

For Official Use:

I.D.#: _____

____ Nomination received

____ Determined ___ Eligible ___ Not Eligible

2/4/2007 HPC Approved ___ Denied

4/11/2007 Public Hearing Approved ___ Denied

4/11/2007 City Council Approved ___ Denied

**City of Aurora
Historic Preservation Commission**

**AURORA LANDMARK PROPERTIES
NOMINATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

Historic Name Not applicable

Current Name Toll Gate Creek Archaeological Site

2. Address of Property

Street Address Horseshoe Park, 2125 S. Kitteridge Way

City Aurora County Arapahoe Zip Code 80013

3. Legal Description of Property

P.M. 6 Township 4S Range 66W

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29 Quad Map Fitzsimons

4. Present Owner of Property

Name City of Aurora, Parks and Open Space

Address 1470 S. Havana St. Phone (303) 739-7010

City Aurora State CO Zip 80012

(If the property has multiple ownership, please give the names and addresses of all owners on one of the continuation sheets)

Property Name: Aurora Burial Site

5. Preparer of Nomination

Name Kim Stange-Eissler Date 11-21-02

Organization City of Aurora Historic Sites and Preservation Office

Address DeLaney Farm, 170 S. Chambers Rd. Phone (303) 361-2997

City Aurora State CO Zip 80017

6. Classification of Property

Type: building(s) district site structure object area

7. Condition of Property

excellent good fair deteriorated ruins
 original location moved (date of move _____)

8. Use of Property

Historic Semi-permanent Waterway

Current Park/Open Space/Drainage area

9. Original Owner Not Applicable

Source of information Not Applicable

10. Year of Construction Not Applicable

Source of information Not Applicable

Property Name: Aurora Burial Site

11. Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist, or Designer Not Applicable

Source of information Not Applicable

12. Architectural style/Engineering type Not Applicable

13. Description

(Describe the current condition and appearance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

14. Alterations

(Describe and date significant changes made to the original property on one or more continuation sheets)

15. Significance of Property

Nomination Criteria

- 1 – the property (district) exemplifies or reflects the broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community
- 2 – the property (district) is identified with a historic person or historic group significant to national, state, or local history
- 3 – the property (district) embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type inherently valuable to the study of a period, style, method of construction, or indigenous materials or craftsmanship
- 4 – the property (district) is representative as the work of a master builder or architect
- 5 – the property (district) contains the possibility of important archaeological discoveries in prehistory or history
- 6 – the district consists of a definite area which, due to its unique location or singular characteristics represents established and familiar visual features of the neighborhood, community, or city

Property Name: Aurora Burial Site

Areas of Significance

The archaeological finds on this site date back to 670AD, and these artifacts document the very early human occupation and culture(s) of this area.

16. Significance Statement

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

17. Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

18. Legislative Information

Aurora Ward #: 5

Colorado House District #: 36

or Name of Representative : Frank Weddig /Mary Hodge

Colorado Senate District #: 28

or Name of Senator: Bruce Cairns

U.S. House District #: 6

or Name of Representative: Tom Tancredo

19. Photocopy of USGS Map showing location of site

20. Site Plan showing site boundaries

21. Black and white photographs

22. Color slides

23. Optional Materials

- a. Floor plans showing existing conditions
- b. Landscape plan showing existing conditions
- c. Sequential historic floor plans
- d. Sequential historic site plans

**AURORA HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Property Name: Aurora Burial Site

Section Number 13 Page 1

Description –

The area surrounding West Tollgate Creek that is bounded by Buckley Road and Mexico Avenue site is known collectively as Horseshoe Park and owned by the City of Aurora. The Parks and Open Space Department supervise the baseball field, playground, and trail system located here; the remainder is managed as a floodplain and drainage area by the Utilities Department.

There has been considerable erosion along the banks of Tollgate Creek, which is what exposed the original excavation site in 1982. There have been no significant discoveries on the property since the 1987 archaeological survey of the area.



**AURORA HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Property Name: Aurora Burial Site

Section Number 16 **Page** 1

Significance –

In 1982, the burial remains of a Native American man and child were found along the banks of the Tollgate Creek in the area known as Horseshoe Park. These remains were excavated and documented by the City of Aurora, and later re-interred by the Colorado Native American Heritage Council at an undisclosed location.

In 1987, the Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, led by Marcia Tate, completed an archaeological survey of the site, 98 acres in all. This survey resulted in the discovery of two "lithic scatters," possibly food processing or open campsites, and two isolated finds, consisting of stone flakes from tool making. The site was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but the survey report recommended that the site be monitored in the case of any future land-disturbing activities.

This site has been previously recognized with a commemorative and educational plaque constructed near the banks of the Tollgate Creek in 1992, but it has never been officially acknowledged as the significant cultural and historical resource that it is.

While this area has been excavated, affecting its physical integrity, it is still a viable candidate for designation as an archaeological landmark site. The excavation and surveys of the area have yielded a great deal of information about the prehistory of Aurora and its earliest inhabitants.

**AURORA HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Property Name: Aurora Burial Site

Section Number 17 **Page** 1

Bibliography –

Cassels, E. Steve. 1983. *The Archaeology of Colorado*. Johnsson Books: Boulder, Colorado.

Guthrie, Mark R. 1982. *The Aurora Burial: Site 5AH244 (Vol.1 & 2)*. Archaeological Research Institute, Department of Anthropology, University of Denver.

Hummert, James R. 1982. *Skeletal Analysis of Burials at Site 5AH244 in the City of Aurora*. A report prepared for the Aurora History Center, Aurora, Colorado.

Tate, Marcia J. 1987. *Cultural Resources Inventory of the City of Aurora, Horseshoe Park Survey, Arapahoe County, Colorado*. Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society.

Tucker, Ernest. November 1, 1982. "Prehistoric lore flows in Tollgate Creek." *Rocky Mountain News*, p. 8.

Other newspaper articles:

"Ancient Aurora remains 'identified'." *Aurora Sentinel*, pp. 3 & 5. November 3, 1982.

"Bones Those of Plains Indians 2300 Years Ago." *Wyoming State Tribune*. November 1, 1982.

Proposal for the Horseshoe Park Archaeological Landmark Site

In 1982, the burial remains of a Native American man and child were found along the banks of the Tollgate Creek in the area known as Horseshoe Park. These remains were excavated and documented by the City of Aurora and later re-interred by the Colorado Native American Heritage Council at an undisclosed location. In 1987 the Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, led by Marcia Tate, completed an archaeological survey of the site. This survey resulted in the discovery of two “lithic scatters,” possibly food processing or open camp sites, and two isolated finds, consisting of lithic flakes. The site was deemed ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but it was recommended that the site be monitored in the case of any future land-disturbing activities.



While the area had been nominated as a landmark by the Historic Preservation Commission in 1989, the nomination never passed, possibly because the area is managed as a flood plain and has lost much of its integrity through erosion and maintenance activities. Instead of an official landmark designation, a commemorative and educational plaque was constructed near the banks of the Tollgate Creek in 1992. This plaque, located near the back of the park, along one of the hike/bike trails, has been severely damaged and vandalized over the past ten years, and should be replaced as soon as possible.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that in addition to a new commemorative and educational panel that would include more information about the archaeological discoveries and significance of the area (located in a more accessible portion of Horseshoe Park) that the area be nominated as an archaeological “landmark site” by the Commission. A small plaque would also be installed in the area, announcing the area’s designation as an archaeological landmark site.

A landmark site is defined in the HPC Rules of Procedure (Attachment 1, II: Definitions) as “an unimproved parcel of ground declared... to be a landmark site under the provisions of this ordinance.” The major difference between a “landmark” and a “landmark site” is the improvement (buildings and/or structures) of the property. There are no buildings or other “improvements” within the proposed area of Horseshoe Park although it has been impacted through its use as flood plain area.

The criteria to be addressed when considering a potential archaeological landmark site is as follows (Attachment 1, III.A: Criteria for Designation): “To be eligible for City of Aurora landmark listing, an archaeological site must first possess integrity, both of its cultural materials, and its setting. If the site has physical and visual integrity, it must next either have yielded or have the potential to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the local or regional area.”

While this area has been excavated, affecting its physical integrity, HPC staff believes that it is still a viable candidate for designation as an archaeological landmark site. The excavation and surveys of the area have yielded a great deal of information about the prehistory of Aurora and should be recognized.

To: Jim Rakke, Preservation Specialist
Through: Peter Binney, Director of Utilities 
From: Kevin Wegener, Manager of Wastewater Operations 
Date: December 20, 2002
Subject: Landmark Site Nomination at Horseshoe Park

The Aurora Utilities Department actively supports the multiple use management of the flood plains throughout Aurora for a variety of uses in addition to the safe conveyance of flood waters. We provide routine maintenance as well as wetlands vegetation and wildlife management efforts at Horseshoe Park. We welcome and encourage activities that educate and inform our citizens about the natural and cultural value of the flood plain area. At the same time, as multiple use areas we also use these areas as pipeline corridors for major water and sewer pipelines.

As far back as 1987, the City's wastewater master planning identified the necessity of eventually paralleling the Toll Gate sewer interceptor from Sand Creek through Horseshoe Park and beyond in order to ensure adequate sewer capacity for our residents. This construction, currently projected to occur in 2006, is necessary to protect our streams from the environmental damage that would result from overflowing sewers and to ensure compliance with regulations that govern sewer service. The construction will involve significant disturbance and excavation and may be close to the site of the historical marker. We support the historical designation with the following conditions:

- 1) That the currently planned Toll Gate Creek interceptor sewer be authorized to be constructed through the site. In the event that the construction would disturb the marker, then at the time of construction, the historical marker will be temporarily removed by the Utilities Department and reinstalled following construction and revegetation of the area.
- 2) The historical designation will in no way be construed to interfere with the routine maintenance or restoration of the existing flood conveyance and utility corridor uses of the property.

As co-managers of the property that will be the site of the marker, we look forward to the approval of the designation and to participation in the development of further plans.

Cc: Frank Ragan, Linda Strand, Jack Cooper

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

6:00 p.m.

Aurora Municipal Building

Conference Rooms 3B-C

MINUTES

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Kathleen Booker; Ruth Campbell; Harry Doyle, Vice Chair; Sharon Powers, Chair; Ruth Ryan; Kelly Schilling; and Errol Umetani

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Brischke (excused); Eric Schwab (excused)

STAFF ATTENDING: Tom Nicholas, Library & Recreation Services Director; Rick Bowser, Forestry/Horticulture Manager; Lori Daniel, Recreation Services Manager; Dennis Lyon, Golf Manager; Linda Strand, Open Space & Natural Resources Manager; Tracy Young, Planning, Design & Construction Acting Manager; Dan Adams, Sports Park Superintendent; Jim Rakke, Historic Preservation Specialist; Ilene Parrish, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Kevin Wegener, Wastewater Operations Manager, Utilities Department

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Sharon Powers called the meeting to order.

II. INTRODUCTIONS: None.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Harry Doyle made a motion, seconded by Kelly Schilling, to adopt the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Kelly Schilling made a motion, seconded Harry Doyle, to adopt the December 4, 2002 Minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MINUTES:

A. Open Space Board

B. Golf Course Advisory Committee

C. Art in Public Places Commission

D. Aurora Commission for Seniors

E. Cultural Affairs Commission

F. Aurora Fox Arts Center Advisory Committee

G. Historic Preservation Commission

H. Senior Center Advisory Committee - *Received*

I. Morning Star Advisory Committee

J. Aurora Youth Commission

VI. CHAIR/MEMBERS' REMARKS:

Chair Powers reported that she attended the December 11 Public Meeting held to receive neighbor input regarding the proposed High Line Canal Bridge at City Center Park. It appeared that those in attendance opposed to the project were voicing the same objections expressed previously, i.e., use of the bridge by prisoners escaping from the City jail.

Regarding the Art In Public Places information e-mailed to Board members, Chair Powers suggested that the Board meet with Alice Lee Main, representing the Commission, to discuss the site selection process and to solicit input from the Board. Members agreed that a meeting would be helpful. It was pointed out that the Commission is primarily looking at Recreation centers, such as Expo and Meadowood, for public art in 2003.

Board Member Ruth Campbell commented that the Spencer Garrett identification sign has been repaired and looks very nice.

VII. **PARKS & OPEN SPACE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Aurora Sports Park – Re-use Water Line Pump Station

Acting Division Manager Tracy Young provided an overview of this Utilities Department capital improvement project, which requires an amendment to the Sports Park master plan.

The proposed location of the pump station is south of the irrigation pond and west of the soccer field parking lot. This facility, which would be used to pump re-use water to Murphy Creek Golf Course, is proposed for construction immediately in order to be operational in May. Staff has reviewed all of the criteria for an amendment to the master plan and believes the conditions have been met. The pump station will initially deliver 3,000,000 gallons per day, with a future capacity of 10,000,000 gallons per day. There is presently no active use on the site, the use is compatible and reasonably buffered from the park activities. The site design is compatible with the architectural features within the park. Access would be from a road within the park and from the Sand Creek trail. The reuse water line is already in place in the Sports Park.

In response to Board comments, it was explained that the pump station location was chosen due to close proximity of the high voltage power needed to operate the station and the appropriate elevation of the site to properly conserve energy.

Kelly Schilling made a motion, seconded by Ruth Ryan, to approve the amendment to the Aurora Sports Park master plan to construct a pump station in the park. Motion carried unanimously.

Alternative Water Sources

It was pointed out that this was an informational item, providing an inventory of current water sources for parks and golf courses.

Horseshoe Park – Landmarking of Burial Site

Historic Preservation Specialist Jim Rakke reported that he had been working with the Historic Preservation Commission in cooperation with several City departments on this project. The Commission is interested in providing a landmark for a 670 A.D. burial site located at the confluence of Tollgate Creek just to the northeast of the Horseshoe Park ball fields in an effort to draw attention to the depth of the transitory plains Indians in the area.

This proposal has received preliminary support from the Colorado Council on Indian Affairs and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell's office to move forward with the landmark site nomination.

It was explained that a landmark site basically deals with an unimproved or unincorporated area, and while most landmarks are historic structures, archeological sites are included in the ordinance for protection of those resources. This proposed site would require a very limited space, basically the footprint of a sign, to acknowledge the landmark area.

Since there may be future concerns with water and sewer lines, park maintenance, floodplain, etc., it is understood that extensive restrictions on the land would not be feasible from a management standpoint. Department staffs have indicated a willingness to work together on oversight to ensure that the most cooperative solution is found and the site does not become a hindrance from the standpoint of its landmark status. The interpretive panel, located somewhere near the parking lot area, would provide additional information on the archeology in Aurora and would be dealing with a parcel of ground that has already been excavated. The site impact would be very minimal.

Harry Doyle made a motion, seconded by Ruth Ryan, to support the placement of signage to mark the location of an archeological find within Horseshoe Park and to interpret the history of occupation in the area. Motion carried unanimously.

Harry Doyle made another motion, seconded by Kelly Schilling, to support the request to landmark the site of an archeological find within Horseshoe Park and to place signage marking the location and interpreting the history of occupation in the area provided the landmark status recognizes the existing lack of historical integrity within the site and does not impede appropriate storm drainage, open space and park management actions. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. PARKS & OPEN SPACE DIVISION MANAGERS' REPORTS:

Forestry/Horticulture: Division Manager Rick Bowser reported that approximately 5,500 Christmas Trees have been recycled, with the advertised cutoff date on Sunday, January 12.

Responding to a Board member inquiry, it was explained that there will be no street tree planting this spring and park tree planting will be limited to those parks with reuse water sources. In addition, several tank-equipped trucks to be filled with reuse water will be used to water trees this summer. Neighborhood street tree replacement requests will be held until the drought crisis has passed. It was noted that trees should be watered now with either a soaker type hose or by hand with a probe.

Golf: Division Manager Dennis Lyon provided an overview of the year-end rounds report and pointed out that the 10,273 rounds played in the month of December is up 7,000 over the 3,258 rounds in December of 2001. The year ended only .7% down in rounds and \$87 down in green fee revenues. Because the overall revenues were below budget, expenses had to be cut. The year 2003 is a huge question mark, particularly due to the fact that the three golf courses (Meadow Hills, Murphy Creek, Saddle Rock), which use domestic water, generate 61% of Golf's revenue. The other courses are on reclaimed water or will soon be.

In addition, the Utilities Department is embarking upon a project to re-drill the wells at Meadow Hills, which would allow watering of the course by May 1, and is also looking at the possibility of drilling a couple of shallow wells at Saddle Rock Golf Course, which would probably not be completed by May 1.

Open Space & Natural Resources: Division Manager Linda Strand updated the Board on the following:

- The Fire & Ice Festival is scheduled for February 8. A new event is the ground level pyrotechnics display (daytime fireworks show). There will also be the annual plunge.
- The Aurora Reservoir art piece has been installed, with a formal dedication to be scheduled during warmer weather conditions.
- The Colorado Chapter of the American Public Works Association has chosen Expo Park for their Project of the Year Award. Delighted as a city to have APWA choose this project for the award. Award ceremony on January 28.

Parks Operations & Management: There were no questions or comments.

Planning, Design & Construction: Acting Division Manager Tracy Young, following up on the High Line Canal Bridge meeting, mentioned that while there were some negative comments at the meeting, staff has received several calls since the meeting expressing support for the project. As the project proceeds, staff will provide updates to those who attended the meeting and other area neighbors regarding some of their concerns.

IX. LIBRARY & RECREATION SERVICES DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Tom Nicholas had nothing to add to the written report.

X. RECREATION SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT: Division Manager Lori Daniel highlighted the following items in the written report:

- Customer comments were being shared with the Board to point out the need for more space and more facilities.
- As shown in the Summary of Projects, the Expo Center remodeling and future expansion project is going forward with Facilities Management and Recreation Services CIP funding. Parks & Open Space will assist with the exterior landscaping. An overview of the concept drawings, which were included in the packet, was provided.
- Additional Recreation statistics and program highlights were included in the report, e.g., the number of new accounts by zip codes, class enrollment revenues by age groups for 2001 and 2002, increase in enrollments and revenues, etc.
- The Leisure For Life brochure is being reformatted inside and out to provide easier reading and access. Four focus groups, two of non-users, one of frequent users and one of staff members, provided consistent feedback on problems with the current brochure format. An example of how the new brochure will look was presented. Approximately 140,000 Spring Leisure For Life brochures will be distributed.

XI. PARKS & RECREATION FOR PEOPLE FOUNDATION: Recreation staff has submitted a letter to the Foundation requesting \$700 for teen programs.

XI. BUSINESS: None

XII. OTHER:

Chair Powers reported that Council Member Lindemann had thanked the Board for sending a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Hill of Settlers Village explaining their decision to retain the vault restroom in the proposed master plan for Settler's Park.

In response to Chair Powers' inquiry, it was agreed to schedule a presentation regarding the Youth Asset Building Program by Kathy Nelson of the Recreation Services Division.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: Harry Doyle made a motion, seconded by Kelly Schilling, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Sharon Powers, Chair

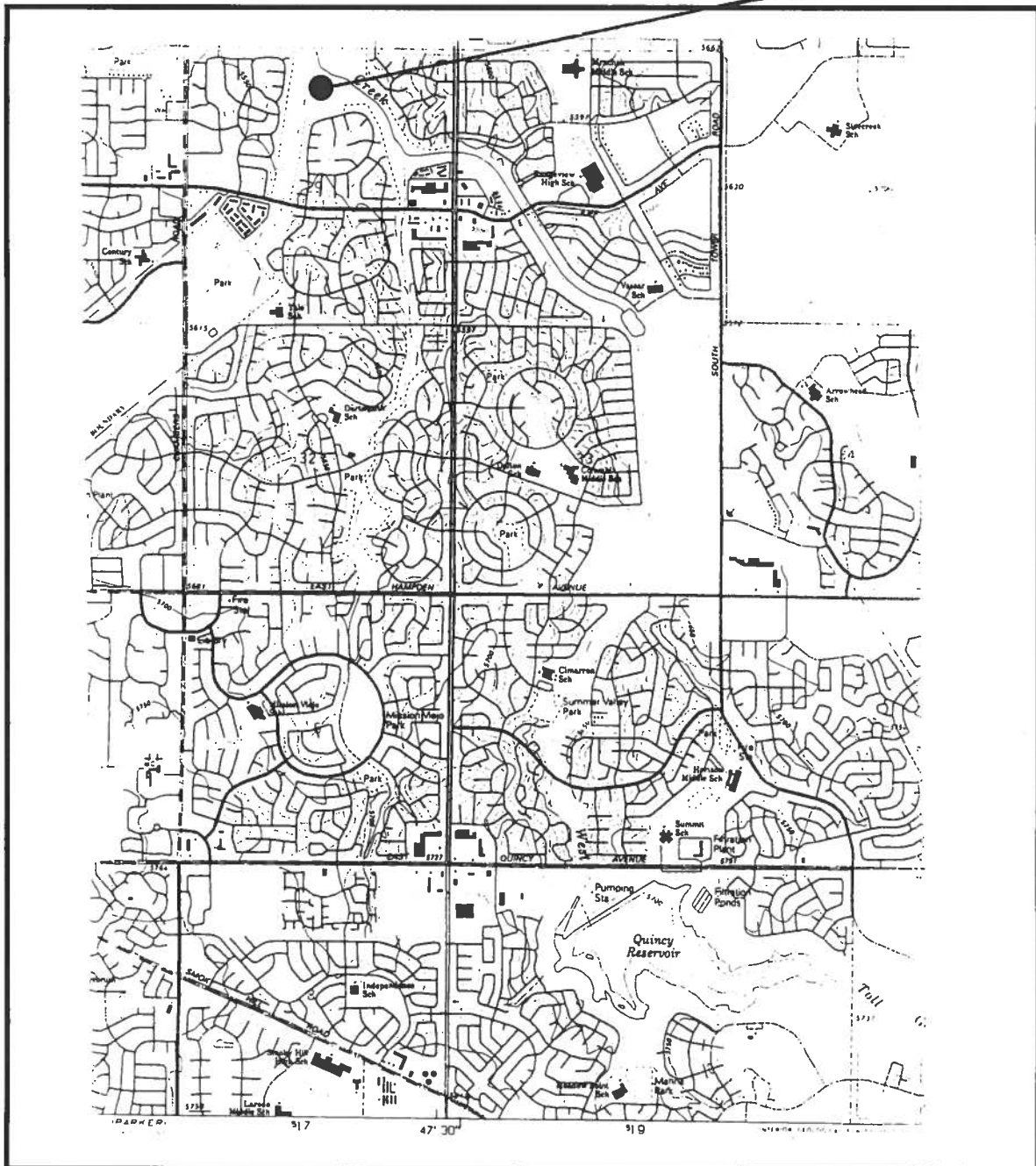
Ilene Parrish, Recording Secretary

**AURORA HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Property Name: Aurora Burial Site

Section Number 19 Page 1

Fitzsimons Quad Map – Horseshoe Park, 2141 S. Kitteridge Way



RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
AURORA, COLORADO, DESIGNATING THE TOLL GATE CREEK
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, LOCATED IN THE HORSESHOE PARK,
2141 SOUTH KITTREDGE WAY, AS AURORA HISTORIC
LANDMARK SITE NUMBER 1.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado (the "City"), adopted Article 19 of Chapter 146 of the City Code, which provides for the preservation, protection, enhancement, regulation, and use of buildings, structures, sites, and areas reflecting elements of the City's cultural and architectural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has appointed a Historic Preservation Commission (the "Commission") for the purpose of making recommendations on the designation of landmarks, landmark sites, and historical districts; and

WHEREAS, after a public fact finding hearing on February 4, 2003, the Commission voted with seven in favor and one opposed to recommend to the City Council that the Toll Gate Creek Archeological Site, located in the Horseshoe Park, 2141 South Kittredge Way, be designated as Aurora Historic Landmark Site Number 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

That pursuant to the authority granted by Article 19 of Chapter 146 of the City Code, the Toll Gate Creek Archeological Site, located in the Horseshoe Park, 2141 South Kittredge Way, is hereby designated as Aurora Historic Landmark Site Number 1.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____, A.D. 2003.

PAUL E. TAUER, Mayor

ATTEST:

DEBRA JOHNSON, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: _____

[Resolution Historic Site Toll Gate Creek]