

# HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A Rich History

For as long as people have been in the Pikes Peak region, they have been attracted to North Cheyenne Cañon Park for its natural beauty, water, shelter, and wildlife and plant resources. Evidence of Ute, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Comanche, Apache, and other Native American's use of the park are present in place names, landscape features, and archaeological deposits. Euro-American settlers named the park *Cheyenne Cañon* to commemorate the early presence of Native Americans in the region.

When William Jackson Palmer founded Colorado Springs as a resort town in 1871, he recognized that the scenic beauty of the region was a key amenity to the new community. Palmer began purchasing tracts of land along North Cheyenne Cañon for recreation and conservation, and "so that the enjoyment of its beauties may be ensured for all time." Colorado College Land Company began developing North and South Cheyenne Cañons for public recreational use in 1882, and constructed social trails and North Cheyenne Cañon Road. The company—and later the City of Colorado Springs—expanded the park with additional lands from Palmer and other early settlers between 1907 and 1940.

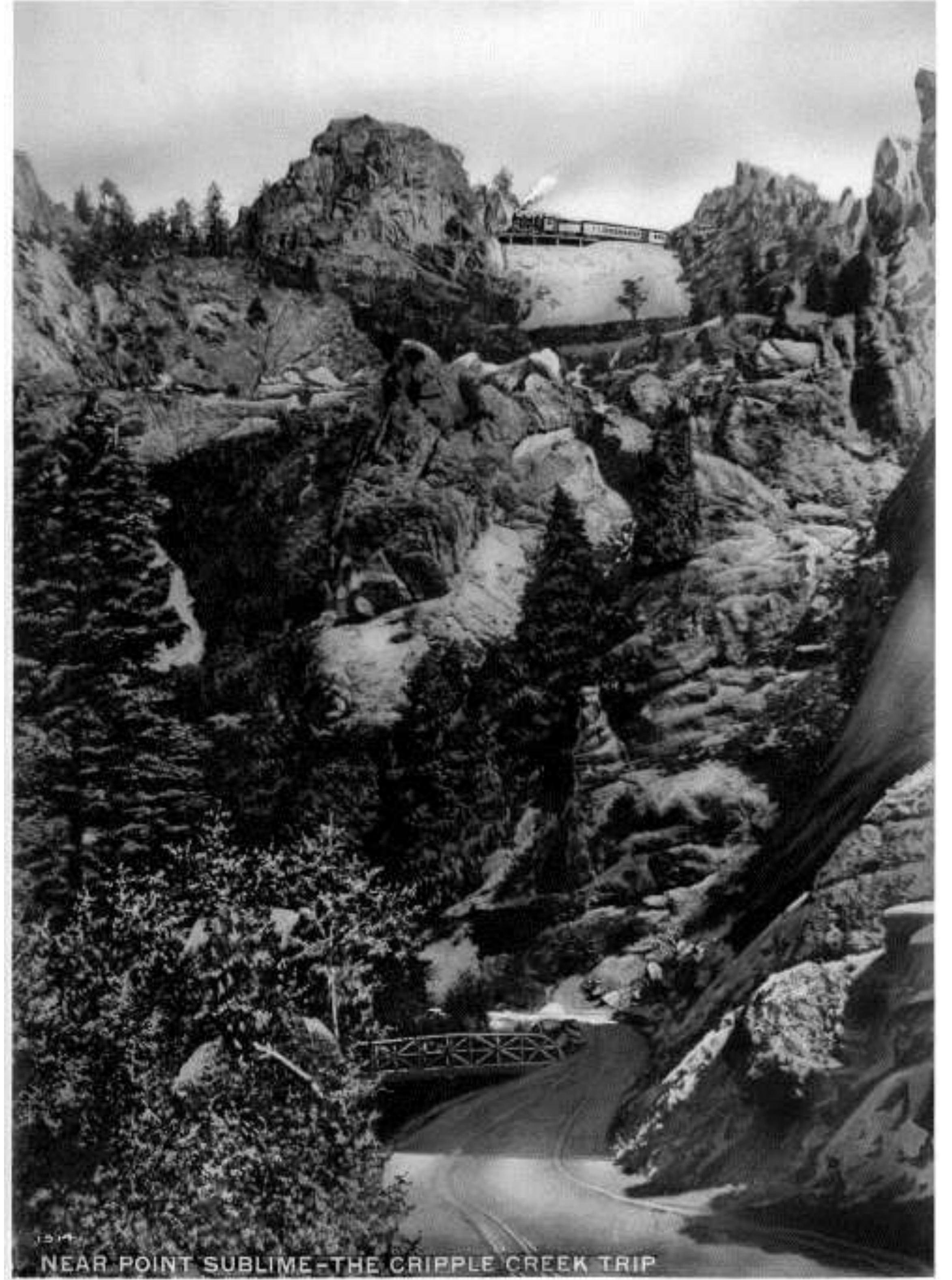


## National Register of Historic Places

In 2008, the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon completed a detailed inventory and nomination forms to list North Cheyenne Cañon Park on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NRHP is an official list of the Nation's historic places that are significant to our shared history and worthy of preservation. The National Park Service (NPS) manages the NRHP and coordinates public and private support to identify and protect important archaeological and historic places on it. The director of the NPS listed North Cheyenne Cañon Park on the NRHP in 2009 in recognition of the park's significance to the region's history of public park.



*This bridge is a "contributing feature" of North Cheyenne Cañon Park and North Cheyenne Cañon Road because it retains aspects of its original 1920s design. CDOT and the Corps will consult with the SHPO on the effects of replacement pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.*



*North Cheyenne Cañon Road with its original wood bridges in ca. 1910; note the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District Railway train at the top of the picture. The Colorado College Land Company originally constructed wood bridges along North Cheyenne Cañon Road in 1882. The City of Colorado Springs replaced the bridges with stone and concrete structures in 1914, and after a flood in 1921.*

## National Historic Preservation Act

The City, project team, CDOT, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which includes compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). In recognition of the historic significance of the Park and to consider the effects of replacing historic bridges in the park, both CDOT and the Corps will consult with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on the effects of replacing three bridges along North Cheyenne Cañon Road pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.

The NRHP nomination for North Cheyenne Cañon Park identifies North Cheyenne Cañon Road and some of the bridges along it as "contributing features" to the park's significance and eligibility for listing on the NRHP. Of the three bridges that the City currently proposes to replace, one bridge (pictured here) is a contributing feature because it retains part of its original 1921 stone-faced and arched design, and because it embodies distinguishing characteristics of the Rustic Style popular during the early 1900s and seen in other historic buildings and structures in the park. The other two bridges were recently replaced, and no longer convey any association with the park's late 19th or early 20th Century history or significant aspects of design that contribute to the eligibility of the Park.