

Historic Portland Parks: Intensive Level Survey

Parks ID: 147

Local Park Name: **George Himes Park** Year Acquired by City: 1903

Address/Location: SW Terwilliger & Slavin Rd. Acreage: 35
 City: Portland County: Multnomah Total Features Included: 1

Primary Historic Use: Outdoor Recreation Secondary Historic Use: Monument/Marker
 Additional Historic Use/Function description: View opportunities, picnic tables, paths

Preliminary Evaluation: eligible/significant RLS survey date: 8/23/2005

Main Park, Thematic Grouping, or MPS:

Name of Main Park: _____ Total Local Parks Included: _____

Thematic Group Name, if applicable: City Beautiful Movement 1900 to 1920

Representation on Other Surveys:

National Register SHPO Inventory Local Designation 1984 Portland HRI Other Survey
 Significance Noted Nomination Draft Prepared Bureau: PP&R

Statement of Significance:

A. Summary statement of significance

At the end of the nineteenth century, Portland had less than 200 acres of park land, much less than rival west coast cities. Most of the city's park land still lay undeveloped. The city achieved the means to build a parks system in 1900 when the voters approved creation of an independent city parks commission that could levy an annual half mill property tax for purchasing and improving parks property. The creation of the potential for urban parks development occurred at the same time that the nationwide City Beautiful movement provided a rationale for parks improvements. The City Beautiful proponents argued that progressive, up-to-date cities needed a planned public park system to provide a natural respite for its citizens from the congestion, noise, and unhealthy living and working conditions present in the commercial and industrial setting of the modern city.

Land for George Himes Park, originally known as Fulton Park, was donated in 1903 by prominent Portland citizens Charles E. Ladd, H.L. Pittock, and S.B. Lombard. The park is an obscure but important link in the current 40-Mile Loop trail system. It has value to the neighborhoods as scenic green relief from surrounding development and as wildlife habitat. It offers views of Ross Island Lagoon and Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, downhill from the park.

In 1935 this 35-acre natural park was dedicated to George H. Himes, curator of the Oregon Historical Society, on his 91st birthday. Himes and his parents emigrated from Pennsylvania to the West Coast in the mid-19th century. His career was in commercial printing and historical research and he was instrumental in forming the Oregon Historical Society. Speakers at the ceremony declared that Himes had done more than any other person to collect and preserve Oregon pioneer relics. A bronze plaque on the face of a large boulder was unveiled at the ceremony, dedicated by the Oregon chapter of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America.

George Himes Park is significant as an early Portland park and for its association with George Himes and his role in recording and preserving information about the development of the Pacific Northwest. The park appears to qualify for listing in the National Register under the City Beautiful Movement MPS, specifically under the Associated Property Type "Urban or Neighborhood Parks." Under that category, eligible resources exhibit Olmstedian design characteristics. Natural landscape forms, scenic views and conservation of pockets of the city's forested areas were important principles, along with inclusion of native plant material and indigenous trees. This property appears to meet the latter criteria.

B. Chronological history

1903
 The property represented a gift worth \$17,500 from Chas. E. Ladd, H.L. Pittock, and S.B. Lombard.

1912
 The park was known as Fulton Park at this time. Report of the Park Board laments that adjacent acreage could not be purchased (for lack of funds) to add to the park.

1927-1928
 Trails were created and fountains installed.

1940
 Resolution No. 21689 expressed the gratitude of the City of Portland for Himes lifetime achievements.

Mid-1930s
 Mention in a letter by Superintendent Keyser of a plan to replant the park on one side (i.e., of the "saddlebag" layout) with rhododendrons and on the other side with native shrubs. By 1946 this plan was estimated to cost approximately \$20,000 for clearing and replanting plus some walks and a modest shelter building. This idea was not realized.

1946
 Proposal to the City by a citizen (Albert Grutze) to develop George Himes Park as a Camelia and Azalea Park as a commercial attraction. The City

did not act on the proposal and the park remained in a natural state.

C. George Himes Park References

Note: The following references are listed by Document name/title; Document type; Repository; CAT#; Description. Each item is separated by a semicolon. Where no info is available, this is indicated by NA. These references are not in bibliographic format.

1. Houck, Mike. "George Himes Nature Park" in Wild in the City: A Guide to Portland's Natural Areas. Michael C. Houk & M.J. Cody editors. Portland: Oregon Historical Society Press, 2000.; Article; OHS;508.79549 W668; History, natural features, access, and map.
2. Whitehall, Karen. "Himes Park to Willamette Park." Chapter in A Pedestrian's Portland: 40 Walks in Portland Parks and Neighborhoods. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1989; Guide; MCL, OHS; 917.9549 W592p; Includes: Historical and geographical background, "getting there," and "getting around."
3. Whitehall, Karen. "Himes Park to Willamette Park." Chap. in Nature Walks in and Around Portland: All-Season Exploring in Parks, Forest, and Wetlands. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1998; Guide; MCL; 917.9549 W592n 1998; Includes: Historical and geographical background, "getting there," and "getting around." Some variation from author's 1989 publication, A Pedestrian's Portland: 40 Walks in Portland Parks and Neighborhoods.
4. George Himes Park ; Photo; OHS; Neg. #91345, file #1890; Plaque dedication (G.H. Himes 3rd from right), 1935
5. "Park Dedicated in Himes' Honor." The Sunday Oregonian, 19 May 1935, sec.1, p.1.; Article, newspaper; OHS, MCL; Microfilm; Mostly about Himes. Brief info on park.
6. Geo. H. Himes Park Ordinances, Historic File Himes, George H., Park; list; City of Portland Archives; 26/6, 15-06-25 / 3; Ordinances pertaining to the development of Geo. H. Himes Park
7. Real Estate Inventory of George H. Himes Park , Historic File Himes , George H., Park; inventory; City of Portland Archives;26 / 6, 15-06-25 / 3; Inventory of property and major improvements to the park listed by year
8. Ordinance # 67199, Plaque Geo H Himes Memorial Dec 1935-68; correspondence; City of Portland Archives; 8301-03, 3 / 23; re: ordinance to authorize installation of a bronze marker in the George H. Himes Park.
9. Resolution # 21689 "George Henry Himes" 1844-1940", Plaque Geo H Himes Memorial Dec 1935-68; resolution; City of Portland Archives; 8301-03, 3 / 23; Biography of George H Himes
10. George H. Himes, Journal Voucher Fountains Statues & Memorials Plaque, Geo H Himes Memorial Dec 1935-68; City of Portland Archives; 2 / 4, 8301-03, 3 / 23; Description of plaque honoring George H. Himes. Also explains name change of Fulton Park to George H. Himes Park
11. A R Grutze Correspondence with Fred L. Peterson 1946, Plaque Geo H Himes Memorial Dec 1935-68; correspondence; City of Portland Archives; 2 / 4, 09-01-23 / 3; Future development of Himes Park between A. R. Grutze and Commissioner Fred L. Peterson
12. George H. Himes Plaque, Plaque Geo H Himes Memorial Dec 1935-68; photograph; City of Portland Archives; 2 / 4, 8301-03, 3 / 33; Description of plaque and naming of park in his honor
13. From Oxcart to Airplane by Minnie Roof Dee, Portland 1939 p 140-141; book; Nelson; Fulton Park renamed in his honor.
14. Fulton Park 1910, Annual Reports of the Park Board 1908-1912, Portland Oregon, March 1913 p 34; report; Nelson; Need to develop park after completion of Terwilliger Parkway
15. Fulton Park 1912, Annual Reports of the Park Board 1908-1912, Portland Oregon, March 1913 p 56-57; report; Nelson; Thoughts on neighboring property development.
16. "Good Beginning Made in Laying Out Elaborate System of Parks," Oregonian Jan 1, 1910; article, newspaper; Nelson; microfilm; Parks in development includes mention of Peninsula park, Columbia Park, Fulton Park (Himes) Hillside (Terwilliger) Parkway and others.

Landscape Features:

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Botanical Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park System | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Feature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetary | <input type="checkbox"/> Institution | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parkway | <input type="checkbox"/> Square/Commons | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoo/Collection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commemorative | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monument Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Streetscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Estate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Building | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Landscape | |

Neighborhood Descr: Adjacent to Terwilliger Parkway and residential development.

Overall Park Descr: Woodland with crest at SW Nebraska having parklike landscape with mature firs, deciduous understory. Crest has picnic area, park benches. Trails lead down ravine. Photo plaque dated 1935 regarding George Himes.

Associated Tax Accounts:

State ID	Old Tax Account	Block/Lot
1S1E16 800	R991160120	SECTION 16 1S1E TL#12

Additional Field Sheet
For separate documentation of a building or site

Historic Portland Parks: Reconnaissance Survey Field Sheet Photographs

Park ID 147
Resource ID

Sheet 1 of 2



Eastern view of Park with SW Slavin Road off of SW Terwillinger



Northern view of North section of Park

Additional Field Sheet
For separate documentation of a building or site

Historic Portland Parks: Reconnaissance Survey Field Sheet Photographs

Park ID 147
Resource ID

Sheet 2 of 2



George Himes Monument Plaque

