



CHAUTAUQUA GREEN

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT REPORT



DRAFT MARCH 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRANTOR

History of Colorado, State Historical Fund

- Jenny Deichman, Historic Preservation Grant Specialist
- Korbin Pugh, Contracts Specialist & Property Protection Coordinator

GRANTEE

City of Boulder Parks and Recreation

- Caitlin Berube-Smith, Historical and Cultural Assets Coordinator
- Regina Elsner, Planner II
- Jeff Haley, PLA, Planning, Design and Community Engagement Manager
- Morgan Gardner, Associate Planner

CONSULTANTS

MUNDUS BISHOP

- Tina Bishop, PLA, Principal
- Rachel Scarborough, PLA, Associate Principal, Senior Landscape Architect
- Josh Spinner, Associate, Landscape Designer
- Brittany Schroeder, Landscape Designer

JVA Consulting Engineers

- Ian Glazer, PE, Principal, Historic Preservation Director
- Christine Britton, PE, Project Engineer
- Riley Marshall, Design Engineer I

IMAGE CREDITS

Current-day (2020) photographs provided by Mundus Bishop 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.



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Figure 1-1. Aerial view of Colorado Chautauqua NHL (blue) with the lease line (dashed black), (source: Mundus Bishop).

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.

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PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Property Name: Colorado Green (city-managed property) within Colorado Chautauqua NHL
Location: 900 Baseline Road, Boulder, CO 80302
Property Address: Baseline Road and 9th Street, Boulder, CO 80302
Latitude/ Longitude: 39.5957 / -105.1653
Legal Property Description: PT NE 1/4 1-1S-71 75 AC M/L LAND UNDER CHAUTAUQUA PARK
Parcel Tag(s): 157901100001
Acreage / Square Footage: 14 Acres / 609,262 SF (city-managed property)

Date of Construction: Arbor (1908); Chautauqua Green (1910); Loop Road (1912); Shelter House, Queen's Gate, & King's Gate (1917)
Designer(s): W.W. Parce, Landscape Architect

DESIGNATION, ELIGIBILITY, & CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY**

Current Designation Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Landmark (Local Historic District) <input type="checkbox"/> State Register of Historic Properties (SRHP) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP)		Ordinance & Listing Information City of Boulder Local Landmark No: <u>HD-78-2</u> Ordinance No: <u>4382</u> Ordinance Date: <u>September 5, 1978</u> State ID: <u> </u> Smithsonian Trinomial: <u>5BL.361</u> National Historic Landmark No: <u>78000830</u>	
State & National Register Eligibility State Register of Historic Properties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Delisted		National Register of Historic Properties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed <input type="checkbox"/> Delisted	
Period of Significance Date Range: <u>1898</u> to <u>1930</u>		Areas of Significance <u>Education</u> <u>Entertainment / Recreation</u>	
Property Types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sites(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings(s)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feature(s) (SRHP)	
Individual Character-Defining Features of Property Types District(s) _____ _____ Site(s) <u>Chautauqua Green</u> _____ Building(s) _____ _____		NRHP Evaluation Criteria ⁴ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criteria A: The property is associated with event that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history <input type="checkbox"/> Criteria B: The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past <input type="checkbox"/> Criteria C: The 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 may lack individual distinction <input type="checkbox"/> Criteria D: The property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history	

⁴

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Vail, Martha, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO, 2005), 46.

Summary is for the Chautauqua Green and inclusive of the City of Boulder managed property within the National Historic Landmark

Designation Boundary

Designation Boundary Description: Chautauqua Green consists of 14 acres managed by the City of Boulder within the 40 acre Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark. The site includes the Chautauqua Green, Clematis Drive, Sumac Drive, and adjacent parking, Ranger Cottage, Arbor, Shelter House, playground, tennis court, and adjacent natural area (Figure 1-2). Chautauqua Green is part of the larger Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark which includes twenty-six acres of land leased to the Colorado Chautauqua Association (CCA). These grounds include multiple cottages, the Auditorium, Dining Hall, Academic Hall, and several other gardens and features. The CCA manages and preserves this portion of the site for lodging, programming, and venues for private events.

Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark boundary "includes all the resources that were historically part of the Colorado Chautauqua and that maintain historic integrity." The property was designated by the City of Boulder as Chautauqua Historic District, Ordinance Number 4382, on September 5, 1978.⁵ It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 21, 1978.⁶ The property was designated a National Historic Landmark on February 10, 2006.⁷

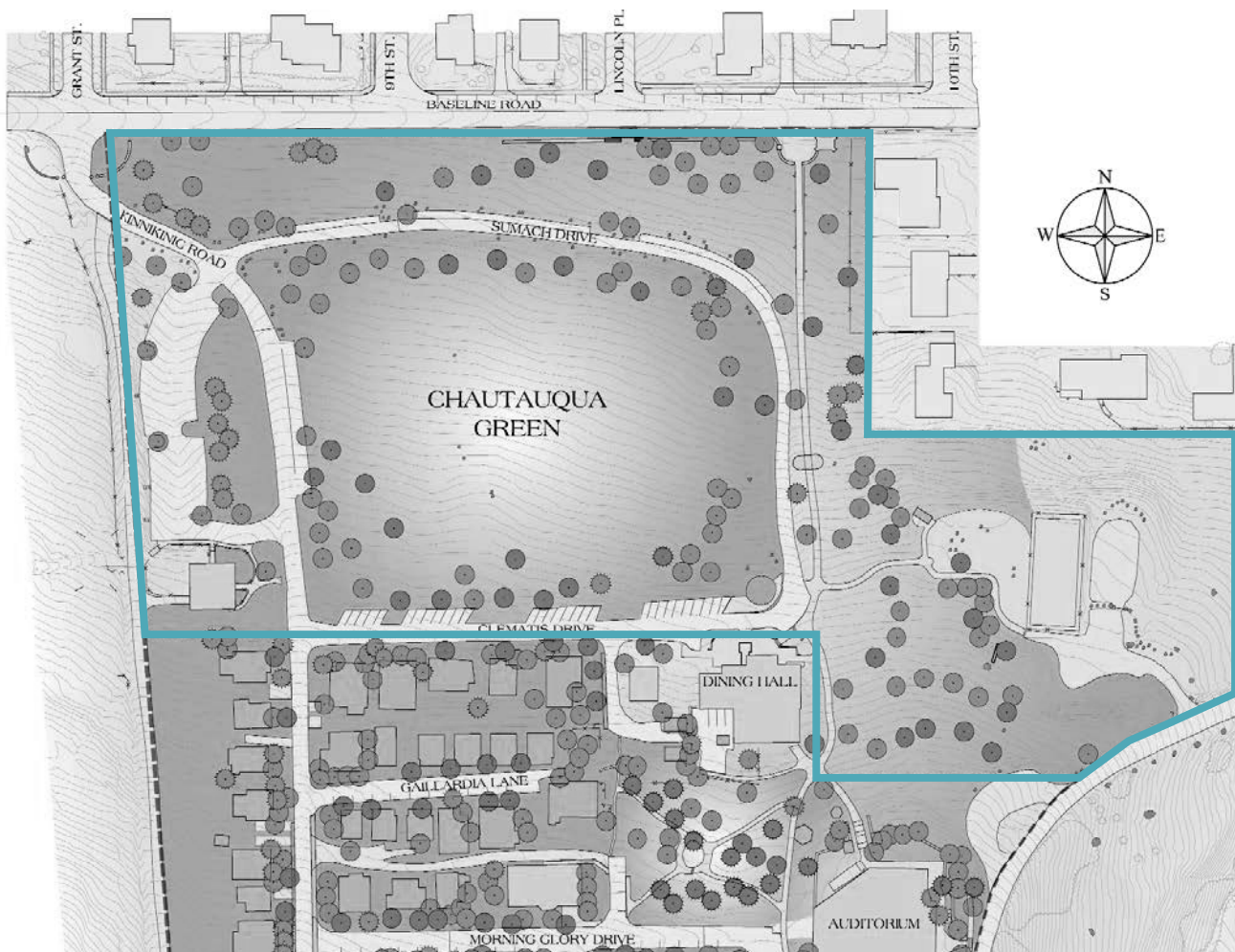


Figure 1-2. Site map from Chautauqua Park Historic District Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan with the city managed property outlined in blue, (source: Mundus Bishop)

⁵ Vail, Martha, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO, 2005), 64

⁶ Gage Davis and Associates, *The Colorado Chautauqua National Register of Historic Places Nomination* (Boulder, CO: Gage Davis and Associates, 1987), 3.

⁷ US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Colorado Chautauqua National Landmark Certification* (Washington DC: National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program, February 10, 2006).

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Context

See Appendix

Statement of Significance

As a component landscape of the Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark (NHL), Chautauqua Green is an outstanding representation of the Chautauqua Movement. Colorado Chautauqua is the only one of its kind that was founded as an independent institution and it continues to operate as a chautauqua open to the general public. Colorado Chautauqua is a living document of the Movement's ideals - learning for all, uplifting entertainment, and leisure in a natural and inspiring setting. The Colorado Chautauqua displays more historic integrity than any other extant chautauqua property.

Colorado Green exemplifies the unique, western expression of the Movement. It was the most prominent, most stable and largest independent chautauqua in the West. It remains the only continuously operating chautauqua west of the Mississippi River and is now the nation's only continuously operating chautauqua with grounds open and free for public enjoyment.⁸

Criterion A/1 - Associated with Event/Broad Pattern of History

The Colorado Chautauqua is significant under NRHP Criterion A and NHL Criterion 1 for its association with the Chautauqua Movement. Colorado Chautauqua's landscapes are an outstanding representation of America's first truly national mass educational and cultural movement. Chautauqua brought post-secondary education to millions and teacher training to thousands at a time when less than two percent of adult Americans held high school degrees, when primary and secondary teacher training was rudimentary, unsystematic, or non-existent. Chautauqua, also brought prominent speakers, high culture, and popular entertainments to non-urban areas that had never had such opportunities. While cities were growing more congested, chautauqua emphasized the benefits of outdoor life. Between the founding of the Chautauqua Movement in 1874 and its nadir in 1930, perhaps 45 million Americans had attended a chautauqua.⁹

Period of Significance

The period of significance for the Colorado Chautauqua NHL is from 1898 to 1930. The period begins with its founding in 1898 as the Texas-Colorado Chautauqua and ends in 1930 when the national Chautauqua Movement reached its nadir.

⁸ Vail, Martha, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO, 2005), 46.
⁹ *Ibid.*, 46.

Summary of Use

Historic Use

The lower level areas of Colorado Chautauqua NHL that would become Chautauqua Green were historically used as pasture land of Bachelder Ranch and as horse and carriage parking for Colorado Chautauqua. Chautauqua Green was built in 1910 and is considered Boulder's oldest public park.¹⁰ The park was historically used as the site of educational, recreational, and cultural programming.

Date	Event
Prior to 1898	Pasture land for Bachelder Ranch
1898 to early 1900s	Horse and carriage parking
1904	W.W. Parce landscape plan names area "Tennis Park "
1910	Chautauqua Green established as a public park

Current Use

Colorado Chautauqua NHL retains its historic use as a site for educational, recreational, and cultural programming. Chautauqua Green is primarily used as a flexible open space, but often hosts a variety of events throughout the year including festivals, outdoor classes and demonstrations, and speaking event/lecture series. Close proximity to Chautauqua Meadow Trailhead and other trails leading to the Boulder Flatirons, the area is often used for parking and gatherings for recreational trips.

Date	Event
Present	Chautauqua Green is a neighborhood park and is heavily used by local residents and students.

¹⁰ Vail, Martha, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO, 2005), 7.

Construction & Alteration History

Date	Event	Source
1898	City of Boulder purchased 171 acres of land for the Colorado Chautauqua NHL campus.	Chautauqua Land- scape Guidelines, 7
	Chautauqua Green land served as a horse and carriage parking and entrance into the site during early chautauquas.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 6-7
1899	A wooden boardwalk was built within Chautauqua Green for access from Baseline Road.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 6
1901	The Boulder Improvement Association hired W. W. Parce to complete a plan for Colorado Chautauqua, including Chautauqua Green (originally named "Tennis Park").	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 6
1908	The Arbor was built on the north-south walk at the top of a steep grade, as a rest stop for travelers arriving by trolley on Baseline Road.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 8
	The road into Chautauqua was widened and improved.	Chautauqua CLA, Appendix
1910	Chautauqua Green's oval was plowed and seeded with grasses.	Chautauqua CLA, Appendix
1911	A carriage and pedestrian gateway was built at 10th Street and Baseline Road.	Chautauqua CLA, Appendix
1912	Vehicular entrance was relocated to Grant Street, a loop road was built within Chautauqua Green, and northeast entrance became a pedestrian only entrance.	Chautauqua CLA, Appendix
1913	A playground was built.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 8
1917	Shelter House, King's Gate, and Lincoln Street Steps (Queen's Gate) were built. King's Gate replaced the gateway built in 1911.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 6
	Stone walls were built along Baseline Road and the vehicular entrance at Grant Street.	Chautauqua CLA, Appendix
1930s	The original twelve light-fixed windows in Shelter House were removed.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 6
1954	Rock Miners Memorial was installed near the vehicular entrance.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 8
1964	Tennis courts were built to the east of the playground and the adjacent lower parking lot was graded.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 8
1978	Chautauqua Park was designated a local historic district by the City of Boulder.	Chautauqua CLA, Appendix
	Chautauqua Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).	Chautauqua NRHP Nomination, 1978
1981	A rose garden was installed near Rock Miners Monument.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 8
1985	Chautauqua Green Master Plan developed by the City of Boulder.	Chautauqua CLA, Appendix
1987	Loop road was narrowed to provide more parking spaces and modified to add green space and two rounded interior corners were eliminated. A section of stone gutter on the east side was reconstructed with a sloped gutter with sandstone pieces set in concrete.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 7
	Ranger Cottage and parking area were built.	Chautauqua CLA, 54

Date	Event	Source
1990s	A wood red-brown stone slab bench, low massed shrubs, ornamental trees, and a wooden two-post entrance sign were installed at Grant Street.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 7
1995	Original playground structures were replaced with contemporary structures.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 8
1998	Reproduction lamp posts were installed throughout Colorado Chautauqua, including Chautauqua Green. A child-sized replica of Chautauqua Auditorium was built at the playground to function as a playhouse.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 8
2002	A Peace Garden was installed at the southeast corner of the green, across from the Dining Hall.	Chautauqua NHL Nomination, 8
2003	The log beams and rafters on the roof of The Arbor were replaced.	Chautauqua CLA, 54
2006	Colorado Chautauqua was designated a National Historic Landmark.	Chautauqua NHL Certification
2017	Retaining walls and a new sidewalk were built along Baseline Road.	Mundus Bishop drawings, 2017
2020	New equipment and play features were installed at the playground and surrounding sidewalks were resurfaced to meet ADA standards.	Field notes, 2020



Figure 1-3. Shelter House with windows still intact, c. 1920 (source: CCA Archives)

INTEGRITY

Location

Chautauqua Green and features including The Arbor, Shelter House, and playground are in their original locations within Chautauqua Park.

Setting

Chautauqua Green is strongly defined by the site topography, roads, and vegetation. The Arbor and Shelter House remain in their historic locations and settings. Modifications to the road system and playground have diminished areas of the historic setting. Modern additions to the setting include parking areas (1984) and the tennis courts (1964). Trees have been used to screen the newer areas, allowing the setting to retain a high degree of historic integrity. Of the six remaining chautauquas still in operation, the Colorado Chautauqua retains the highest integrity of setting.¹¹

Design

Chautauqua Green's general appearance and circulation are largely unchanged since the period of significance. The site resembles the 1928 plan and retains its integrity of design. Patterns of roads and pedestrian routes generally follow W.W. Parce's design with the exception of those into the interior. The Arbor, Queen's Gate, King's Gate, and Shelter House have retained their character defining features and have a high degree of integrity.

Materials

Roadway paving materials have changed since the period of significance with asphalt introduced in the 1940s. Paving repair raised the road grade and deepened the stone gutters, creating some issues for cars.¹² Portions of the rustic stone gutters have been replaced with sandstone set in concrete and are non-compatible with the historic gutters.

The Arbor and Shelter House retain historic appearances with only minor modifications to replace portions where wood had decayed. A recent rehabilitation of The Arbor's roofing replaced the timbers in-kind. The wooden benches of the Shelter House were replaced with concrete slabs.¹³

Workmanship

Extant historic structures display workmanship indicative of the period including Shelter House, The Arbor, Lincoln Street Steps (Queen's Gate), and Entrance Gate (King's Gate). The structures exemplify the qualities of the rustic style with their use of rubble stone and low profiles.

Feeling and Association

Chautauqua Green continues to be used for music festivals, educational workshops, and recreation as it was historically. As a public park, people still use this space to listen, learn, and recreate in a built, designed, and natural environment that is largely unchanged since 1930. The site's historical feeling and associations remain.¹⁴

11 Vail, Martha, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO, 2005), 47.

12 Mundus Bishop, *Chautauqua Park Historic District: Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan* (Denver, CO: Mundus Bishop, 2004), 41.

13 Vail, Martha, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO, 2005), 7-8.

14 Ibid., 5.

CURRENT EXISTING CONDITION

LANDSCAPE CONDITION

Landscape Condition Summary

The site is approximately 14-acres in bound consisting of a large oval meadow defined by a loop road with angled and parallel parking; Ranger Cottage and its associated parking; a naturalized landscape edge; a walkway from Baseline Road into the site; the Arbor and Shelter House; tennis courts, and a playground.¹⁵

Summary of Landscape Characteristics

Natural Systems and Features

The natural environment has a significant influence on the appearance and feeling of Chautauqua Park. Colorado Chautauqua NHL is on a mesa at the mouth of Bluebell Canyon, above Bluebell Canyon Creek and east of Boulder Flatirons.¹⁶ The formal geometry of the campus set against the open foothills is a character-defining feature of Chautauqua Park. Visitors to the park continue to explore and learn from the natural environment through programs, classes and recreational trips. The relationship between Chautauqua Park and its surrounding foothills environment is essential to its integrity. The City of Boulder continues to preserve the surrounding lands in nearly the same condition as they were found in 1898.¹⁷

Topography

Subtle grade changes begin at Clematis Drive where the grade quickly slopes away from the street towards Baseline Road.¹⁸ Stone walls at Baseline Road, King's Gate, and Queen's Gate historically defined the north edge and held back the grade at Baseline Road. Newer stone walls were added in 2017 to complete this edge.



Figure 1-4. View of Boulder Flatirons from within Chautauqua Green, c. 1919 to 1923 (source: Carnegie Library for Local History)

15 Mundus Bishop, Chautauqua Park Historic District: Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan (Denver, CO: Mundus Bishop, 2004), 54.
16 Gage Davis and Associates, The Colorado Chautauqua National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Boulder, CO: Gage Davis and Associates, 1987), 3.
17 Mundus Bishop, Chautauqua Park Historic District: Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan (Denver, CO: Mundus Bishop, 2004), 33.
18 Ibid., 56.

Spatial Organization

The historic setting and spatial organization of the Chautauqua Green remain largely intact. Chautauqua Green is organized as a large open lawn extending from Baseline Road to Clematis Drive. The center is an oval lawn defined by historic roads of Clematis Drive and Sumac Drive. Mature trees remain on the perimeter of the lawn. A sidewalk parallels the east side of the Green, and provides a connection to the Dining Hall from the King's Gate entrance. Dining Hall and cottages along Clematis Drive are oriented to the Chautauqua Green.

The western parking area intersects with the main loop road at Kinnikinic Road to create one-way parking loop. The primary façade of the Ranger's cottage is oriented to north, near the exit for the parking loop. The spatial organization of the site remains largely intact and continues to be defined by site topography, roadways, and vegetation.

Circulation

Pedestrian Circulation – Primary circulation route was originally a wooden boardwalk (1898) connecting Baseline Road into Chautauqua Park. This route served as a primary carriage and pedestrian entrance (Figure 1-5). The Arbor (1908) was a resting stop between Baseline Road and the Dining Hall. This route remained the primary entrance to the site until the auto entrance was built at Grant Street in 1917. The construction of the Stone Shelter and King's Gate reinforced the use of this route as the primary pedestrian route. The route remains in approximately the same location and has since been paved. Spur sidewalks have been built to provide access to the playground, tennis courts, and Rangers Cottage. These spur routes are non-contributing but provide access to public amenities.

Vehicular Circulation – Clematis Road (Texas Avenue) and Kinnikinic Road (Dunaway Avenue; Chautauqua Avenue) were built in 1898. In 1912 Sumac Drive was connected to Clematis Drive to create a one-way loop road within the Chautauqua Green. The vehicular entrance at Grant Street was built in 1917. In 1987 Clematis and Sumac Drive were narrowed, parking spurs were built along the edges, two islands were removed to expand the open lawn, and a large parking area was built in association with the Ranger's Cottage. The circulation system generally remains intact with the exception of the west parking area.

Accessibility

ADA parking spaces are provided at the Rangers Cottage and Dining Hall. The two designated parallel parking spaces to the north and south of the Dining Hall are not ADA compliant (Figure 1-).

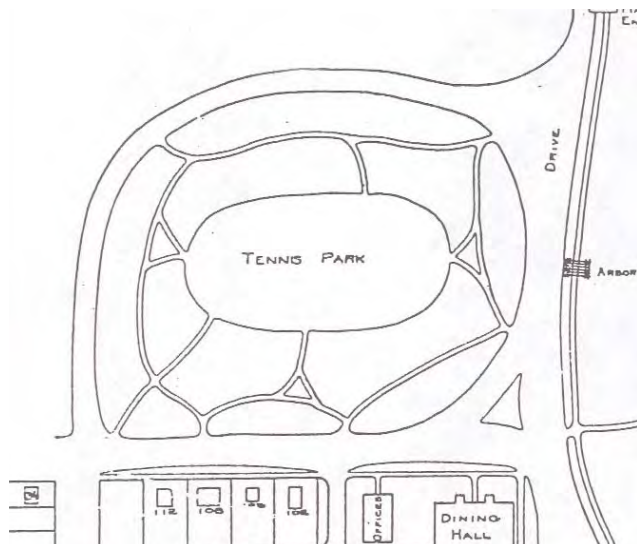


Figure 1-5. Plan of Chautauqua Green's 'Tennis Park', 1915 (source: CCA Archives)

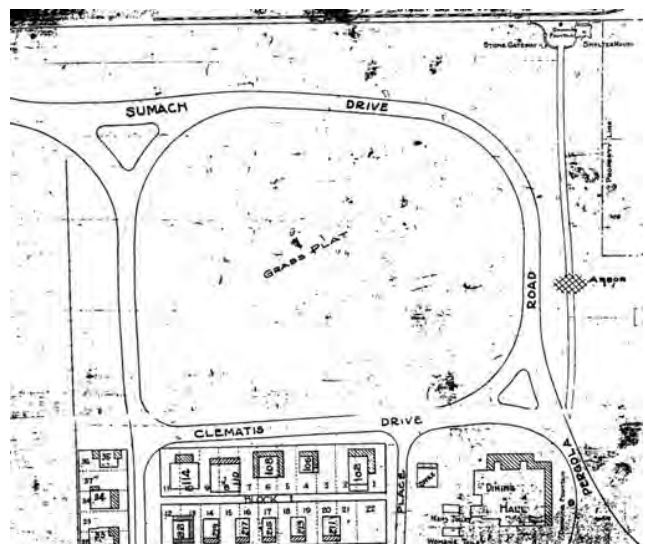


Figure 1-6. Plan of Chautauqua Green, 1928 (source: CCA Archives)

Buildings and Structures

The Arbor – The Arbor was built in 1908 as a resting stop for visitors arriving by trolley. It is a rustic-style structure composed of large rubble stone walls and a tapered log roof. The structure straddles the sidewalk connecting Chautauqua Green with Baseline Road. The Arbor retains integrity and is in good condition.

Shelter House – Shelter House, King's Gate, and Queen's Gate were built in 1917 and share the same rustic qualities. Shelter House is a one-story structure of stone rubble walls and stone rubble quoins at the corners is located at King's Gate and oriented to Baseline Road. The original windows were removed in the 1930s but wood frames remain intact. Interior benches have had their wood planks replaced with concrete slabs. Shelter House continues to be used as a bus stop, retaining its original function. Modifications to the window openings and benches have not significantly altered the integrity of the structure.¹⁹

Entrance Gate (King's Gate) – Stone towers flank the sidewalk leading from Baseline Road to the interior of the park. Rubble stone walls form arcs to the east and west of the towers. The rubble stone wall intersects with the retaining wall that demarcates the northernmost boundary of the park (Figure 1-7 and Figure 1-9).²⁰ The structure retains integrity.

Lincoln Street Steps (Queen's Gate) – The structure consists of a series of shallow stone steps and was originally intended to be an additional pedestrian entrance along Baseline Road.²¹ A contemporary metal sign with the message "Caution: No Winter Maintenance" was placed in the center of the steps, diminishes the historic appearance. Queen's Gate retains integrity (Figure 1-7).

Retaining Walls – The northern edge of the park is lined with several segmented retaining walls parallel to Baseline Road. The walls originally terminated at the Queen's Gate, but five additional sections of wall were built in 2017, extending to the vehicular entrance at Grant Street. At the King's Gates' stone towers, the retaining wall pivot south to form two parallel walls on both sides of the eastern sidewalk (Figure 1-33). The materials of the newer walls are compatible with the rustic character of the site (Figure 1-9).



Figure 1-7. Lincoln Street Steps (Queen's Gate), 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-8. Historic retaining wall along Baseline Road, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)

¹⁹ Ibid., 7.

²⁰ Ibid., 7.

²¹ Ibid., 7.

Stone gutters– Rustic stone gutters line portions of Kinnikinic and Sumac Drive. The original gutters were likely built in 1907 when the roadway was graveled. Due to the material choice and seasonal wear, these gutters require heavy maintenance, and many of them are in fair/poor condition. Portions of the gutters have been replaced over time, and it is unclear how many historic gutters remain. In 1987 stone gutters at Sumac Drive were rebuilt when the road was narrowed. These have a steep side slope and are sandstone set in concrete and are non-contributing (Figure 1-39). The City recently replaced a portion of the gutters using compatible materials and these are in good condition (Figure 1-40).

Ranger Cottage – Built in 1987 by the City of Boulder, Ranger Cottage functions as offices, an interpretive space, and a visitor contact station. The building was designed to be compatible with other stone buildings on site. The one-story building has a square frame and hipped roof with overhanging eaves at the north and east elevations. An L-shaped under eave porch is accessed by a central wood staircase. A ramp along the west elevation was built in 2002. The building is non-contributing.

Small Scale Features

Rock Miners Memorial – Installed in 1954 near the entrance at Grant Street, this feature is a large boulder with a brass plaque commemorating the single-jack competitions that took place at the Colorado Chautauqua’ NHLs annual Fourth of July Celebration. The Miners Memorial is a non-contributing feature (Figure 1-10).²²

Views and Viewsheds

Views to Chautauqua Green were once very prominent from Boulder and the surrounding area. The growth of the city and the maturing urban forests have altered this relationship, leaving only a few remaining views and few glimpses from Baseline Road.²³ Several prominent views remain including views to the Boulder Flatirons from the northeast corner and views to and from the Dining Hall.



Figure 1-9. Newer retaining walls built in 2017 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-10. Miner's Memorial, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)

22 Vail, Martha, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO, 2005), 8.

23 Mundus Bishop, *Chautauqua Park Historic District: Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan* (Denver, CO: Mundus Bishop, 2004), 33.

Vegetation

Mature Plantings – Trees planted in the early 1900s remain today. These now mature trees were planted to define the Chautauqua Green and to direct views. Groupings of mature deciduous trees include American Elm, Horse-chestnut, and Kentucky Coffeetree on the northeastern and southeastern edges of the central lawn. Similar groupings occur along the center of Clematis Drive. One mature Blue Spruce remains in front of the Dining Hall.

Additional trees have been planted within the oval and along the landscape edge. Many of these trees were not planted in the location of original trees. Several trees near the Dining Hall and entry road obscure the view to and from the Dining Hall.²⁴

Rose Gardens – Two rose gardens were planted within the Chautauqua Park complex – one was planted in the northwest corner around the Miners Memorial in 1981 (Figure 1-12) while the other was planted at the northeast entrance of King's Gate in recent years. The rose garden at the King's Gate is a reconstruction built in recent years. Both gardens are non-contributing features, but the rose garden at the King's Gate could be considered compatible with the historic design (Figure 1-11 and 1-13).

Peace Garden – The Peace Garden was planted in 2002 in the southeast corner of the Green, in front of the Dining Hall. Planting beds are divided up with small rocks in the form of a peace symbol. The Peace Garden is non-contributing (Figure 1-14).



Figure 1-11. Rose garden at Shelter House and King's Gate, c. 1920s (source: CCA Archives)



Figure 1-12. Garden around Miner's Memorial and Entrance Sign, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-13. Shelter House and King's Gate rose garden, 2019 (source: Google Street View)



Figure 1-14. Peace Garden near Dining Hall, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)

24 Mundus Bishop, Chautauqua Park Historic District: Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan (Denver, CO: Mundus Bishop, 2004), 58.

Table 1-1: Character-Defining Features

Feature	Condition	Contributing/ Non-Contributing
Natural Systems and Features		
Boulder Flatirons and Foothills	Good	Contributing
Topography		
Grade change from Clematis Dr. to Baseline Rd.	Good	Contributing
Vegetation		
Mature Trees	Good	Contributing
Oval Lawn	Good	Contributing
Reconstructed Rose Garden at King's Gate	Good	Non-Contributing/ Compatible
Rose Garden at Miner's Memorial	Good	Non-Contributing
Peace Garden	Good	Non-Contributing
Spatial Organization		
Chautauqua Green	Good	Contributing
Ranger's Cottage and parking lot	Good	Non-Contributing
Circulation		
Walk from King's Gate to Dining Hall	Good	Contributing
Playground and tennis court sidewalks	Good	Non-Contributing
Ranger Cottage circulation	Good	Non-Contributing
Kinnikinic Road	Good	Contributing
Sumac Drive	Good	Contributing
Clematis Drive	Good	Contributing
Angled parking along loop road	Good	Non-Contributing
ADA parking at Dining Hall	Good	Non-Contributing
Buildings and Structures		
The Arbor	Good	Contributing
Shelter House	Good	Contributing
Entrance Gate (King's Gate)	Good	Contributing
Lincoln Street Steps (Queen's Gate)	Good	Contributing
Retaining Walls Between Queen's Gate and King's Gate	Good	Contributing
Retaining Walls from Queen's Gate to Entrance at Grant Street	Good	Non-Contributing
Stone Gutters	Varies	Varies
Ranger Cottage	Good	Non-Contributing
Small Scale Features		
Rock Miners Memorial	Good	Non-Contributing
Entrance Signs (Vehicle entrance & King's Gate)	Good	Non-Contributing
Views and Viewsheds		
View to Boulder Flatirons	Good	Contributing
Dining Hall Views	Good	Contributing
Views from Baseline Road	Good	Contributing



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

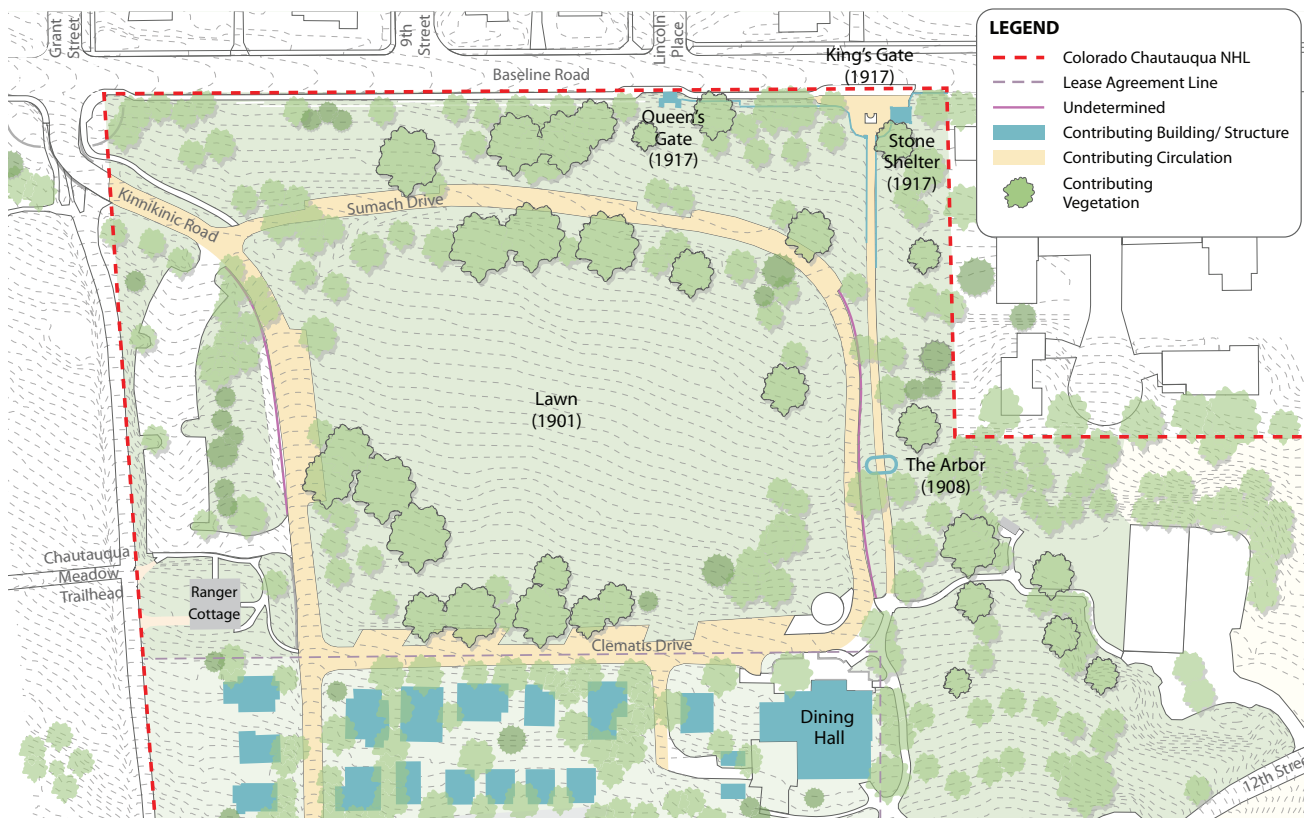


Figure 1-16. Chautauqua Green Contributing Features, 2021 (source: Mundus Bishop)

STRUCTURAL CONDITION

THE ARBOR

Summary

Chautauqua Green's Arbor was built in 1908 as an oval open structure with rubble masonry piers and a log roof system. Each wall supports five squared piers that taper in width. The stone base is capped with an oval pergola of peeled logs. The exterior features stone benches.

Foundation

The foundation of the structure's stone piers is likely composed of the same rubble masonry extending below grade. This base is also widened by stone benches integral with the bases of the piers. The foundation beneath the two interior wood posts is unknown as the concrete sidewalk is poured tight against the bases of the members, however, they likely bear on isolated stone or concrete foundation elements. No foundation elements were exposed or observed during the site observation.

Overall, the foundation of the stone piers is in good condition. There is no evidence of settlement or settlement related cracking. The east timber post shows signs of decay at its base which bears directly on its foundation element and is tightly surrounded by the concrete sidewalk, both of which encourage moisture to remain rather than dry. (Re: Figure 1-19) The west post has new concrete around its base, indicating that it could have been recently replaced; however, this bearing condition could lead to the same moisture related decay pattern in the future.

Flooring

The floor system of The Arbor is the concrete sidewalk on grade that passes through the opening in the structure. The sidewalk is widened at this location to include The Arbor's curved ends. The concrete sidewalk is in good condition.

Roofing

The Arbor has an open roof structure composed of round, painted timbers with no sheathing or roofing. 11-inch diameter perimeter beams span between each of the stone piers. Additionally, there is a beam line along the long, center axis of the oval shaped structure; 11-inch diameter beams span between the two interior wood posts and the easternmost and westernmost stone piers. Four structural timber screws connect the beams to the posts while no mechanical connections were observed at the wood beam to stone pier bearing. Along the flat sides of the oval between the two stone pier structures, 9-inch diameter timbers span across the structure and overhang each side. They are spaced at approximately two feet and are supported by the perimeter and central beams below. At the curved ends, 8-inch diameter radial beams span between the last joist and the perimeter beams, overhanging the perimeter (Re: Figure 1-17 and Figure 1-20). Although not observed at the time of the visit, these rafters logs are likely connected to the beam support system below with structural timber screws similar to the beam to post connection.

The roof appears to be in good condition structurally; however, the timbers are directly exposed to the elements and the upward facing surfaces are showing signs of decay. It is our understanding that these were all recently replaced, indicating that decay of these members has happened over a short period of time and has been problematic.

Walls/Finishes

The Arbor is an open structure and does not have true walls. The curved ends are each formed by five 18 to 24 inch rubble masonry stone piers which widen and connect at their bases. Two 11-inch diameter wood posts, approximately located at the foci of the oval structure, provide additional vertical support to the roof.

The stone piers are structurally in good condition; however, there are areas of significant mortar erosion, especially around the bases of the piers, and patches of mortar repointing which are not compatible with the original structure. The stones near grade have a significant amount of lichen growth. This does not compromise the structure itself but changes its appearance and is an indication that moisture is prevalent. This indicates that more frequent maintenance of the mortar joints may be necessary. The timber posts have vertical cracks or checks; these are shrinkage cracks and are not of structural concern.

Electrical

During a recent renovation, interior lights were added to The Arbor. The lights are obscured by the timbers and do not detract from the historic appearance of the structure (Figure 1-21).

Lateral Force Resisting System (LFRS)

The LFRS of The Arbor consists of the log roof structure and the masonry piers. The LFRS is in good condition. Although it likely does not meet current day Code requirements, it has performed well over the lifetime of the structure and the structure is modest. Since there are no changes in use suggested, no upgrades are triggered.

Benches

The joined pier bases create the backs to built-in rubble masonry benches which extend along the lengths of the curved ends. The benches are in good condition.



Figure 1-17. The Arbor looking West, note lichen growth and eroded mortar joints, 2020 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-18. Historic photograph of Arbor, early 1900s (source: CCA Archives)



Figure 1-19. Decay at base of timber post, 2020 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-20. The Arbor looking north, 2020 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-21. Interior lights hidden in timbers, 2020 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-22. Curved bench, 2020 (source: JVA)

SHELTER HOUSE

Summary

Chautauqua Green's Shelter House (Bus Shelter) was built in 1917 as a rectangular, one-story structure with rubble stone walls and a mansard/hip roof. The structure is built into the hillside so some of the walls retains soil. The north elevation features columns that form short retaining walls and a built-in rubble stone bench. The roof is hipped and dual-pitched with architectural shingles with overhanging eaves have exposed rafters with shaped ends. The entrance to the Shelter House is on the west elevation. The interior contains a concrete floor, and stone walls that step out to create benches. No drawings of the structure, original or otherwise, were available during this assessment.

Foundation

The structure's foundation is likely composed of the same rubble masonry as its walls extending below grade. No foundation elements were exposed or observed during the site observation.

Overall, the foundation is in good condition, there is no evidence of settlement or settlement related cracking. There is a shrub growing out of the south wall, the root system of which could cause structural damage in the future if not removed.

Flooring

The floor system is a concrete slab on grade and it is in fair condition. Moisture is migrating downhill from the south to the north through the wall and underneath the slab. This wetted soil undergoes freeze-thaw cycles causing the concrete slab to heave and crack.

Roofing

The Shelter House has a mansard roof; the eaves have a steeper slope than the center of the roof. The framing consists of 2 ½" x 5 ¼" dimensional lumber rafters spaced at approximately 18" on center; there is no ridge board. The eave outriggers have a decorative shape carved from 2 ½" x 5 ¼" wood members also spaced at 18 inches. Although the connection is concealed, it is likely that these outriggers are side lapped with the hip roof rafters above. The roof assembly consists of 1x horizontal wood sheathing and asphalt shingles (Figure 1-19).

The roof appears to be in good condition; there is no sagging or displacement to indicate any structural deficiencies. The wood framing appears to be in very good physical condition showing no signs of deterioration even though it is an open structure. There is evidence in the form of staining on the sheathing that moisture was previously allowed to penetrate the roofing material, however this has been mitigated by the new roof.



Figure 1-23. West wall showing attached retaining wall, 2020 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-24. North wall of the Shelter House, 2020 (source: JVA)

Walls/Framing

The structure has rubble masonry walls which are approximately 20 inches thick. The walls consist of an L-shaped column in each of the four corners which are connected by a stone knee wall with a concrete coping forming large window openings between the corner columns. Historic photographs show the coping is original, but sections have been replaced over time. The base of the columns at the corners flare out to form buttresses. Wood framing in the openings creates the illusion of windows and supports the portion of the wall above the openings which is framed with wood. There is likely a concealed wood member or header spanning between the stone columns and intermediate window mullions that supports the roof framing. (Re: Figure 1-23 and Figure 1-24)

The stone walls are in good condition. There are patches of mortar repointing that are not compatible with the original structure. They are beginning to crack and separate from the stones indicating that the repointing mortar is too strong. Additionally, the repointing is a different color (Re: Figure 1-25). There is a vertical crack through the mortar joints in the northwest buttress that is caused by differential thermal expansion between the buttress and the main wall. (Re: Figure 1-22) Lichen growth is present at the bottom two feet of the north wall.

Lateral Force Resisting System (LFRS)

The LFRS of the Shelter House consists of the 1x horizontal wood roof sheathing and framing, as well as the masonry walls and buttresses. The LFRS of this modest structure is in good condition. It has performed well over the lifetime of the structure. Since there are no changes in use suggested, no Code required upgrades are triggered.

Retaining Wall

The Shelter House is integral with the site retaining wall, which connects with the structure at the northeast and southwest buttresses (Re: Figure 23). The site has a sloped grade that sharply decreases towards the north. The shelter walls are also retaining soil in some locations (the slab elevation is below grade at the south wall and above at the north). The knee walls also serve as the back to the concrete benches inside the shelter and along the street-facing, north façade, where the bench has a rubble stone base with a concrete coping. Generally the benches are in good condition, there is evidence that spalls have been repaired in the past.



Figure 1-25. Repair mortar – note red color and separation cracks, 2020 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-26. Differential settlement crack at northwest buttress, 2020 (source: JVA)

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 The Arbor

Primary Architectural/ Structural Features	Description of Primary Materials	Condition
Foundation	Likely rubble stone masonry below grade	Good
Roofing	Painted timbers	Good
Walls	Stone piers	Good
Mortar		Fair
Flooring	Concrete sidewalk	Good
Lateral Force Suspension System	Log structure and masonry piers	Good
Benches	Masonry benches	Good
Additional Building Systems		
Irrigation	(Backflow preventer, spray heads, etc.)	Not Assessed
Electrical	Small lights obscured by timbers	Good

Table 1-3: Condition Assessment of Shelter House

Primary Architectural/ Structural Features	Description of Primary Materials	Condition
Foundation	Likely rubble masonry	Good
Roofing	Mansard; lumber rafters & asphalt shingles	Good
Walls	Masonry	Good
Mortar		Fair
Flooring	Concrete slab on grade	Fair
Lateral Force Suspension System	1x horizontal wood roof sheathing and framing; masonry walls and buttresses	Good
Additional Building Systems		
Irrigation	(Backflow preventer, spray heads, etc.)	Not Assessed
Electrical	Lighting	Not Assessed

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



Figure 1-27. Sumac Drive view from Dining Hall, c. 1900
(source: Carnegie Library for Local History)



Figure 1-28. Sumac Drive view from Dining Hall, c. 1900
(source: Carnegie Library for Local History)



Figure 1-29. Entrance Gate (King's Gate) postcard (source: CCA Archives)



Figure 1-30. The Arbor in the snow (source: BHS 212-2-5, Carnegie Library for Local History)



Figure 1-31. Aerial view of Colorado Chautauqua NHL (blue) with the lease line (black), 1938
(source: CU Boulder Aerial Photographs of Colorado).



Figure 1-32. View to Dining Hall, 2020
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-33. Sidewalk from Baseline Road at King's Gate into Chautauqua Green, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-34. Accessible parking at Dining Hall, 2020
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-35. Sidewalk from Baseline Road at King's Gate into Chautauqua Green, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-36. Current-day Sumac Drive near Dining Hall, 2020
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-37. Stone edge along Clematis Drive, 2020
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-38. Broken stone gutter along main drive, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-39. Non-contributing gutter along Sumac Drive, 2020 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-40. Recently installed stone gutters with compatible materials (source: Mundus Bishop)

RESOURCES

Gage Davis and Associates. *The Colorado Chautauqua National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, Boulder, CO: Gage Davis and Associates, 1987.

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Boulder Parks Multiple Resource Preservation Plan
Chautauqua Park Historic Context

Statement of Context

Chautauqua Green, its component sites and structures, are owned by the City of Boulder, and are part of the Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark. The site associated with the National Historic Landmark themes of “Creating Social Institutions and Movements” and “Expressing Cultural Values.”¹ The period of significance for the Colorado Chautauqua NHL begins with its founding as the Texas-Colorado Chautauqua in 1898 and ends in 1930 when the National Chautauqua Movement reached its nadir.² The boundary of NHL corresponds with the Colorado Park Historic District (Ordinance 4382) and includes the historic Chautauqua grounds and all its resources.³ Colorado Chautauqua NHL is nationally significant as an outstanding representative of the Chautauqua Movement, America’s first truly national mass educational and cultural movement.⁴

Background History

Prior to 1898, the land that was to become Chautauqua Park was Bachelder Ranch and consisted of agricultural lands and a ranch property. Development of Chautauqua Park began in 1898 with the construction of multiple buildings, including the Auditorium and Dining Hall, as well as an entrance at Baseline Road (known as Park Avenue at the time). Several roads were graded including Clematis Drive (Texas Avenue) and Kinnikinic Road (Chautauqua Avenue).⁵ The land that would become Chautauqua Green served as horse and carriage parking during early chautauquas.⁶

In 1901 the Boulder Improvement Association hired W.W. Parce to complete a plan for Chautauqua Park, which included plans for Chautauqua Green (known as Tennis Park). Between 1908 and 1910 The Arbor was built along the north-south pedestrian route and Chautauqua Green was seeded with grasses. In 1912 Sumac Drive was connected to Clematis Drive to create a one-way loop road around the central oval lawn. Later park improvements include construction of the original playground (1913) the Shelter House, Lincoln Street Steps (Queen’s Gate), Entrance Gate (King’s Gate), and stone retaining walls connecting these structures (1917).⁷

Between 1930 and the early 1960s, Chautauqua Green remained relatively unchanged. In 1964, tennis courts and a parking lot were installed east of the playground.⁸ Forty acres of Chautauqua Park, including the

¹ Martha Vail, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO: National Register of Historic Landmarks Survey), 2005, 45.

² *Ibid.*, 4.

³ *Ibid.*, 64.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 46.

⁵ Mundus Bishop, *Chautauqua Park Historic District: Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan* (Denver, CO: Mundus Bishop, 2004), 8.

⁶ Martha Vail, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO: National Register of Historic Landmarks Survey), 2005, 6-7.

⁷ Mundus Bishop, *Chautauqua Park Historic District: Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan* (Denver, CO: Mundus Bishop, 2004), Appendix.

⁸ Martha Vail, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO: National Register of Historic Landmarks Survey), 2005, 8.

Chautauqua Green, were designated as a City of Boulder Historic District and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Perhaps the most significant change following the site's listing on the National Register was the City of Boulder's decision to modify the loop road to provide more parking. The roadways were narrowed, several gutters were altered, the entrance road was altered, and two interior greenspaces were removed. In addition to these roadway alterations, the Ranger's Cottage and west parking lot were constructed.⁹ In 2006, Chautauqua Park became a National Historic Landmark. Relatively few changes have occurred on site except for improvements to the retaining walls and circulation along Baseline Road (2017) and an upgrade to the playground equipment (2020).

Definition of the Context

Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark is associated with the themes of "Creating Social Institutions and Movements" and "Expressing Cultural Values." Chautauqua Green is part of this and corresponds with both themes for its association with Chautauqua Movement and the values expressed by the chautauquans who participated in the Movement. The Chautauqua Movement developed in the late 19th century to spread adult education to rural and semi-rural areas throughout the United States. In addition to bringing educational opportunities to regions with limited access to post-secondary education, chautauquas also offered music and entertainment opportunities that allowed for further expression of cultural values within rural communities.¹⁰

Development of the Theme or Area of Significance

Colorado Chautauqua NHL developed as a response to the national Chautauqua Movement. The founders of the Texas-Colorado Chautauqua located the site within a mountain setting in order to provide a truly western chautauqua that would allow for healthy living and access to recreational opportunities.

Associated Property Types

Hundreds of towns across the United States have parks or districts with the name "Chautauqua." This name serves as reminder to the original land use for many of these spaces. Many include large green spaces where a Chautauqua gathering would have occurred; however, few continue to offer Chautauqua-style programming. Only six chautauquas have remained in operation with the Colorado Chautauqua NHL displaying the highest degree of integrity of site, structures, and setting. The property exemplifies the unique western expression of the Chautauqua Movement. It remains the only continuously operational chautauqua west of the Mississippi River.¹¹

Physical Characteristics and Integrity

Several of Chautauqua Park's features that are owned and maintained by the City of Boulder retain their historic integrity. These features include the Chautauqua oval lawn and mature trees; The Arbor, Shelter

⁹ Mundus Bishop, Chautauqua Park Historic District: Cultural Landscape Assessment and Plan (Denver, CO: Mundus Bishop, 2004), 27.

¹⁰ "Chautauqua Movement History," The Colorado Chautauqua Online, Accessed February 25, 2021, <https://www.chautauqua.com/about-us/history/chautauqua-movement-history/>.

¹¹ Martha Vail, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO: National Register of Historic Landmarks Survey), 2005, 47.

House, Entrance Gate (King's Gate), Lincoln Street Steps (Queen's Gate), select retaining walls and gutters; and several other landscape character-defining features including natural systems and features, topography, vegetation, spatial organization, circulation, and views. These features retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Relationship to the National Register Criteria

Chautauqua Park Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The property was deemed significant for its association with the national Chautauqua Movement and importance in the development of culture within Boulder.¹² In 2005 the property was designated as Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark. The property is significant under NHL Criterion 1 as "an outstanding representation of America's first truly national mass educational and cultural movement."¹³ **

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"Chautauqua Movement History." The Colorado Chautauqua Online. Accessed February 25, 2021. <https://www.chautauqua.com/about-us/history/chautauqua-movement-history/>.

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¹² Gage Davis and Associates, *The Colorado Chautauqua, National Register of Historic Places Nomination* (Boulder, CO: Gage Davis and Associate, 1977), 12.

¹³ Martha Vail, *Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark Nomination* (Boulder, CO: National Register of Historic Landmarks Survey), 2005, 46.

** National Historic Landmark Criterion 1 corresponds with National Register of Historic Places Criterion A. Both Criteria are defined as "Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of United States history."