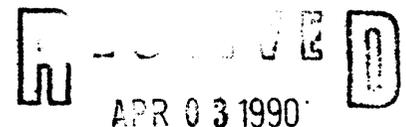


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
NPS/CHS Word Processor Format
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Red Rocks Park, Mount Morrison Civilian Conservation District,
other names/site number: Morrison Park District 5JF.442

2. Location

street & number: 16351 County Road 93 (NA) not for publication
city, town: Morrison (NA) vicinity
state: Colorado code: CO county: Jefferson code:059 zip code:80465

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
() private	() building(s)		
(x) public-local	(X) district	<u>23</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
() public-State	() site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
() public-Federal	() structure	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> structures
	() object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>24</u>	<u>6</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Denver Mountain Park System

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x) nomination () request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property (x) meets () does not meet the National Register criteria.
() See continuation sheet.

Barbara Sudler 3-16-90
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- () entered in the National Register.
() See continuation sheet
- () determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet
- () determined not eligible for the National Register.
- () removed from the National Register.
- () other, (explain:) _____

Beth Boland 5/18/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/Natural featureRecreation and CultureCommerce/Specialty StoreDomestic/Institutional Housing**Current Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/Natural featureRecreation and CultureCommerce/Specialty StoreDomestic/Institutional Housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

PuebloVernacular**Materials**

(enter categories from instructions)

foundations concretewalls stucco, sandstone, concrete, wood,other: masoniteroof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.Denver Mountain Park District

The Red Rocks Park District includes Red Rocks Park, Morrison Park, and the Mount Morrison Civilian Conservation Corp camp. In 1928, all of these lands were purchased as one parcel and include the unusual red rock formations so significant at the southern entry to the Denver Mountain Park System. This district includes some of the most significant historical man-made structures, natural landforms, and scenic vistas in the nation. Red Rocks Park District includes the world famous Red Rocks Amphitheater, the original Mount Morrison CCC camp, the naturally sculptured sandstone rocks jutting hundreds of feet in the air, and views of the hogback formation and eastern plains beyond Denver.

The district clearly meets the registration requirements established in Section F of the Multiple Property Form for the Denver Mountain Park System. The natural environment and visual resources are intact and the historic site planning and design remain much the same as the original plan. The amphitheater, the Pueblo Revival "Indian Concession House", and the CCC camp are in excellent condition and have retained their integrity.

(X) See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

Red Rocks Park

In 1929, the City of Denver began constructing a five mile stretch of winding scenic road that wound through the rock formations of Red Rocks Park. The road was constructed with the same ideals as all the other scenic drives within the Denver Mountain Park System. Grades were gentle, adequate width was provided for two lanes of traffic, and curves were kept as gentle as possible. In addition, the road was sited to provide views to the surrounding landscape. The road was difficult and costly to build. Huge rocks were dynamited and many wagons were broken or crushed under the weight of the red rock material. Even through all these difficulties, the scenic drive was completed in one year. This Red Rock Loop Drive had two access points, one off Bear Creek Canyon Drive at Morrison and one off the hogback road which linked the park to West Alameda Boulevard and the city of Denver.

In 1931, the "Indian Concession House", designed by W.R. Rosche, was built within the park. The building retains a high degree of historic integrity and is an excellent example of the Pueblo Revival style of architecture. The design for the structure was suggested by the Denver Art Museum Board of Directors, who felt that the building should reflect Native American architecture, and should be sympathetic to the surrounding natural landscape.

The facade of the concession house features a projecting center bay with a shaped roof parapet. The parapet has square openings with a large bell. Walls of the building are earth-colored smooth stucco. Walls are battered, and have irregular rounded edges. Above the front entrance is a small central window with nine lights. The double door entrance is reached by flagstone steps. Small windows with straight-headed, rough-hewn wooden lintels flank the doors. Vigas extend through side walls, which have rounded parapets and square windows. Wings extend to the east and west of the main bay. Wings also have exposed beams and windows with nine lights and round-hewn wooden lintels. The western wing has a stairway leading to the basement. The eastern wing has stairs leading to the second story and a small balcony with rounded stuccoed walls. Underneath the stairs on the eastern wing is a recessed porch with two entrances. Primitive ladders lean against walls. The rear of building has plate glass windows and bands of 3/1 light windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

The interior of the concession house has a flagstone floor. Log beams and perpendicularly placed narrow branches run across the ceiling, which has a rectangular skylight composed of square panels of colored glass. The rear of the building has a cafe and stairs leading to the second floor. The stairs are wood and have rustic tree branch rails. The western rear of the store contains an art gallery, which has wooden floors and bands of windows across the southern and western walls. This art gallery originally housed a branch of the Denver Art Museum which displayed Native American arts and crafts. The gallery continues to offer this type of art.

The theater is located at an altitude of 6,000 feet, amongst a huge cluster of red rocks. These rocks are the result of geologic formations composed of some 10,000 feet of sandstone that has slowly lifted up and tilted on end to form gigantic rocks of prismatic red color. These events occurred during the Triassic Age some 250 million years ago. Exposed to the wind, water, and heat, the outcrops formed into strange shapes with tunnels, caverns, and holes throughout. The walls of the Red Rocks Amphitheater were formed by two mammoth, flat sandstone rocks; the Ship Rock and Creation Rock, set on edge. These are accompanied by a third rock that forms a sounding board, giving the site uncanny acoustical properties. The theater is open at the rear, reducing the occurrence of an echo.

This acoustically perfect open air theater is considered one of the finest auditoriums in the world. Nestled against the Denver foothills, the theater faces magnificent views of the long-jagged hogback formation. At night the lights of Denver twinkle in the distance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

The theater is designed to blend in naturally with the surroundings. The basic plan was determined by the natural rock formations with the priority that the design must complement the surroundings and become part of the majestic landscape. For this reason, native stone which approximates the red color and rough texture of the monolithic rocks was used throughout, and the design remained simple.

A major change in the existing landscape was the extensive cut and fill necessary to provide the curvilinear seating. The seating layout was dictated by the existing top level slope. Wide rows of bleachers, spaced four feet apart allow latecomers to reach their seats without disturbing others. Side circulation is provided by twenty foot wide stairways with landings at every third row. The stairways are separated from the bleachers by large sandstone planter boxes holding native juniper trees. The theater was constructed to accommodate 10,000 people. Two levels of storage space, dressing rooms and toilet facilities were all provided under the stage which served as a roof for the building. The orchestra pit, sunk below the line of sight of the audience, was designed to hold 150 musicians.

The main entrance to the theater was designed to be from the top, at the back, where a large promenade terrace for use between acts as well as to accommodate people waiting to be seated was constructed.

To preserve the pristine atmosphere of the theater, parking areas were located near the upper levels of the seating space out of audience view. Mechanical facilities were hidden. The switchboard which controls all lighting was placed behind the conductor's stand. A projection booth was located under a section of removable seats in the center setting areas and the stage was provided with a disappearing moving picture screen.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 5

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

This monumental piece of architecture was constructed largely by hand by men from the Mount Morrison Civilian Conservation Corp camp from 1936 to 1941. One hundred and twenty of the camp's men worked continuously on the theater while the others worked on other Denver Mountain Park projects. The parking areas were constructed as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. After blasting away tons of rock, fighting off rattlesnakes and constructing this enormous facility mostly with hand tools, the theater was complete and dedicated in 1941 with a concert performance.

Approximately five years after the amphitheater was dedicated, additional restrooms and a concession were built at the back of the theater. The facilities have the same sandstone and red colored concrete construction as the rest of the theater. These additions are contributing.

Within recent years some changes have occurred. The original road alignment has changed a little, more parking lots have been added, and a metal stage cover has been added to protect performers from the elements. The parking lots are screened from the theater, but the metal cover over the stage is a noticeable intrusion. These types of additions should be carefully controlled and minimized in the future to preserve the wonderful integrity which the park now possesses.

Mount Morrison Civilian Conservation Corp Camp

The Mount Morrison Civilian Conservation Corp Camp, founded to house workers for Denver Mountain Park projects. The camp is located along Bear Creek on the south side of the original loop drive. The camp was occupied by Company 1848 SP 13C who were moved up from Durango. The Mount Morrison camp first began as a tent settlement in 1933 and, by fall, had been constructed into a camp with permanent facilities. The camp, designed in two sections, functioned as a unit. The eastern portion contained the living quarters and other facilities for the men, while the western section contained the State's working quarters and the equipment and work rooms for projects.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 6

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

The location provided an attractive setting for a camp. The north portion of the area is rimmed by Bear Creek, and large red sandstone outcrops exist just outside the camp's southern boundary. Facing the north, the views to the surrounding landscape are excellent. Mt. Morrison looms just off to the northwest and the rock outcrops within the northern portion of Red Rocks Park are clearly visible. The site is sloping with a small spring which surfaces near the north edge of the site.

The Mount Morrison camp, which operated from 1933 to 1941, was constructed to house between 200 and 215 men. It included a dining hall, recreation building, six barracks, a bathhouse/laundry building, an officer's housing unit, infirmary, officer offices, a blacksmith shop, machine shop, carpenters shed, and a large equipment shed. In addition, a water tank and waterworks building exist on the site which contains the Morrison water supply. All of the structures except the water tank and waterworks building contribute to this historic district. (See list of contributing and non-contributing resources)

The site plan was simple. The CCC's constructed an attractive iron bridge as the entry over Bear Creek. This road divides the residential quarters of the camp from the section where the equipment and shops were located. The sloping grounds are covered with native grasses. The grade was a problem during the early years of the camp, but, in 1936, terracing leveled eroding areas and helped stabilize the structures.

The buildings within the Mount Morrison complex are typical of those constructed in CCC camps throughout the United States. They are all vernacular style and constructed of wood frame with unpainted horizontal board siding. The buildings typically feature gabled roofs with exposed rafters, and are characteristically one story with a rectangular plan. Windows are casement style with plain wooden surrounds, with six to nine lights per window. Some buildings have small gabled porches supported by wood posts on concrete bases. The structures are either built up a little on blocks or are placed into the slope on the south side to meet the existing grade. Only the waterworks building, which was built later, is constructed of brick. Interiors of the CCC buildings are simple and functional. Walls and ceilings are faced with gypsum board and the floors are wood. Most of the buildings have been resided within the last ten years, but the original design integrity remains intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 7

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

The dining hall, which was one hundred ninety feet long, has a front gabled roof. The building has been altered in recent years with a new foundation, new siding, and new porch entrances. The interior of the building originally included a kitchen, pantry area, medical examination room, underground cellar, and storeroom. The large dining hall was originally divided into two sections; one for officers, and one for workers. The partition separating the dining areas has been removed and the interior has been remodeled. This structure is presently used by the Colorado Chapter of the National Civilian Conservation Corp Association for social gatherings.

The recreation building is a large one and a half story building which was used for entertainment of the corps members. CCC recreation buildings typically included a pool table, ping pong table, a post exchange, library, and stage. The building has a raised platform stage with a rear wall composed of unpeeled, varnished timber siding. Also on the rear wall of the stage is a large hand-painted mural depicting square dancers, which was created by corps members. The building is rectangular in plan, with one small side addition. This addition, which has a stone floor and fireplace, was original to the building, but was rebuilt with cinderblock walls in 1978.

The five camp barracks, or sleeping houses, are long (120 feet), narrow (20 feet), one-story, front-gabled buildings. The barracks have small gabled porches with wood post supports atop concrete bases. Casement windows run the length of each building. Interiors of the barracks are divided into two areas, one for workers and one for officers assigned to the group. Barracks Number 2, which was located directly north of the recreation building was split into two smaller buildings in recent years, the other four remain the same size.

One centrally located bathroom facility served all the barracks. The side-gabled bathhouse had two entrances, one on either side, which led to toilets, a wash basin area, and a shower room. The shower rooms have sheet metal walls. The bathhouse also contains laundry facilities.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 8

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

A longer building was constructed on the northern edge of the site near the center of the camp. This structure contained the officer quarters, infirmary, restroom, offices, and supplies. This building was originally a side-gabled structure with six entrances. The building had been placed on fill which settled, necessitating the recent separation of the building into two structures. One of the structures is now used as housing for the resident manager of the site, the other half is used for Denver Mountain Park supplies. The resident manager's quarters now has an enclosed porch on the south side.

In recent years, all of the buildings have had tan masonite siding added to the outside. Other than the siding and the few changes mentioned, the structures remain intact in terms of original design and location.

The buildings in the work area of the camp are similar in style and construction to the residential area. They consisted of unpainted wood frame and were simple and functional in design. The first building, as one entered the camp, contained the State offices. This structure is similar in design to the barrack structures, being long and rectangular. The structure has had a cinder block addition constructed to the west, yet remains the same shape and character as the other CCC structures. Just to the east of the office building are two garages and a machine shop. The garages are long, rectangular buildings, each with several garage bays. Each is tall to ensure access by dump trucks, water tanks, and flat bed vehicles. They are rustic in character and retain the unpainted wood siding. One garage has new wood siding, the other has horizontal, unpainted wood siding and dirt floors. The machine shop has unpainted horizontal wood siding, a garage door entrance, a cupola, and six-light, casement windows.

Higher up the hill are two simple structures. One is the carpenter's building, the other is the blacksmith shop. The carpenter's building is a long rectangular building, similar to the barrack structures, with a concrete floor which has recently been added. The blacksmith shop is just up the hill from the carpenter's shop. This structure appears much the same as during the time of the camp. The structure is approximately square with garage doors, is unpainted and rustic in character.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 9

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

The site plan has changed little. The road was rerouted to the west a little for the State office building addition and an additional road was added to loop in between the barracks and bathhouse to allow better access to the officer's quarters where the resident manager now resides. The buildings, except for the two which were separated, are in their original locations and none have been removed. The character of the camp remains and the sense of place is strong. This is one of the few CCC camps to remain intact in the nation and is an excellent example of the site planning and structural style of a camp. This camp is also critically important because it remains intact directly adjacent to one of the largest and most outstanding projects ever accomplished by any CCC camp in the nation. This is a unique historical resource for the nation.

Morrison Park

Morrison Park is located on the northern edge of the CCC camp and adjacent to Bear Creek. The land was purchased as part of Red Rocks in 1928, and contains 11.84 acres.

The park was originally just off the Bear Creek Scenic Drive, very near the McFarland gateway columns which defined the entry to the Denver Mountain Park System (these columns have since been removed). This park was either the last or first park available when driving the mountain park system's circle loop drive. Here people could stop, rest, and relax before entering the mountain canyons of Bear Creek or returning to the plains of Denver. The park provided a simple place to gain relief on the hot summer days of Denver and was the closest mountain park to most Denver residents.

The park is low and enclosed by a steep bank on the south side. Native streamside vegetation exists in several areas next to Bear Creek with large trees extending into the nearly level lands of the site. The park is simple yet attractive. There are quality stone walls along the northern bank of Bear Creek, constructed by the CCC during their stay at the Mount Morrison camp.

Due to the gently sloping ground, the park provides an excellent area for passive and active recreation. The site has always been used for fishing, picnicking and such sports as volleyball, kickball or other activities. Picnic sites, a simple volleyball area, and an outhouse exist today, similar to what had been available historically.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 10

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

Contributing and Noncontributing resources

Site: Natural foothills and riparian ecosystems; dramatic redstone outcroppings, scenic views, Red Rocks Amphitheater, CCC buildings, entrance bridge and stone walls.

Contributing Resources

Buildings (23) Structures (1)

1. Red Rocks Pueblo (1931): "Indian Concession House" Pueblo Revival Style Architecture, earth colored smooth stucco. (map 3)
2. Red Rocks Pueblo Secondary Building (map 3)
3. Red Rocks Picnic Shelter (map 3)
4. Utility Building (map 3)
8. Ticket Booth (map 3)
9. Amphitheater (1936 - 1941) Three Mammoth Flat Sandstone Rocks, native stone, curvilinear seating. [see site plans] (map 3)
10. Ticket Booth (map 3)
11. CCC dining hall: 190' long, front gabled roof (map 5)
12. CCC recreational building: 1 1/2 story, stage, hand-painted mural (map 5)
- 13-18 CCC barracks: long and narrow (map 5)
19. CCC bathroom / laundry: side gabled (map 5)
20. CCC Officers' housing (map 5)
21. CCC infirmary / Officers' offices (map 5)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 11

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

- 22. CCC blacksmith shop: square, unpainted and rustic (map 5)
- 23. CCC machine shop: long, rectangular (map 5)
- 24. CCC carpenter shop: long, rectangular (map 5)
- 25. CCC equipment shed (map 5)
- 26. Mountain Park Offices: long and rectangular (map 5)

Noncontributing Resources less than 50 years

Buildings (4) Structures (2)

- 5. Ticket Booth (map 3)
- 6. Amphitheater Consession Stand (1948) (map 3)
- 7. Restroom (1946) (map 3)
- 28. Waterworks Building (map 5)
- 29. Morrison Park restroom (map 5)

Structures (2)

- 27. Water tank (map 5)
- 30. Mt. Morrison Antennae (map 3)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: () nationally () statewide () locally

Applicable National Register Criteria (X) A () B (X) C () D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) () A () B () C () D () E () F () G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

<u>Architecture</u>	<u>Period of Significance</u>	<u>Significant Dates</u>
<u>Entertainment and Recreation</u>	<u>1931 - 1940</u>	<u>1931, 1933, 1936</u>
<u>Conservation</u>	<u>1928 - 1940</u>	<u>1928, 1936</u>
<u>Community Planning and Development</u>	<u>1928 - 1940</u>	<u>1928, 1933</u>

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps,
Burnham Hoyt, and W.R. Rosche

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This park district is significant under criteria A and C. The park is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; and represents the work of a master.

Red Rocks Park clearly represents the ideals of the City Beautiful Movement. It is easily accessible to Denver residents; has a carefully planned scenic drive, and exposes city dwellers to the beauties and wonders of nature. Red Rock's drive is a carefully planned parkway winding through the natural red sandstone uplifts. Not only is the park important because of its natural environment, but also because of its cultural environment. The park contains the Red Rocks amphitheater, recognized throughout the world as a beautiful, inventive, and inspiring facility.

John Brisben Walker, a well known Denver financier and landowner who provided early support and enthusiasm for the creation of the Denver Mountain Park System also owned the Red Rocks Park land. Walker realized the qualities of this landscape early and had used it as a private recreational area and income resource from tourists for many years. The city of Denver tried many times to purchase the land but was unsuccessful until 1928 when Mr. Walker agreed to sell all the lands included in this district. The city had acquired a unique parcel which would create an outstanding Denver Mountain Park.

(X) See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

In response to the Great Depression, the federal government created the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) to put the thousands of unemployed workers across the nation to work and to enhance the public resources of the nation. George Cranmer, the Manager of Improvement and Parks for Denver took full advantage of the CCC. He was able to get a CCC camp established on the south side of Bear Creek within the Red Rock Park boundaries and persuaded city officials to allow a large outdoor amphitheater to be constructed among the large rock outcrops. While on a trip to Sicily in 1928, Cranmer was impressed by the ancient Greek amphitheaters located at Taromina which were able to reach audiences of thousands. He returned with the belief that, at Red Rocks, nature had created the exact qualities which made the classical Greek theaters famous. With the expertise of Burnham Hoyt, a brilliant young Denver architect who had helped plan New York's Radio City Music Hall, Cranmer was able to turn his dream into a reality. He gained permission to use CCC men and over \$300,000 of Federal funds. In 1936, the National Park Service approved the project and the CCC began the construction of the amphitheater.

The vision of George Cranmer, the manager of Denver's parks, coupled with the architectural skills of Burnham Hoyt resulted in a unique amphitheater. The theater is perfectly placed between three gigantic red rock outcrops where the views are excellent and the acoustics are pure. The theater is sensitively designed so that from the eastern side one can hardly distinguish buildings from natural land forms.

Red Rocks Park provides an excellent example of careful planning and quality construction. The design was restrained yet carefully created to blend with the natural environment. Unattractive elements such as parking lots were carefully located and naturally screened; back access opened the user to the fantastic views of the surroundings, and the design insured the sound carried appropriately. The care within the design is exemplified throughout; even down to the native trees which were placed in the planters within the sandstone retaining walls. A sense of quality and elegance is clear throughout.

Burnham Hoyt was a master architect. He is considered by some to be Denver's finest architect in the twentieth century. He was trained at the Beaux-Arts School in New York where he won six Beaux-Arts competitions. He also participated in the design of Radio City Music Hall in New York. This man designed the Red Rocks amphitheater and many other significant structures within the city of Denver such as the Denver Public Library, Boettcher School, Harrington School, and the Denver Press Club.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

The amphitheater was completed in 1941 and a dedication concert was held in the theater. The theater could not have reached reality without the outstanding work of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Red Rocks Park is one of the largest CCC projects in the nation and one of the most impressive. The plans for the amphitheater were approved in Washington by the National Park Service before any construction occurred. When not enough qualified men could be found within the CCC camp, approximately six additional specialists in masonry and iron work were asked to join the camp and assist. The excellent construction typifies the craftsmanship of the Civilian Conservation Corp during the depressed years before World War II.

The Mount Morrison Civilian Conservation Corp Camp headquartered the men who constructed the amphitheater. This intact camp is an excellent representation of CCC camps during this unusual time in American history, from 1933-1941. All the buildings from the camp remain intact and the feeling of the whole camp provides one with a true sense of the place and what life in this camp may have been like. This is one of the few intact camps in America where the original buildings still exist and represent the vernacular CCC style of construction.

This camp is also significant due to its location. The entire CCC process is visible within this one park district--the original layout of the residential section of camp, the equipment and machinery section where the craftsmen worked, the results of the labor in the amphitheater, camp entry bridge, and the stone walls along Bear Creek in Morrison Park.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(X) See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- () State Historic Preservation Office
- () Other State agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other

Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property: 659.19 acres

UTM References

A 1|3 4|8|1|0|2|5| 4|3|9|1|0|5|0| B 1|3 4|8|1|8|2|0| 4|3|9|1|0|6|0|
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1|3 4|8|1|8|2|0| 4|3|9|1|4|6|0| D 1|3 4|8|3|0|4|0| 4|3|9|1|4|6|0|
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

(X) See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(X) See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all lands owned by the City and County of Denver called Red Rocks Park except the section of Bear Creek Canyon Drive which has been separated out as its own Scenic Mountain Drive District.

() See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Ann Moss, Landscape Architect

Organization: Shapins / Moss, Inc.

Street & Number: 1702 Mariposa Ave.

City or Town: Boulder

Date: Oct. 3, 1988

Telephone: 303-449-8450

State: CO Zip Code: 80302

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000725

Date Listed: 5/18/90

Red Rocks Park District
Property Name

Jefferson
County

CO
State

Denver Mountain Parks MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Bill Boland
Signature of the Keeper

5/18/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #7, Description: The 1946 restrooms and concessions do not contribute to the significance of the district.

Item #8, Significance: The level of significance is local.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Benson, Maxine, Duane A. Smith, Carl Ubbelohde, A History of Colorado.
Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder, 1976.

Brown, Georgina, The Shining Mountains, B and B Printers, 1976, Gunnison.

Commanger, H.S. and Alan Melvins, A Pocket History of the United States: Eighth Revised Edition, Washington Square Press, a division of Simon and Schuster, Inc., New York, 1986.

Dorsett, Lyle W. The Queen City: A History of Denver, Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder, 1977

Johnson, Charles A. A Denver's Mayor Speer, Green Mountain Press, Denver, 1969.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1985.

Mutel, Cornelia and John Emerick, From Grasslands to Glacier: The Natural History of Colorado, Johnson Publishing Company, Boulder, 1984.

Newton, Norman T. Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, 1971. Fifth Printing 1978.

Noel, Thomas J. and Barbara S. Norgren, Denver the City Beautiful, Historic Denver, Inc. Denver, 1987.

Paige, John C. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933-1942. An Administrative History, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior. 1985.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

Pearce, Sarah J. and Merrill A. Wilson, A Guide to Colorado Architecture,
Colorado Historical Society, Denver, 1983.

Sternberg, Barbara and Gene Sternberg, Evergreen our Mountain Community.
Johnson Publishing Company, Boulder, 1987.

Zamonski, Stanley, Colorado Traveler: Buffalo Bill The Man and The Museum,
Renaissance House, A Division of Jende-Hagan, Inc., Frederick, Colorado,
1987.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

The Architectural; Forum. May 1945.

Denver, City and County of, Denver Municipal Facts, August 10, 1912, May 4,
1912, August 1918, November 1918, March 1919, May 1919, February-March 1920,
April-May 1920, June-July 1921, August 1921, September-October 1921, July
August 1922, November-December 1924, March-April 1926, March-April 1927,
July-August 1928, January-February 1928, September-October 1929.

Denver Post, January 10, 1917; November 24, 1917; June 8, 1937; January 31,
1940; June 4, 1940; July 24, 1949.

Denver Times, June 23, 1941.

Happy Home Chats, June 22, 1936.

Rocky Mountain News, January 10, 1936; June 16, 1941.

Steelways, May 1947.

COLLECTIONS

Boulder, Colorado. University of Colorado. Western Historical Collection.
J.J.B. Benedict Collection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 4

Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

Denver, City and County of: Parks and Recreation Department, Denver Mountain
Parks Photographic Collection.

Denver, City and County of: Parks and Recreation Department, Denver Mountain
Parks Map Collection.

Denver, City and County of: Parks and Recreation Department, Denver Mountain
Parks, Civilian Conservation Corp Photo Collection.

Denver Public Library, Western History Department. Scrapbook, Newspaper
articles, 1914.

Denver Public Library, Western History Department, Lookout Mountain Drive: One
Day in Denver's New Mountain Parks, Denver, City and County of, 1916.

Homola, Marty, Denver Mountain Parks Postcard Collection.

Morrison, Colorado, Colorado Chapter of the National Association of the
Civilian Conservation Corp/Mile High Chapter 7. Alumni Scrapbook.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.
National Register Theme Nomination: "The Denver Park and Parkway System."
1986

Denver, City and County of: Parks and Recreation Department, Parks Commission
Minutes, 1914-1920.

National Recreational School, Out-of-City Parks and Recreation Areas serving
Cities of 50,000 and Over: A Study Report for the National Park Service,
New York, 1957.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 2

UTM

UTM References, continued

E 13 483100 43921080	F 13 483320 4391080
G 13 483405 4391140	H 13 483420 4391075
I 13 483420 4390660	J 13 483420 4389200
K 13 482820 4389200	L 13 483420 4389080
M 13 483420 4388815	N 13 482620 4388815
O 13 482620 4389440	P 13 482400 4389440
Q 13 482400 4389840	R 13 482210 4389840
S 13 482210 4390260	T 13 482000 4390260
U 13 482000 4390660	V 13 481025 4390660

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 3

Verbal Boundary Description

W 1/2 of SW 1/4, Section 26, SW 1/4 of S 1/2 of SW 1/4, Section 27; E 1/2 of NW 1/2 of NE 1/4, E 1/2 of NE 1/4 of SE 1/4, and E 1/2 of NW 1/4 of NE 1/4, Section 34; W 1/2 of W 1/2 Section 35, T4S, R 70W; and N 1/2 of NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Section 2, T5S, R70W. Also that portion of Outlots 9 and 10, second addition to Morrison, Colorado, sufficient to provide for a road 60 feet in width for an entrance to the park.

That portion of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4, and the NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 26, T4S, R70W, described as follows:

Beginning at the SE corner of the NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of said Section 26, (which corner is N.0 degrees 1 minute West 1319.73 feet, more or less from the N 1/4 corner of Section 35, T4S, R70W); thence S 88 degrees 49 minutes West along South line of said NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 26, 49 minutes West along South line of said NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 26, 326.63 feet; thence N51 deg. 23 min. East 339.21 feet; thence on a curve to the left with a radius of 96.19 feet; thence N. 86 deg. 54 min. 15 seconds East 50 feet; thence S. 3 deg. 5 min. 45 sec. East 284.60 feet; thence South 88 degrees 49 minutes West 40.95 feet; more or less. o point of beginning, the SW 1/4 corner of the said NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 26. Containing 1.188 acres.

NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of East 1/2 of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4; and the NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 26, T4S, R 70W. Containing 80 acres.

Also part of the SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 35, T4S, R70W, described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at a point which bears N. 72 deg. 4'E. 1047 feet from the SW corner of said Section 35, said point being the most SE'ly corner of a tract of land conveyed to the Granter recorded in Book 247-566 of the records of said County; thence N. 16 deg. 46'E. 125 feet to NE'ly corner of said tract of land; thence S 89 deg. 22'W 82.88 feet, to a point 60 feet NW'ly at right angles from line here in above described as N 16 deg. 48'E. 125 feet; thence S. 16 deg. 46'W to a point which bears N. 88 deg. 21'W. 62.15 feet from point of beginning; thence S. 88 deg. 21'E 62.15 feet to point of beginning. Containing 17 Acres, more or less.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 4

Verbal Boundary Description

That part of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 35, T4S, R70W, and part of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 2 T5S, R70W, described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the NW Corner of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 2, T5S, R70W; and thence running South along the West line of said NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of said Section 2, 250 feet more or less, to the North line of Block 18, Original Town of Morrison, according to the recorded plat thereof; thence running Southeasterly along the North line of said Block 18, 623 feet more or less, to the Northwest corner of Block 17, in said original Town of Morrison; thence running Northeasterly along the NW line of said Block 10, 443 feet, more or less, to the SW corner of Lot 10, in said Block 10; thence running Northwesterly on the South line of Lot 10, produced 20 feet distant from the Northwesterly line of Block 10, 185 feet; thence running Northwesterly on a line parallel with the Southerly line of Lot 3, in said Block 10, produced, and 10 feet Northerly there from 117 feet to a point; thence running Northerly 118 feet, more or less, to the Southwest corner of the intersection of Canon Street and Bear Creek Avenue, in the First Addition to Morrison; thence running Southwesterly along the Southwesterly line of Bear Creek Avenue 60 feet from and parallel with the Southeasterly line of Blocks 2, 3, and 4, First Addition to Morrison, 722 feet to an intersection with a line drawn parallel with and 100 feet North from the South line of Section 35, T4S, R70W; thence running South 100 feet to place of beginning. Containing 11.84 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 1

Photo Log: Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

RED ROCKS PARK DISTRICT

The following information will be the same for all photographs within the Red Rocks Park District

1. Name of Property: Red Rocks Park
2. Location: Morrison, Colorado
3. Photographer: Ann Moss
4. Date of Photograph: September, 1988
5. Location of Original Negative: City and County of Denver

Photo # Description

1. SW view into Red Rocks
2. Rock formations and vegetation in Red Rocks Park, looking south
3. Rock outcrops and vegetation, looking south
4. Tunnel through rock, looking south
5. Top parking lot carefully sited to be screenend along scenic drive and from within amphitheater by rock outcrops. Also view of hogback to east, looking east.
6. Amphitheater near stage, looking north
7. Amphitheater, looking northwest
8. Detail, amphitheater seat design
9. Amphitheater, looking east to stage and hogback behind
10. Amphitheater stairway access, looking west
11. Amphitheater planters at seating edge, view NW
12. Amphitheater, looking northwest
13. Ramp access on south of amphitheater, looking west
14. Amphitehater seeting looking west
15. East entry to amphitheater, view W
16. Red Rock's Pueblo, looking south
17. Red Rock's Pueblo, looking west
18. Red Rock's Pueblo, looking north
19. Red Rock's Pueblo stone wall at back of building, looking west
20. Red Rock Park rock outcrops, looking north
21. Mt. Morrison CCC Camp, looking south
22. Mt. Morrison CCC Camp, looking south
23. Mt. Morrison CCC Camp large equipment shed, looking north
24. Mt. Morrison CCC Camp machinery shop, looking west

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page 2

Photo Log: Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

Photo #	Description
25.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp machinery shop and large equipment shed, looking east
26.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp blacksmith shop, looking northwest
27.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp barracks, looking southeast
28.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp barracks, looking southeast
29.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp barracks, looking west
30.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp bathhouse, looking southeast
31.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp bathhouse, looking west
32.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp dining hall/mess hall, looking northeast
33.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp recreation hall, looking west
34.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp officer's quarters, looking northeast
35.	Mt. Morrison CCC Camp carpentry building, looking northwest
36.	Morrison Park - CCC wall in Bear Creek, view east

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8/86)
NPS/CHS Word Processor Format
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page _____

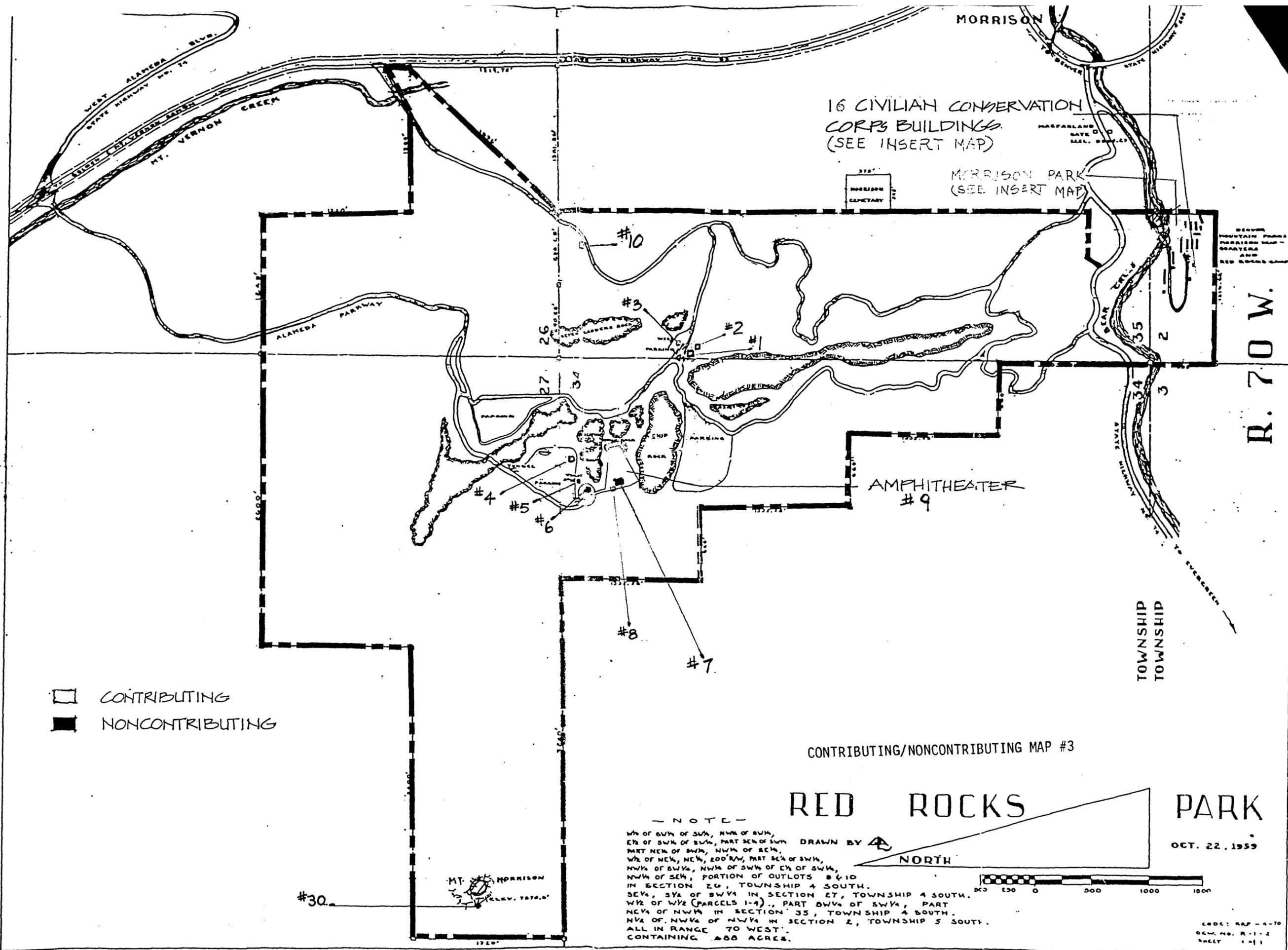
Map Log: Red Rocks - Mount Morrison

RED ROCKS PARK / Mount Morrison / CCC Camp

MAP LOG

Map #1	Legal boundary map
2	Photo map - Red Rocks
3	Contributing/non contributing map - Red Rocks
4	Natural Features Map - Red Rocks
5	Insert map for Morrison Park and CCC Camp
6	USGS Map

Also included are site plans and information for Red Rocks amphitheater



- CONTRIBUTING
- NONCONTRIBUTING

CONTRIBUTING/NONCONTRIBUTING MAP #3

RED ROCKS PARK

NOTE
 1/4 of SW1/4 of SW1/4, NW1/4 of SW1/4, E1/2 of SW1/4 of SW1/4, PART SW1/4 of SW1/4, PART NE1/4 of SW1/4, NW1/4 of SW1/4, NW1/4 of NE1/4, NE1/4, 200' RW, PART SW1/4 of SW1/4, NW1/4 of SW1/4, NW1/4 of SW1/4 of E1/2 of SW1/4, NW1/4 of SW1/4, PORTION OF OUTLOTS 8 & 10 IN SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH.
 SE1/4, SW1/2 of SW1/4 IN SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH.
 W1/2 of W1/2 (PARCELS 1-4), PART SW1/4 of SW1/4, PART NE1/4 of NW1/4 IN SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH.
 NW1/4 of NW1/4 of NW1/4 IN SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH.
 ALL IN RANGE 70 WEST, CONTAINING 400 ACRES.



OCT. 22, 1959

R. 70 W.

TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH
 TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH

16 CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS BUILDINGS (SEE INSERT MAP)

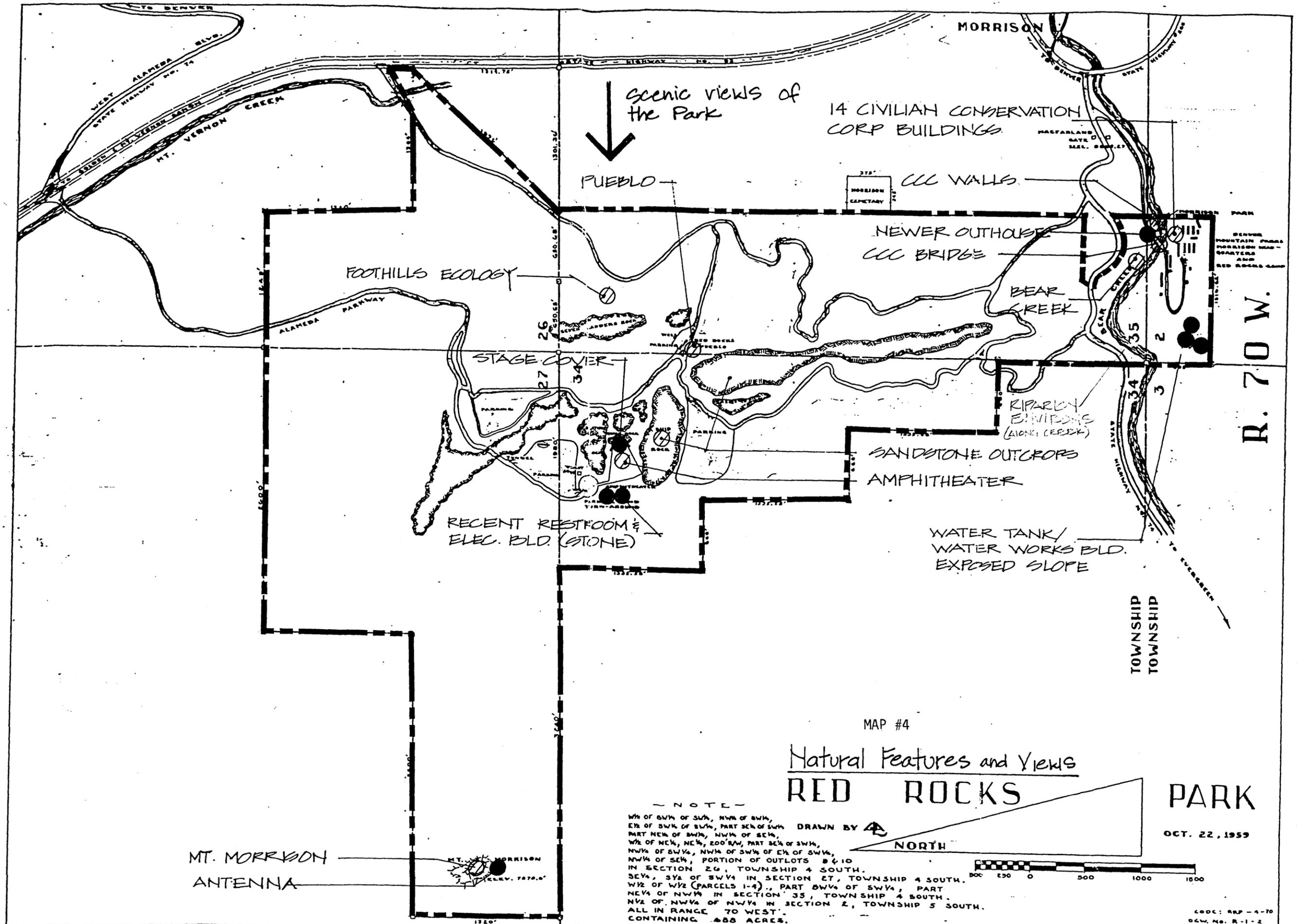
MORRISON PARK (SEE INSERT MAP)

AMPHITHEATER #9



#30

DESIGN MOUNTAIN PARK
 PARKING MAP -
 QUARTERS
 AND
 RED ROCKS



scenic views of the Park

14 CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORP BUILDINGS

PUEBLO

CCC WALLS

FOOTHILLS ECOLOGY

NEWER OUTHOUSE

CCC BRIDGE

BEAR CREEK

STAGE COVER

RIPARIAN ENVIRONMENT (ALONG CREEK)

SANDSTONE OUTCROPS

AMPHITHEATER

RECENT RESTROOM & ELEC. BLD. (STONE)

WATER TANK/
WATER WORKS BLD.
EXPOSED SLOPE

TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP

R. 70 W.

MAP #4

Natural Features and Views
RED ROCKS

PARK

OCT. 22, 1959

- NOTE -

1/2 OF SW1/4 OF SW1/4, NW1/4 OF SW1/4,
E1/2 OF SW1/4 OF SW1/4, PART SW1/4 OF SW1/4
PART NE1/4 OF SW1/4, NW1/4 OF SW1/4,
W1/2 OF NE1/4, NE1/4, E200' W1/2, PART SW1/4 OF SW1/4,
NW1/4 OF SW1/4, NW1/4 OF SW1/4 OF E1/2 OF SW1/4,
NW1/4 OF SW1/4, PORTION OF OUTLOTS 8 & 10
IN SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH.
SE1/4, SW1/2 OF SW1/4 IN SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH.
W1/2 OF W1/2 (PARCELS 1-4), PART SW1/4 OF SW1/4, PART
NE1/4 OF NW1/4 IN SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH.
N1/2 OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4 IN SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH.
ALL IN RANGE 70 WEST.
CONTAINING 488 ACRES.

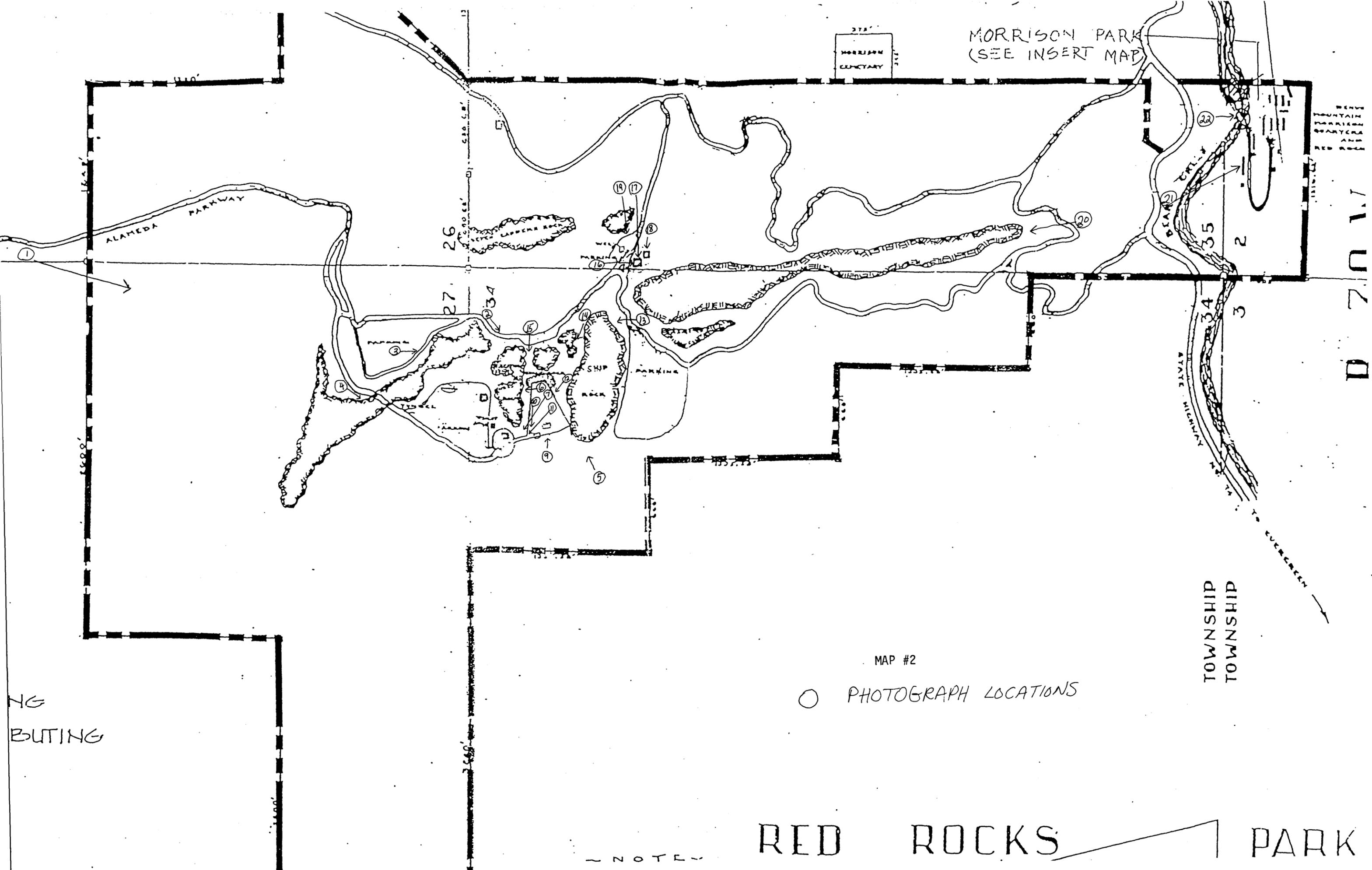
DRAWN BY

NORTH



MT. MORRISON
ANTENNA





MORRISON PARK
(SEE INSERT MAP)

378'
MORRISON
ELEMENTARY

MOUNTAIN
MORRISON
QUARTERS
AND
RED ROCKS

D 7 N W

TOWNSHIP
TOWNSHIP

MAP #2

○ PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS

NOTE:

RED ROCKS PARK

NG
BUTING

ALAMEDA
PARKWAY

STATE HIGHWAY

LAPPEL ROAD

PARKING

300.0'

1800'

510'

27

34

26

18

17

8

16

14

13

12

11

10

9

5

22

21

20

19

18

17

16

15

14

13

12

11

10

9

8

7

6

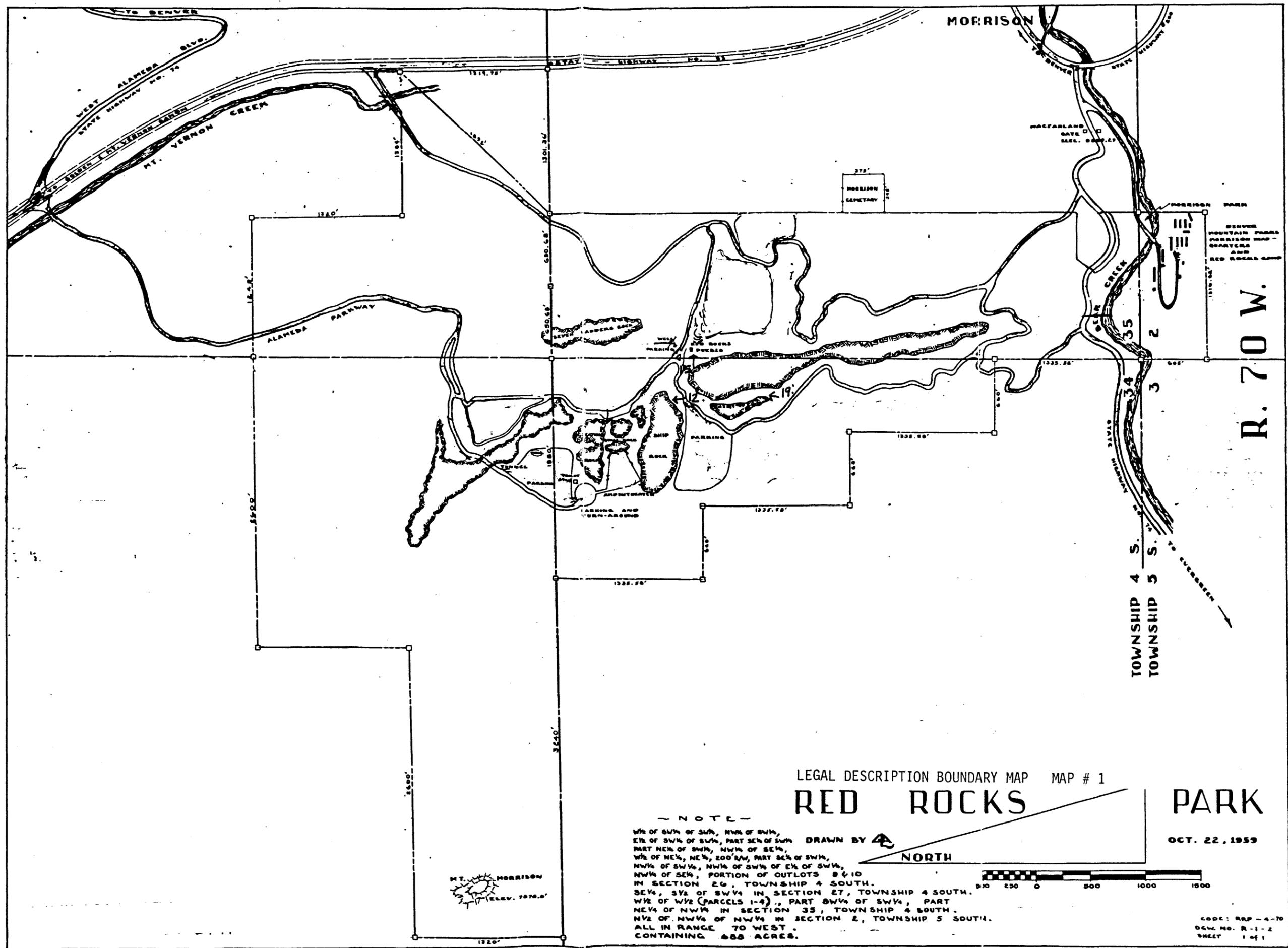
5

4

3

2

1



MORRISON

TOWNSHIP 4 S.
TOWNSHIP 5 S.

R. 70 W.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION BOUNDARY MAP MAP # 1

RED ROCKS PARK

OCT. 22, 1959

NOTE

$\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, PART SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 PART NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 200' SW, PART SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, PORTION OF OUTLOTS 8 & 10
 IN SECTION 26, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH.
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ IN SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of W $\frac{1}{2}$ (PARCELS 1-4), PART SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, PART
 NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ IN SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH.
 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ IN SECTION 2, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH.
 ALL IN RANGE 70 WEST.
 CONTAINING 688 ACRES.

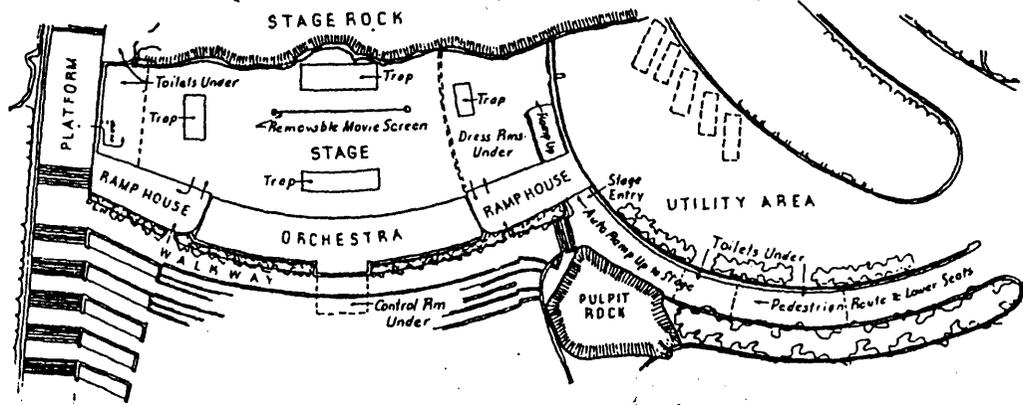
DRAWN BY 

NORTH



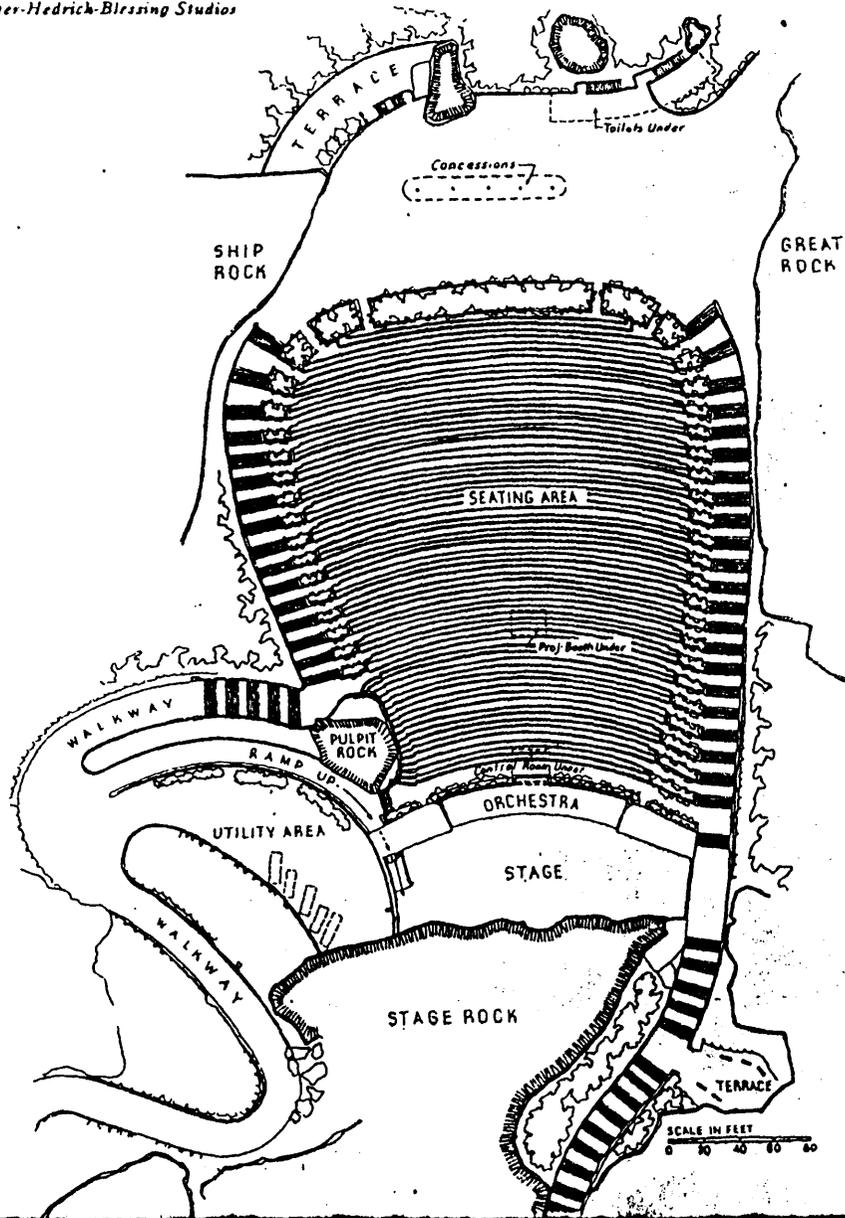
MT. MORRISON
 ELEV. 7870.0'

CODE: RRP-4-70
 DCW NO. R-1-2
 SHEET 1 of 1



REDROCKS AMPHITHEATER

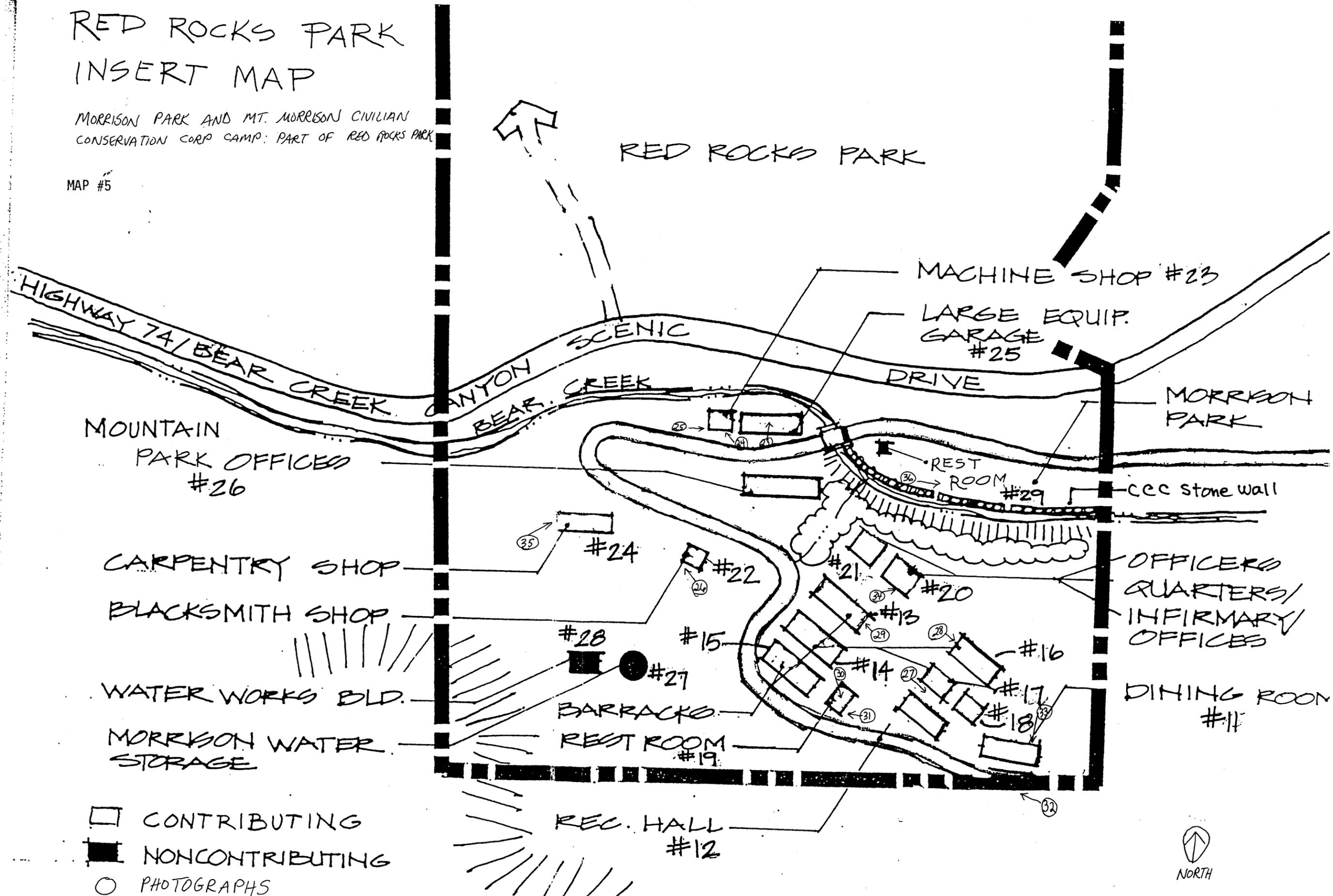
Photos: Swier-Hedrick-Blessing Studios



RED ROCKS PARK INSERT MAP

MORRISON PARK AND MT. MORRISON CIVILIAN
CONSERVATION CORP CAMP: PART OF RED ROCKS PARK

MAP #5



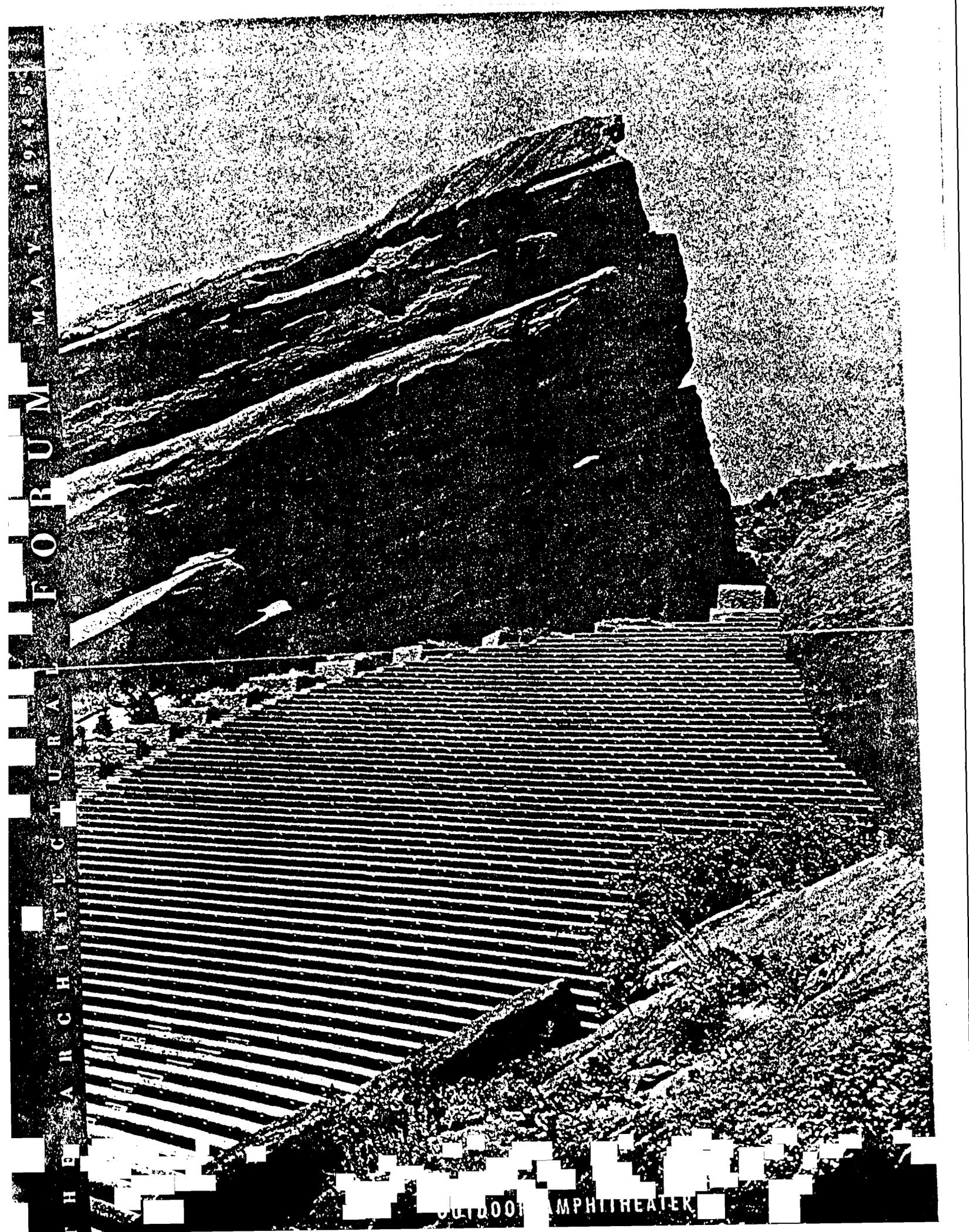
- CONTRIBUTING
- NONCONTRIBUTING
- PHOTOGRAPHS



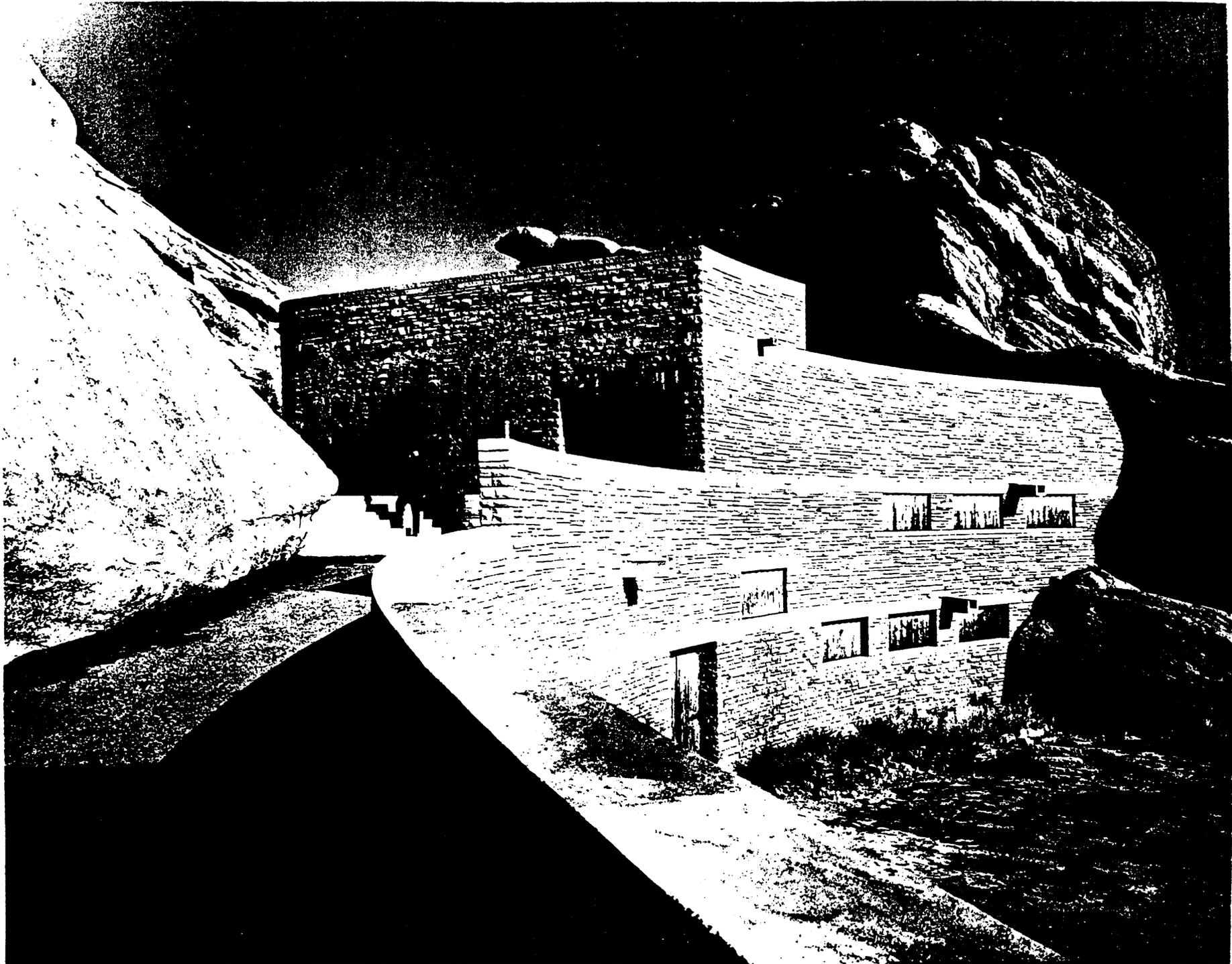
FORUM MAY 1985

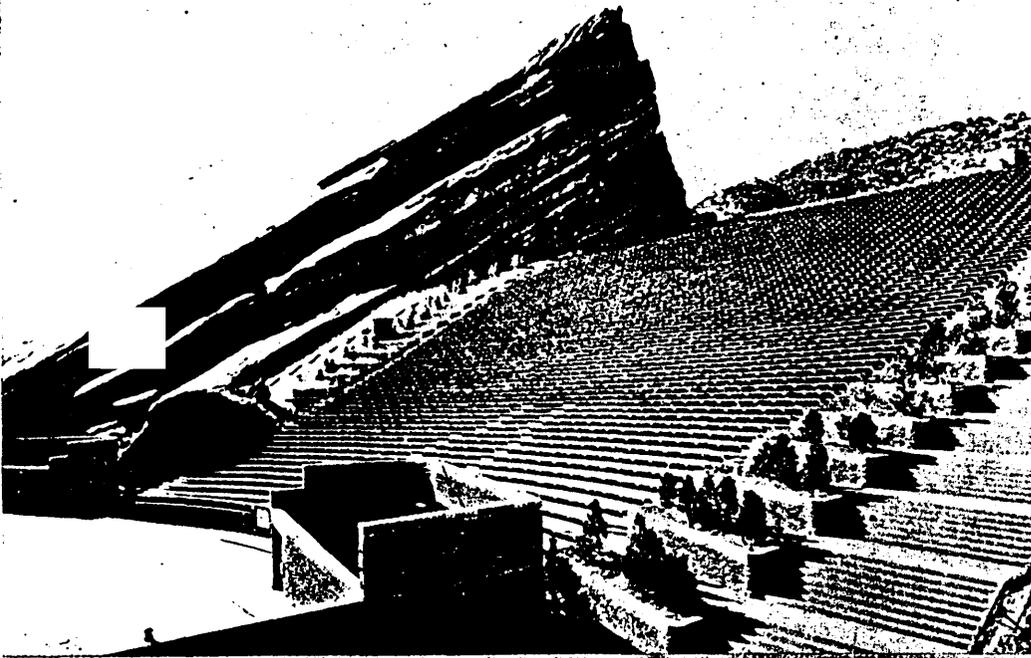
HER ARCHITECTURE

OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATER

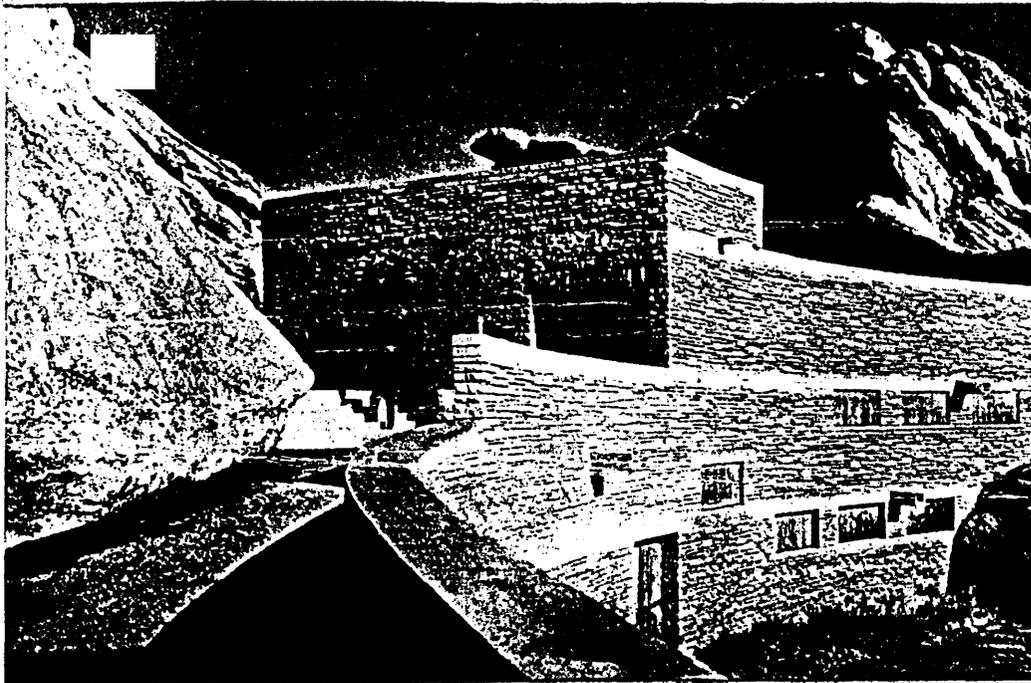




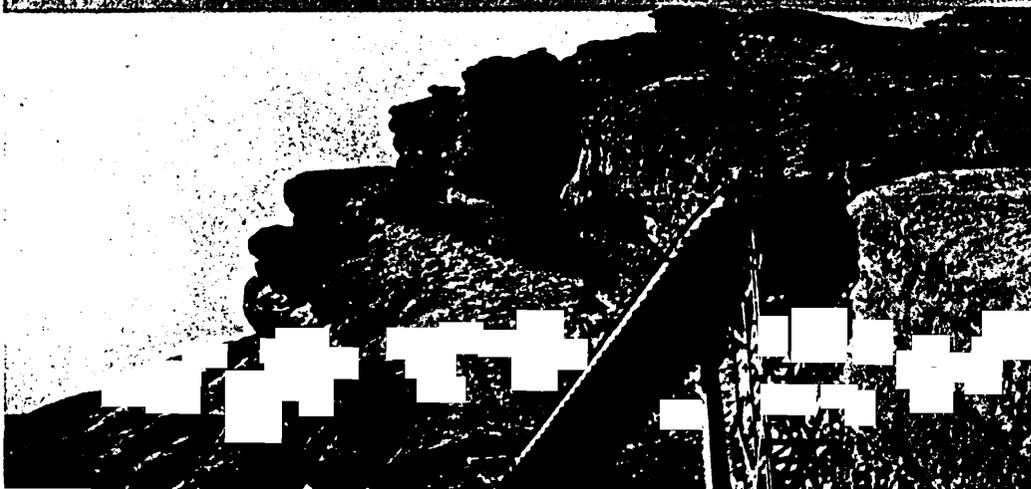




Natural acoustics of wind-shaped stone clearly project voices and sounds to listeners in the back row. Skillful blending of old and new has retained the natural beauty.



Graceful rock hollow forms the backbone of stairways that were later clothed in stone in a dramatic union of modern architecture with sculpturing of wind, rain, sun.



Redrocks Amphatheater

Architectural Forum
May 1945

