support the roof sheathing and 2x horizontal lumber extends between the glulam trusses to brace the structure (Figure 1-17). The wood arches bear on steel saddles that are anchored to the concrete foundation wall.

Walls/Finishes

Architectural

The majority of the structural wood framing is concealed within the exterior finish materials and was unable to be observed. The floor access hatch did not appear to be operable, therefore the stage framing was also unable to be observed. Within the small storage room at the back of the stage the framing appears to be in good condition. The wood siding is in fair condition with some boards split along the grain.

In general the exterior plywood finish panels appear to be in fair condition. The panels have minor weathering and mostly aesthetic damage due to frequent vandalism. At the top most proscenium arch, the rear-facing plywood appears to have more significant weathering. The rear wall of the Bandshell, on the exterior, has plywood panels that are covered with ivy. Damage to the wood is anticipated beneath the vines.

The plaster appears to be in fair condition. The vertical surfaces contain a variety of cracks across the surface. The angled surfaces along the tops of the plaster coated walls show significant weather damage.

Structural

The original north wall of the structure, constructed of 2x4 dimensional lumber, was supplemented by an outboard 2x6 stud framed wall. Outside of the rear/north wall of the Bandshell, the arched roof system acts as both the roof and walls. The stud walls are in good condition. However, there is ivy growing on the wall at the rear of the Bandshell which can harbor moisture against the wood framing elements and encourage decay fungi to flourish.



Figure 1-20. View of wood siding, 2020 (source: Ratio)



Figure 1-21. View of exterior plywood finish panels, 2020 (source: Ratio)



Figure 1-22. View of exterior plywood finish panels, 2020 (source: Ratio)



Figure 1-23. View of ivy growing on rear wall, 2020 (source: Ratio)



Figure 1-24. View of stage floor, 2020 (source: Ratio)

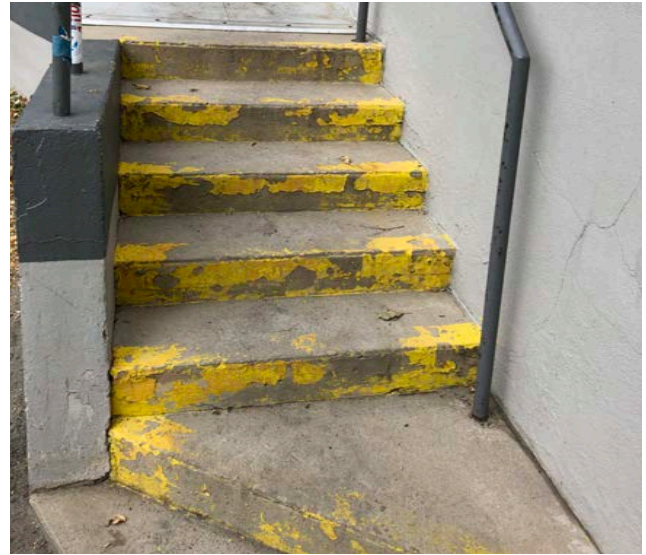


Figure 1-25. View of concrete stairs. Note the yellow safety nosing paint condition is poor, 2020 (source: Ratio)

Flooring

Architectural

The stage flooring appears to be finished with a textured underlayment and a liquid polyurethane coating that acts as waterproofing for the floor. The overall surface which is in good condition. There is evidence of previous vandalism damage in one location where the color of the surface does not match the rest of the flooring.

Structural

The stage floor is sheathed in plywood and covered with a traffic coating. Although the framing was not accessible during this visit, there is documentation that the floor was reconstructed in 1996, consisting of three bays of (2) 2x12 joists spaced at 16 inches on center that span in the east-west direction. Two north-south dropped steel W8 beam lines supported on the original isolated concrete pedestals divide the framing bays. Along the flared east and west sides of the building, the joists bear on a wood plate atop the foundation wall.

Although the framing was not visible during the observation visit, no major issues such as excessive deflection or signs of deterioration were observed on the floor surface. However, since the Bandshell is an open structure, it will be more prone to moisture damage. This should be further investigated in the next phase of work to determine the current condition of the floor framing.

Stairs

Architectural

The concrete at both stairs appears to be in good condition. The yellow safety nosing paint is in poor condition. The painted steel handrails are in good condition, with portions of the painted finish worn off. The handrails do not appear to be in compliance with current accessibility codes.

Electrical

Architectural

The power and lighting bollards do not show any major cracking or damage. The metal cover plates are either missing or in poor condition with rusted and broken hinges. The receptacles within do not appear to be functional and contain two 2-pronged outlets with no ground wire. The lighting has been removed and the power boxes exposed.

Other

Architectural

The top of the proscenium arch and the top of the rear wall have a galvanized cap covering the top surfaces.

Structural

The lateral force suspension system of the Bandshell consists of the roof sheathing and the wood framed roof/walls. The LFRS is in good condition. It has performed well over the lifetime of the structure and previous analyses of the structure indicate that it has adequate lateral capacity for the lateral loads associated with the site.

The site includes seating facing the Bandshell stage. The seating consists of a concrete slab that slopes toward the stage and rectangular reinforced concrete pedestals which support wood bleachers. Steel angle clips are used to connect the wood bleachers to the concrete. Many of the concrete pedestals have started to spall (Figure 1-26). In some spall locations, the exposed rebar appears to only have had 1/4-inch cover. Some pedestals have areas of spider-web cracking and areas where the cement binder has weathered, exposing the larger aggregate. The painted wood bleacher boards show signs of wear such as splitting, warping, and crushing at the connection locations.



Figure 1-26. Interior view of lighting and power bollards. Note the cracking concrete forms, rusted and broken cover plates, as well as missing components, 2020 (source: Ratio)



Figure 1-27. Seating showing spall at pedestal, 2020 (source: Ratio)

Structural Condition Definitions

This structural condition assessment makes use of terms concerning the condition of building components which are defined as follows:

Good - A structural element, component or system is considered in good condition when it is undamaged, structurally sound or functionally operational, and performing as intended. No specific repairs are required, and only minor or routine maintenance is needed.

Fair - An element, component or system is considered in fair condition when there are signs of wear or deterioration, such as freeze-thaw deterioration, corrosion, or wood decay exceeding expectations based on the age and use of the element, that may be reducing the structural capacity of the member. Replacement or repair of the element may be required.

Poor - An element, component, or system is considered in poor condition when it no longer performs its intended structural purpose. Deterioration or damage reduced the load carrying capacity of the element and simple repairs cannot be justified or are not expected to be effective. The element may show signs of imminent failure. Major repair or replacement will be required.

Note: Condition ratings reported are based upon visual observations only. No material testing or exploratory observations have been made. Further investigation could result in modification to condition ratings.

Table 1-2: Condition Assessment of Architectural/Structural Features

Primary Architectural/ Structural Features	Description of Primary Materials	Condition
Foundation	Concrete slab on grade	Good
Roofing	Rolled asphalt	Poor
Walls	Dimensional lumber	Good
Finishes	Plaster, paint	Fair
Flooring	Sheathed plywood with polyurethane coating	Good
Stairs	Painted concrete with painted steel handrails	Good
Lateral Force Suspension System	Roof sheathing and wood framed roof/walls	Good
Additional Building Systems		
Mechanical	(HVAC)	
Fire Protection & Suppression		
Irrigation	(Backflow preventer, spray heads, etc.)	Existing (Not Assessed)
Electrical	Lighting (see summary)	Poor
Plumbing		

ADDITIONAL IMAGES

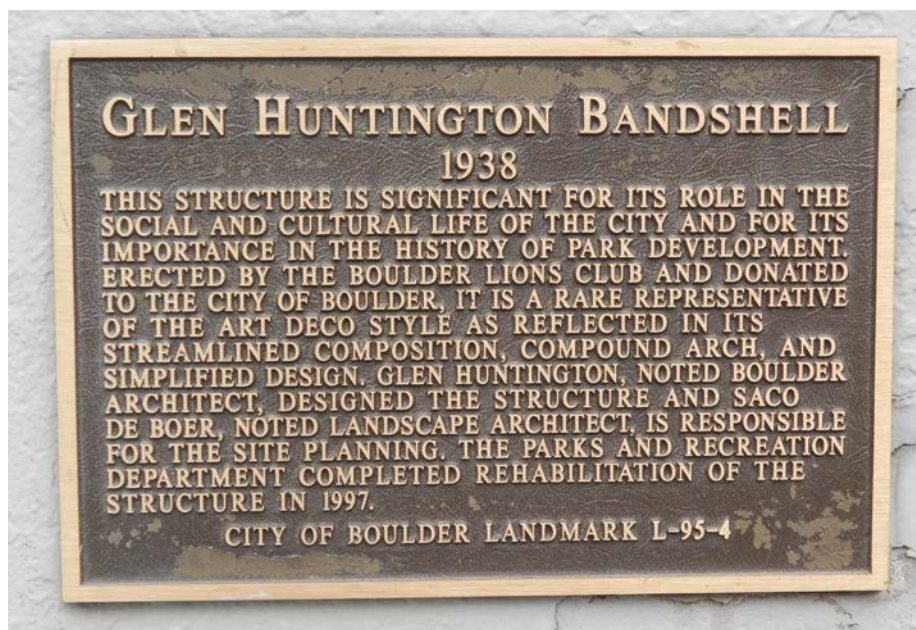


Figure 1-28. Glen Huntington Bandshell Landmark Designation plaque, 2020 (source: Ratio)



Figure 1-29. Front elevation view, 2020 (source: Ratio)



Figure 1-30. Figure 12: Rear elevation view, 2020 (source: Ratio)



Figure 1-31. Side elevation view, 2020 (source: Ratio)



Figure 1-32. Existing benches, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-33. Concrete walk from corner of 13th Street and Canyon Boulevard (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-34. Remnant sandstone path (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-35. View of Bandshell from the southeast corner (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-36. View to Boulder Flatirons from stage (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-37. Mature grove of trees adjacent to Bandshell (source: Mundus Bishop)

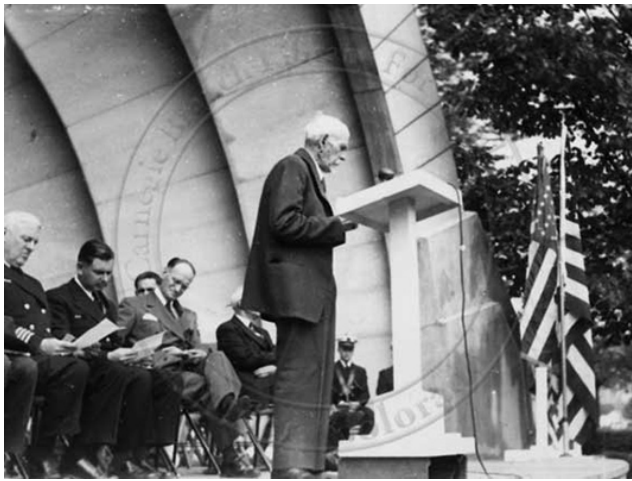


Figure 1-38. Dedication ceremony, 1938
(source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)



Figure 1-39. Installation of seating, Travis Photo Collection: c. 1950 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)



Figure 1-40. Ogala Sioux Dancers performing, 1956
(source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)



Figure 1-41. Line to visit Santa, 1963
(source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)

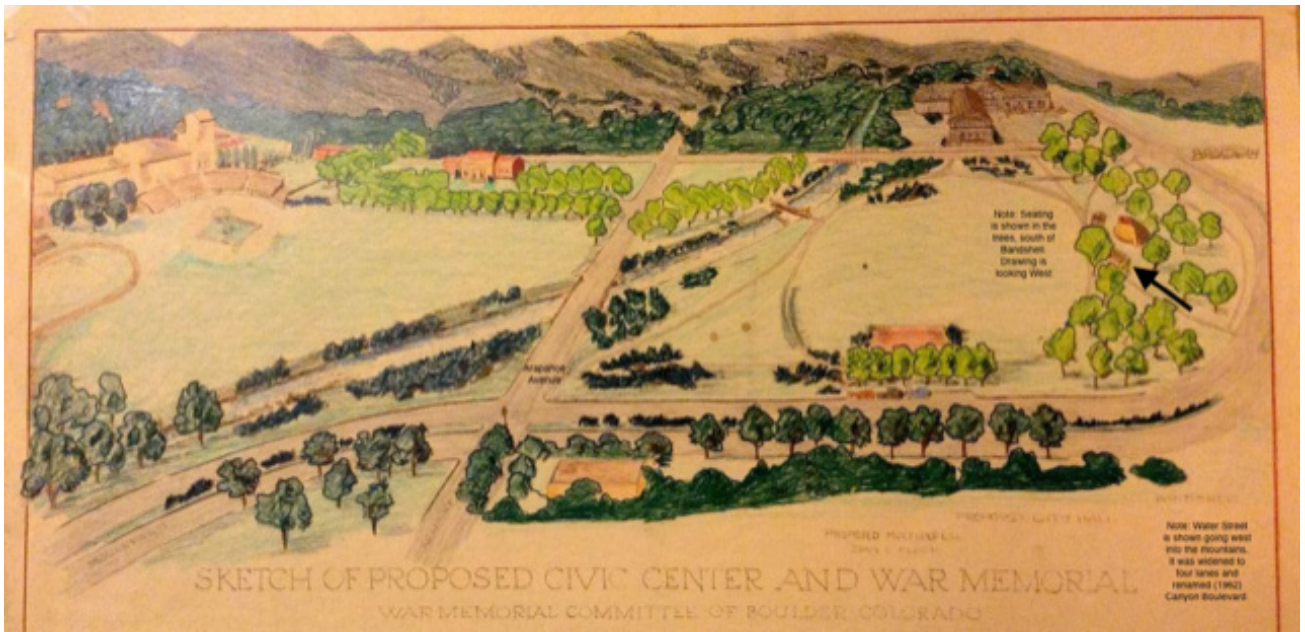
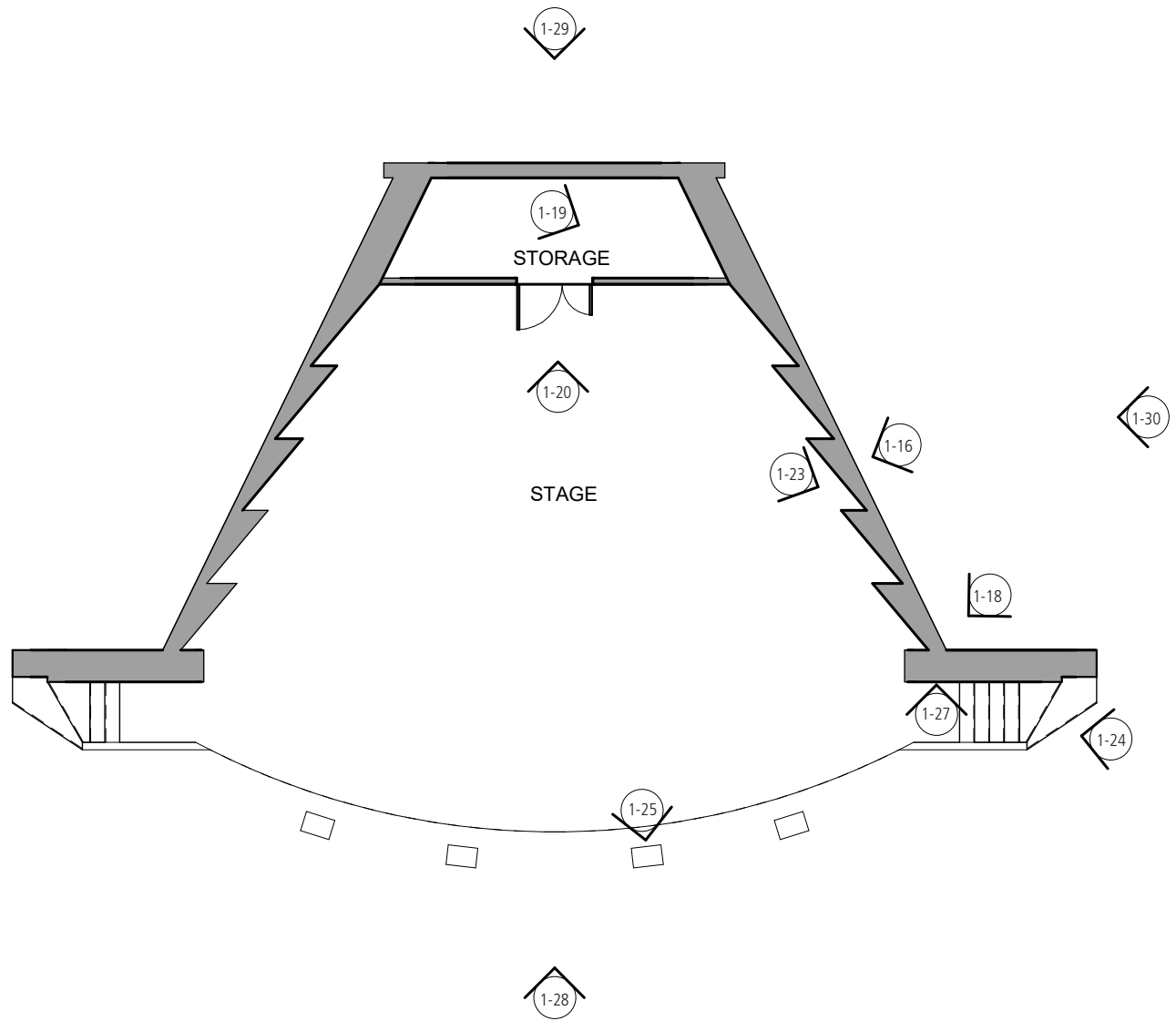
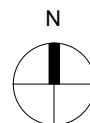
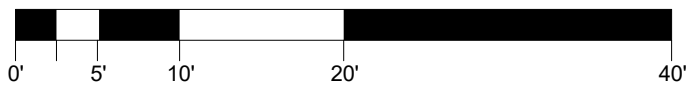


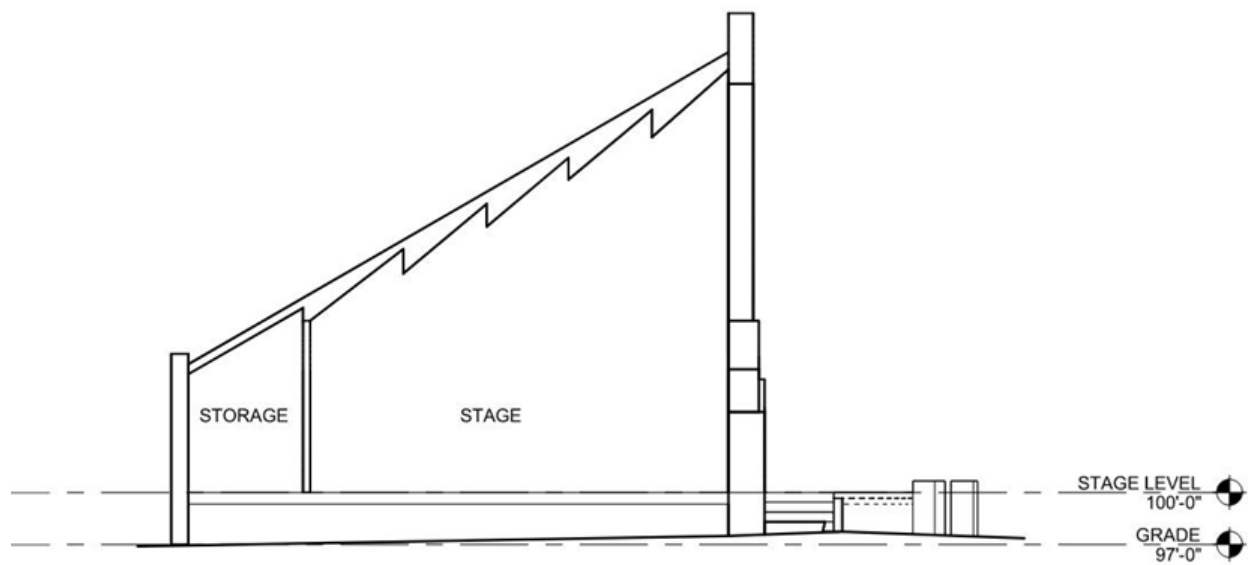
Figure 1-42. Proposed sketch of Bandshell, DeBoer, 1947 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)

SKETCHES

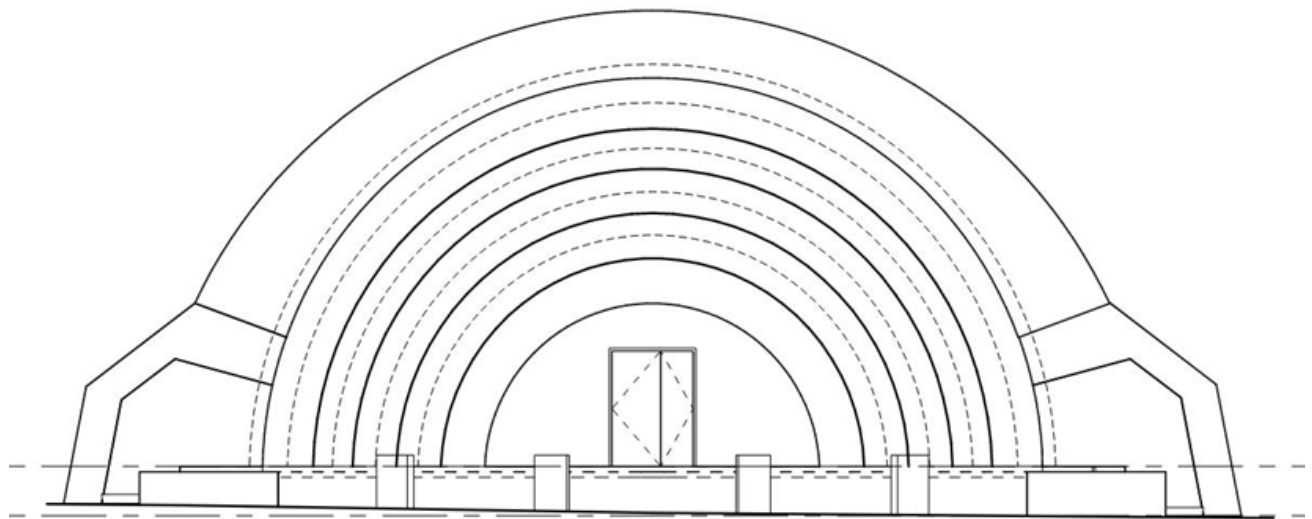


FLOOR PLAN EXISTING CONDITION





BUILDING SECTION (NORTH TO SOUTH)
NTS



SOUTH (FRONT) ELEVATION
NTS

RESOURCES

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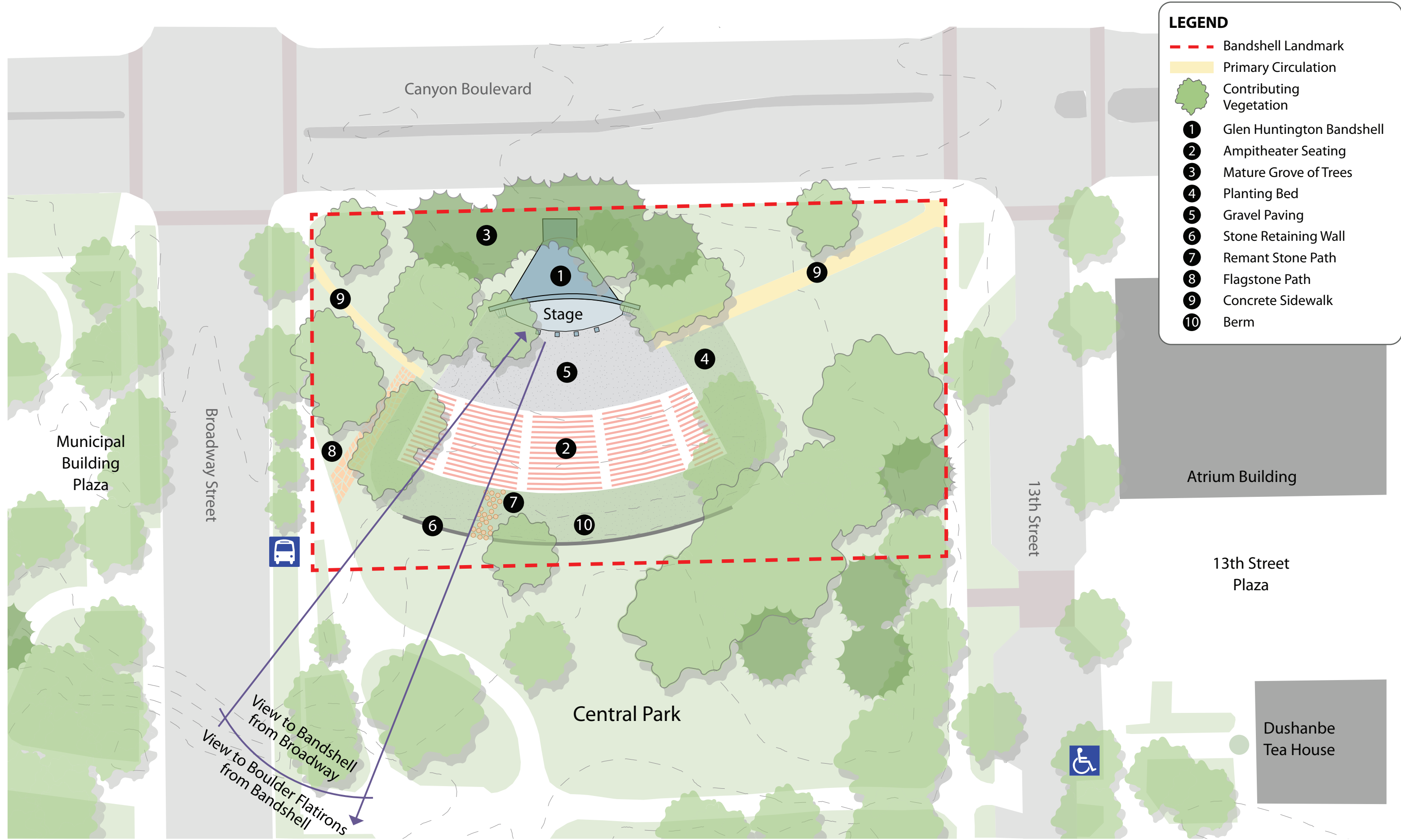
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Boulder Parks Multiple Resource Preservation Plan
Glen Huntington Bandshell Historic Context

Statement of Context

Glen Huntington Bandshell is a wood frame Art Deco Style bandshell located in the north-central portion of Central Park in Boulder. The Bandshell and its landscape are associated with the themes of Architecture in the Parks and Landscape Architecture for the works of prominent Colorado architect, Glen H. Huntington and landscape architect, Saco Rienk DeBoer. The recommended period of significance for the site begins with the structure's construction in 1939 and ends with its decline and temporary closure to the public in 1968. The structure and its landscape were designated a local landmark by the City of Boulder Landmarks Board and City of Boulder City Council in 1995. The designated site boundary consists of the Bandshell and its amphitheater seating, as well as its adjacent circulation, vegetation, and landforms. The Bandshell is locally significant as a rare representative of the Art Deco style and park architecture from the twentieth century, its association with works of Huntington and DeBoer, its importance as a civic space within Boulder. It is one of only two Art Deco style bandshells in Colorado, the other is in Pueblo.¹

Background History

Glen Huntington Bandshell was completed by the Boulder Lions Club on June 26, 1938 and dedicated as a public space to be utilized by all Boulder citizens.² Landscape architect Saco Rienk DeBoer selected the site for the Bandshell, and prepared initial plans and the landscape plan as part of his role as the City of Boulder's consulting planner during the 1930s. DeBoer's 1939 landscape plan, included reworked topography, walkways, and vegetation. The Bandshell was a popular entertainment venue in the years following its construction, acting as a site for musical concerts, cultural programs, educational presentations, and civic gatherings.³ In 1947, DeBoer proposed an updated plan for the site which included fixed rows of seating around the amphitheater. The site was updated in the late 1940s with new seating and circulation was implemented by 1950.⁴

In 1968 an influx of transients created unsanitary conditions and caused the park structure to fall into decline. The City Manager declared the park closed and all concerts were canceled. The Bandshell again rose to civic prominence in the early 1980s and multiple musical events were held thereafter.⁵ This resurgence of community involvement and events lasted until about 1995 when the structural integrity of the performance stage was questioned as a safety concern for the public.

Between 1970 and 1995 the Bandshell was under threat of being removed from the park and placed elsewhere. In 1990 a Freedom Festival was held at Central Park to promote local artists and the preservation of the Bandshell. This event kickstarted the formation of a committee to champion the preservation of the structure. The committee's work, increased awareness within the community, and alliances made with prominent architectural groups led to the successful local Landmark Designation and in 1995. At this time,

¹Friends of the Bandshell, Glen Huntington Band Shell- Endangered Places Nomination, August 29, 2015, 3.

² Laurie R. Simmons & Thomas H. Simmons, Boulder Bandshell Historical Study (Front Range Research Associates, Inc. Denver, CO, 1995), 5.

³ Ibid., 10.

⁴ Central Park Aerial, 1949 (source: Colorado Aerial Photography Service, 2021)

⁵ Laurie R. Simmons & Thomas H. Simmons, Boulder Bandshell Historical Study (Front Range Research Associates, Inc. Denver, CO, 1995), 12.

the structure was renamed Glen H. Huntington Bandshell. In 1997, the Bandshell was rehabilitated and stabilized.

Definition of the Context

Glen Huntington Bandshell and its setting are associated with the themes of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The Bandshell located in Boulder's Central Park represent an example of work by architect, Glen H. Huntington and landscape architect, Saco Rienk DeBoer. Huntington's Bandshell design reflects the Art Deco style in its streamlined composition, compound arch, and simplified design. Few Art Deco buildings were erected in Boulder and the Bandshell is one of the best-preserved examples of this style. The Bandshell is also significant as representative of a rather rare type of park architecture. Only one other bandshell, in Pueblo, has been recorded in the state to date. Saco Reink DeBoer, a proponent of the early 20th century City Beautiful Movement, recommended the site and designed an elegant and functional setting for the Bandshell, as the whole site was designed to channel flood waters back into Boulder Creek. Due to the integrity of the Bandshell's design and setting it is an important representative of park outdoor entertainment facilities of the early twentieth century.⁶

Development of the Theme or Area of Significance

The introduction of the Bandshell to Central Park was part of a national trend of constructing outdoor civic spaces for music and entertainment during the New Deal era. Bandstands and bandshells were built by the Works Progress Administration across the nation, providing new civic spaces for local communities. During the New Deal era, the WPA installed 228 bandstands and bandshells across the country. In addition to these, local governments and civic groups also funded their own bandstands and bandshells. The number of independently constructed bandstands and bandshells is unknown.⁷ The Bandshell in Boulder is an example of an independently commissioned Bandshell gifted to the City of Boulder by the Boulder Lions Club.

Based on the period at which it was built, the Lions Club could have been inspired by the national trend of bandshell construction in parks. The character-defining features of the bandshell are reminiscent of other prominent semi-circular concentric arched bandshells constructed during this time.⁸ When the bandshell was proposed, it was noted that the plans for the bandshell were like the ones for the Grant Park Bandshell in Chicago, which was completed in 1931 and modeled after the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. A 1937 newspaper article noted that the bandshell in Sioux City, Iowa in 1937 may have also influenced the design of the Boulder Bandshell.⁹

Associated Property Types

Glen Huntington Bandshell's structural design is consistent with multiple types of bandshell construction that grew in popularity across the United States in the 1920s and 1930s. As a widely used performance space, the "American Bandshell" construction has ranged in styles from classical such as the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park, New York, to modern, i.e., the new Pritzker Pavilion by Frank Gehry in downtown Chicago.

⁶ Friends of the Bandshell, Glen Huntington Band Shell- Endangered Places Nomination, August 29, 2015, 3.

⁷ Rachel Carey, Music in unconventional spaces: the changing music scene of the Great Depression America, 1929-1938, (Harrisonburg, VA: James Madison University/ JMU Scholarly Commons, 2018), 26.

⁸ Laurie R. Simmons & Thomas H. Simmons, Boulder Bandshell Historical Study (Front Range Research Associates, Inc. Denver, CO, 1995), 8-9.

⁹ Ibid., 8.

However, the overall needs of the structure remain the same with each new bandshell construction - provide a structure that will enhance and project sound from the stage to an audience in an open air environment.

Around the same time the Glen Huntington Bandshell was constructed, many other bandshell structures (such as the Hollywood Bowl in California and the Sioux City Bandshell in Iowa for example) were comprised of the iconic tapering concentric arches that were utilized as a method of projection with large concrete wing walls.¹⁰ The American Bandshell structures are not only unique in the way they provide a truly functional performance space and experience within the city but are also able to inform us of specific architectural styles captured during the period in which they were constructed.¹¹ The Bandshell in Boulder is one of these examples and its one of only a handful of bandshells remaining within Colorado. Of the remaining bandshells in Colorado, it is one of only two Art Deco style bandshells, the other located in Pueblo, CO.¹²

Physical Characteristics and Integrity

The Bandshell retains its streamlined, simplified form and other character-defining features of the Art Deco style including its semi-elliptical opening at the theater stage, six concentric interior arches, thick buttresses, and elevated stage. The landscape and amphitheater retain elements of original topography, circulation, and vegetation including the levee, historic grove, and the orientation of some of the sidewalks. Although a later addition, the fixed rows of seating also qualify as a character-defining feature.

The Bandshell possess a high degree of integrity and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The Bandshell remains in its original location within Central Park. The setting has undergone several changes since DeBoer's initial design was implemented, with the largest alteration being the addition of seating in the late 1940s; however, this modification falls within the site's recommended period of significance and is a character-defining feature of the site. DeBoer proposed an updated sketch of Central Park in 1947 which also included a sketch of the Bandshell with seating.¹³ The Bandshell retains its original Art Deco design with no major modifications, giving it a high degree of integrity of design and workmanship. Many of the original materials of the Bandshell were replaced during the 1997 rehabilitation, but all were replaced in-kind, allowing the structure to retain its integrity of materials. As a structure within a park setting, the Bandshell remains as an open civic space, available for community events, retaining its association as a public space within Boulder. While still retaining its feeling as a civic space, some of this feeling is diminished by vandalism.

Relationship to the National Register Criteria

According to Boulder Bandshell Historical Study, the Bandshell is significant under NRHP for A and C for its association as civic space within Boulder and for its representation of Art Deco architecture within a park setting. The Bandshell is significant for the role it has played in the social and cultural life of Boulder since 1938. It has been the site of numerous concerts, dances, festivals, and other varieties of community entertainment and social gatherings in its long history.¹⁴ The Bandshell expresses the cultural values of the

¹⁰ Ibid., 8.

¹¹ Friends of the Bandshell, Glen Huntington Band Shell- Endangered Places Nomination, August 29, 2015, 3.

¹² Ibid., 2-3.

¹³ Saco Rienk DeBoer, Sketch of Proposed Civic Center and War Memorial, 1947.

¹⁴ Laurie R. Simmons & Thomas H. Simmons, Boulder Bandshell Historical Study (Front Range Research Associates, Inc. Denver, CO, 1995), 16.

City of Boulder and the Boulder Lions Club, and their mutual motivation to develop public parks and civic space throughout the City. The Bandshell is significant for its representation of the Art Deco style in Boulder; as an example of band shell construction and park architecture from the twentieth century; and as a representative workmanship of Glen Huntington and Saco Rienk DeBoer.

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