**PROJECT NAME:** Littleton Historic Buildings Survey 1997 (#97-01-082)

**CURRENT BUILDING NAME:** Sega Park

**ADDRESS:** 2200 W MAIN ST
Littleton, CO 80120

**HISTORIC NAME:** Rio Grande Park

**DISTRICT NAME:**

**OWNER:** SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
6631 S UNIVERSITY BLVD
LITTLETON CO 80122

**COUNTY:** Arapahoe

**CITY:** Littleton

**STATE ID NO.:** 5AH1261

**TEMPORARY NO.:** N/A

**OWNER:** SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
6631 S UNIVERSITY BLVD
LITTLETON CO 80122

**LOCATION OF NEGATIVES:** Littleton Hist. Mus.

**U.S.G.S. QUAD NAME:** Littleton, Colo.

**YEAR:** 1965 (r. 1994)

**TOWNSHIP:** 5S

**RANGE:** 68W

**SECTION:** 16

**LOT(S):** M&B

**YEAR OF ADDITION:** N/A

**STYLE:** N/A

**STORIES:** N/A

**MATERIALS:** N/A

**SQ. FOOTAGE:** N/A

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**
Urban park in basically rectangular form located between Main and Alamo, west of the railroad depression. Park is landscaped with flower beds at each end and trees and bushes along edges. Center park of park is depressed, with berms along edges of depression. Curving asphalt path through center of park. Center of park has large paved area with circular fountain (the James Mann Fountain) displaying sculptural maps of the United States and Australia; fountain has vertical jets. Benches and picnic tables. Concrete monument with profiles in bronze of W.B. Curley Annabel and G.H. Hous Waring. Plaque on rock southeast of fountain dedicated to Harry D. Cole, 1914-1989, first chairman and official delegate, Bega-Littleton Sister Cities Exchange, 1961-1966.

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:**

**ESTIMATE:** 1895

**ACTUAL:** 1895

**SOURCE:** Lit. Indep., 19 Apr. 1895

**USE:**

**PRESENT:** Park

**HISTORIC:** Park

**CONDITION:** EXCELLENT

**FAIR**

**DETERIORATING**

**EXTENT OF ALTERATIONS:**

**MINOR**

**MODERATE**

**MAJOR**

**DESCRIBE:** In 1970s, park was relandscape, old schoolhouse moved to museum from park, fountain added.

**CONTINUED?** YES

**MOVED DATE(S) OF MOVE:**

**COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203

**HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORD**

**PROJECT NAME:** Littleton Historic Buildings Survey 1997 (#97-01-082)

**CURRENT BUILDING NAME:** Sega Park

**ADDRESS:** 2200 W MAIN ST
Littleton, CO 80120

**HISTORIC NAME:** Rio Grande Park

**DISTRICT NAME:**

**OWNER:** SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
6631 S UNIVERSITY BLVD
LITTLETON CO 80122

**COUNTY:** Arapahoe

**CITY:** Littleton

**STATE ID NO.:** 5AH1261

**TEMPORARY NO.:** N/A

**OWNER:** SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
6631 S UNIVERSITY BLVD
LITTLETON CO 80122

**LOCATION OF NEGATIVES:** Littleton Hist. Mus.

**U.S.G.S. QUAD NAME:** Littleton, Colo.

**YEAR:** 1965 (r. 1994)

**TOWNSHIP:** 5S

**RANGE:** 68W

**SECTION:** 16

**LOT(S):** M&B

**YEAR OF ADDITION:** N/A

**STYLE:** N/A

**STORIES:** N/A

**MATERIALS:** N/A

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:**
Urban park in basically rectangular form located between Main and Alamo, west of the railroad depression. Park is landscaped with flower beds at each end and trees and bushes along edges. Center park of park is depressed, with berms along edges of depression. Curving asphalt path through center of park. Center of park has large paved area with circular fountain (the James Mann Fountain) displaying sculptural maps of the United States and Australia; fountain has vertical jets. Benches and picnic tables. Concrete monument with profiles in bronze of W.B. Curley Annabel and G.H. Hous Waring. Plaque on rock southeast of fountain dedicated to Harry D. Cole, 1914-1989, first chairman and official delegate, Bega-Littleton Sister Cities Exchange, 1961-1966.
**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY (DESCRIPTION, NAMES, DATES, ETC., RELATING TO MAJOR ALTERATIONS TO ORIGINAL STRUCTURE):**

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (DISCUSS IMPORTANT PERSONS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS STRUCTURE):**
This park, known originally as Rio Grande Park, was created by Littleton in 1895. In 1925, the park was turned into a children’s playground, with the cooperation of the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad, the Woman’s Civic Study Club, and the Town Council. In that year, the town began leasing the park from the D&RGW for $1 per year. In 1948, the Town Council authorized S.R. DeBoer to design landscape plans for the park, to be implemented when funds were available. DeBoer envisioned the park as part of a civic center which tied it to the courthouse and the railroad depot. The plans called for fireplaces, shrubbery, a softball diamond, and parking in the park. As Houstoun Waring noted, when a new town council was elected shortly after the design was announced, DeBoer’s plans were filed away. The log Brown Bridge School was moved to the park in 1952 and in 1972 moved to the museum grounds. The AT&SF depot was also moved to the park and later moved elsewhere. In 1961, Littleton became a sister city with Bega, New South Wales, Australia, when Houstoun Waring became friends with a newspaper editor there, Curly Annabel. This was part of the Sister City program begun by President Eisenhower in 1960. The cities exchange delegates every five years. Littleton redesignated this park Bega Park and Bega created Littleton Gardens. Bega Park was redeveloped at a cost of $30,000, with the centerpiece being the James Mann (president of Littleton National Bank) 8-spout fountain which depicts the U.S., Pacific Ocean, and Australia. Bronze stars in the fountain indicate Bega and Littleton.

**SIGNIFICANCE (CHECK APPROPRIATE CATEGORIES AND BRIEFLY JUSTIFY BELOW):**

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**
- Represents the work of a master
- Possesses high artistic values
- Represents a type, period, or method of construction

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:**
- Associated with significant persons
- Associated with significant events or patterns
- Contributes to an historic district

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**
Bega Park, originally Rio Grande Park, is associated with the history of parks and recreation in Littleton, having been established as a public park in 1895. The park’s most recent design was created in the 1970s.

**REFERENCES (BE SPECIFIC):**

**SURVEYED BY:** R.L. Simmons/T.H. Simmons
**AFFILIATION:** Front Range Research Associates, Inc.
**DATE:** October 1997