

Historic
Resource
Inventory
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



0-185-03415

3415 S.W. Council Crest Drive

Council Crest Park

QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3326, 3426

SWHRL

ZONING: OSR10

SITE OF: Council Crest Amusement Park

SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY: City Park

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Recreation

Recreation: Council Crest was named on July 12, 1898 when Oregon Historical Society Curator George H. Himes convened a council of ministers at the top of the hill. "Council" was agreed upon because the Columbia River Indians had used the site for pow-wows.

After the success of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, some surveyors bought land at the top of the hill and built the Council Crest Amusement Park, which officially opened in 1907. Among the park's attractions were a scenic railroad, various games, a dance hall, rifle range, a merry-go-round, and a tunnel of love. An observation tower was moved from Hawthorne Terrace to the middle of the park. It was called the Lewis and Clark Observatory and had an electric elevator. Admission was ten cents. The move was sponsored by Standard Oil, whose "SO" beacon lights stood atop the tower. Another special attraction of the amusement park was a monthly balloon ascension.

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After twenty-two years of business, the park closed in 1929 due to the Depression. By 1933, it was a maze of broken-down gates and boarded-up buildings. The last landmark of the Amusement Park, the Observation Tower, was razed in December 1941, to make way for a city water tank, which stands there today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Council Crest Amusement Park, plan, Sanborn Insurance Map, 1926.

Southwest Hills Residential League, inventory, 1981.

Council Crest Amusement Park, photographs, OHS Collection.

Council Crest, early photos of old Talbot Residence moved from site in 1908, OHS Collection.

Negative: 763-12

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