

CHAPTER 2: LANDSCAPE HISTORY

2.1 CULTURAL HISTORY OVERVIEW

Reference page 6 of Appendix A, *A Cultural Resource Survey for Carlito Springs Open Space, Tijeras Canyon, Bernalillo County, New Mexico* for a summary of the cultural context of the site.

2.2 SUMMARY OF HISTORIC POLITICAL & CULTURAL CONTEXT, PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE LANDSCAPE

Soon after the United States came into possession of New Mexico at the conclusion of the Mexican-American War in 1848, Anglo-Americans began settling the territory. This settlement was aided by, among other things, the Pre-Emption Act of 1841 and its successor, the Homestead Act of 1862.

The Pre-Emption Act of 1841 was designed to facilitate the sale of surveyed public land to individuals. The act allowed U.S. citizens who were heads of families, widows, single men over twenty-one, or those applying for citizenship to purchase up to 160 acres from the Federal Government for a price of \$1.25 per acre as long as they made improvements and built a dwelling on the land. Payment was due in full one year after the original application for pre-emption was made. This proved impossible for many applicants, and many were forced to abandon their claims after a year.

In May 1882, Horace Greenwood Whitcomb settled on what would eventually become part of Carlito Springs, living in a tent, cultivating the land, and constructing irrigation canals (National Archives). He discovered the land while prospecting for gold in the hills northeast of Tijeras and decided to make it his home (Albuquerque Journal 1952; Dreesen 1991). There he began operating a popular camp, known alternately as Camp Whitcomb and Whitcomb Camp.

Whitcomb was a Union veteran of the Civil War, who came to New Mexico from the Northeast (Dreesen 1991). He was born in Maine in 1829 and married Ellen Caughey in Waltham, Massachusetts, in 1849 (Whitcomb 1999). In his pre-emption proof testimony, he testified that he had four children and that his wife was dead (National Archives).

Between 1882 and 1891, Whitcomb built six dwellings, a stable, one and one-half miles of pole fence, and three-quarters of a mile of graded road (National Archives). He reclaimed land and planted thirty fruit trees and eighty grapevines (National Archives). He gardened on approximately two acres and was able to harvest fifteen bushels of corn per year and “sufficient vegetables for [his] own use” (National Archives). He raised horses and chickens (National Archives). He listed the total value of his improvements at \$2,000.00 (National Archives).

On February 12, 1891, Whitcomb applied to purchase eighty acres from the U.S. government for 100 dollars under the Pre-Emption Act (National Archives). It is not explicitly clear why Whitcomb applied for his land under the Pre-Emption Act instead of the Homestead Act, but it may have been an economically based decision. Under the Pre-emption Act, land was sold at \$1.25 per acre regardless of the size. Under the Homestead Act, a tract of eighty acres or less was to be sold at \$2.50 per acre. Whitcomb’s application was approved on October 30, 1891, and was patented on January 11, 1892 (National Archives).

In 1893, Whitcomb posted notice of his divorce from his wife, Ellen, in the Albuquerque Daily Citizen.



Fig. 2. Whitcomb Springs historic postcard postmarked 1912.

The reason given was that Ellen “resides in Massachusetts and for thirteen years has objected to making New Mexico her home” (Whitcomb 1893). The fact that he was divorcing a woman to whom he had been married for at least thirteen years conflicts with his testimony in his pre-emption application from 1891, where he stated his wife was dead. Regardless, this announcement indicates Whitcomb may have come to New Mexico as early as 1880, leaving his wife behind.

Whitcomb married Ms. S. Parker at camp Whitcomb in June, 1896. However, a 1901 deed lists Martha A. Whitcomb as his wife. It is unclear whether this reference to a Martha A. Whitcomb results from Ms. S. Parker changing her name to reflect her marriage to Horace Whitcomb, or whether Horace Whitcomb married again at a later date. The couple made their home at Camp Whitcomb (Albuquerque Daily Citizen 1896). Whitcomb died in 1903 in California (Whitcomb 1904).

After Whitcomb’s death there were a series of owners, the chronology and specifics of which are not totally clear. According to one source, Mrs. Jessie Keleher took over the camp in 1898 and changed the name to Whitcomb Springs (Albuquerque Journal 1952). Another source, however, states that “the springs came into possession of Mr. Jesse M. Keleher” in 1901 (Dreesen 1991). A warranty deed between Horace and Martha Whitcomb from 1901 supports the transfer of the property to a Jessie Keleher. By this time Camp Whitcomb was “a favorite spot for the rendezvous of the crowds bent on rest, pleasure, and sight-seeing” (Jones 1904). Mrs. Keleher’s sons, Tom and Jesse, helped her run the camp for approximately five years and made stagecoach runs between Albuquerque and Whitcomb Springs, transporting camp patrons (Albuquerque



Fig. 3. Whitcomb Springs historic photograph circa 1906.

Journal 1952). After Mrs. Keleher's death the camp continued to operate, though it is unclear who was running it (Dreesen 1991; Jones 1904; Albuquerque Journal 1955). During the period of 1901 (Whitcomb) to 1930 (Magee), there was very little continuity in ownership at Whitcomb Springs. Various warranty deeds, land patents and quitclaim deeds document nine different owners over this period.

Then, as now, the road through Tijeras Canyon was popular with bicyclists. Camp Whitcomb was a favorite destination. In the April 12, 1941, edition of the Albuquerque Journal, there is a reprint of an announcement from fifty years prior announcing, "The local wheelmen will meet at Arthur Everett's jewelry store at 8 o'clock this morning and proceed in a body to Camp Whitcomb where they will spend the day, returning in the cool of the evening" (Albuquerque Journal 1941).

William Tight, the dynamic first president of the University of New Mexico, frequently led student trips to the Sandia Mountains and Tijeras Canyon. Camp Whitcomb was a destination on at least one occasion. In the November 26, 1952, edition of the Albuquerque Journal, there is a reprint of an announcement from fifty years prior of a trip by Tight and four geology students to "the mighty rock ribbed hills that tower around Camp Whitcomb. In plain English, Dr. Tight and his young men are going out to hunt geological material and incidentally to hunt mastodons" (Albuquerque Journal 1952).

One factor resulting in a massive influx of settlers into New Mexico was the coming of the railroad. In 1866, Congress approved an act authorizing the construction of a railroad from Springfield, Missouri, along the thirty-fifth parallel to the Pacific Ocean (Glover et al. 1990). The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad would pass directly through Albuquerque, fueling rapid growth east of the railroad tracks in the last decades of the 1800s. Many new residents arrived in New Mexico via the railroad during this period.

Some of these new arrivals came seeking a cure from various ailments, including tuberculosis, and fueled a boom of health sanatoriums throughout the state. New Mexico became a preferred destination for health seekers in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Sanatoriums "sought to enforce rest on patients in peaceful and climatically beneficial surroundings" (Roark 2004-2012). The AT&SF Railroad and several local organizations promoted Albuquerque aggressively to health seekers (Roark 2004-2012). Albuquerque had several sanatoriums throughout the city and surrounding area. Sanatoriums ranged in size and sophistication from the old Railroad Hospital at Central and Elm (now Hotel Parq Central) to people's homes. It was in this context that Carl Magee and his tubercular wife moved with their family to Albuquerque.

It is currently believed that Camp Whitcomb was used as a sanatorium sometime between 1901 and 1930 (Handley unknown; The Independent 2000). It is difficult to reliably know if a sanatorium did occupy the site due to the larger number of owners that occupied the site from 1901-1930. An Articles of Incorporation document and a warranty deed, found in the County's Carlito Springs File, states that the Knights of Pythias Sanatorium Association, a non-profit organization, owned Whitcomb Springs from 1926-



Carl C. Magee Photo: UNM Center for Southwest Research.

1930. The mountainous location is consistent with records of other local sanatoriums maintaining camps in the mountains as short-term, summer retreats for their patients (Johnson 1983; Jones 1967). “Private ranches located outside the city catered to the health seekers who either did not need, or could not afford, treatment within a sanatorium” (Johnson 1983). The Methodist Sanatorium in Albuquerque offered Kamp Killgore, located in the mountains outside of Albuquerque, to tuberculosis patients in 1915 and 1916 (Johnson 1983). “In the spring of 1918 the staff of the Herald of the Well Country organized the Well Country Camp in the Sandia Mountains for use by the lungers during the hot summer months” (Johnson 1983). The design of the cabins at Carlito Springs to include screened-in front porches and single rooms with running water, but not individual baths, is also consistent with the typical design of cottages built for health seekers in Albuquerque. The screened-in front porches were commonly included so that patients could recline on a lounge on the porch in the fresh air (Johnson 1983).

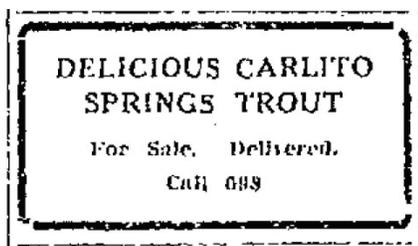


Fig. 4. 1933 Albuquerque Journal advertisement.



Fig. 5. 1932 Albuquerque Journal advertisement.



Fig. 6. 1936 Albuquerque Journal advertisement.

In 1930 Carlton Cole Magee purchased Whitcomb Springs and renamed it Carlito Springs after his son Carl Magee Jr. who died in a plane crash in 1925 (Daily Oklahoman 1946). Mr. Magee moved his family to New Mexico from Oklahoma in 1919 out of concern for his wife Grace who was suffering from a lung ailment (Albuquerque Tribune 2004). Mr. Magee, known as a “crusading newspaper editor and civic leader” (Daily Oklahoman 1946), founded the Albuquerque Tribune in 1923 and is credited with inventing the first parking meter in 1935 (Albuquerque Tribune 2004). The original filing was recorded in 1932 according to C.C. Magee’s patent #2,039,544. Mr. Magee was also known for uncovering a political scandal in the early 1920s known as the Teapot Dome Naval Reserve Scandal, which led to the downfall of Albert B. Fall, then Secretary of the Interior (Daily Oklahoman 1946).

A 1932 Albuquerque Journal article lists the owners of Carlito Springs as Mrs. Carl Magee and Dr. and Mrs. Meacham. The article reflects the name change from Whitcomb Springs to Carlito Springs (Albuquerque Journal 1932). The main residence and surrounding landscape are described in some detail. The building included a large dining room with a fireplace and a tea room, which could accommodate over ninety guests for social gatherings. *Al fresco* dining was available under wild grapevines as an extension of the tea room (Albuquerque Journal 1932). The surrounding landscape boasted sunken terraced rock gardens “where over 2,200 trout lurk in deep pools” and included eight springs (Albuquerque Journal 1932). The garden contained verbena, roses, pansies and other cultivated flowers and the surrounding landscape included box elder, and juniper, as well as various cactus gardens (Albuquerque Journal 1932). Watercress for salads was raised in the

ponds with the trout. The route to Carlito Springs in the 1930s was a winding gravel road with an adjacent stone wall. Travel was encouraged during poor weather, indicating the road was well maintained (Albuquerque Journal 1932).

In a 1939 advertisement, Magee was listed as being the president, and C.C. Meacham the vice president, of New Mexico Resorts, Inc., which owned Carlito Springs (Albuquerque Journal 1939). A warranty deed dated April 20, 1931, shows that Magee turned the property into New Mexico Resorts, Inc. (Carlito Springs File, Warranty Deed 1931). According to family records, the retired Dr. C.C. Meacham and Cora Mae Meacham took care of Carlito Springs for the Magees (Albuquerque Journal 1942; Archibeque 2000). During Magee's and Meacham's administration of Carlito Springs, the resort was highly advertised in the local paper as a location for social gatherings where special attention was given to dinner and lunch parties and where cabins were available with meals (Albuquerque Journal 1934; Albuquerque Journal 1945). Ads boast that the modern cabins included amenities such as electric lights, gas ranges, telephone availability and "protected" water as well as trout (Albuquerque Journal 1933; Albuquerque Journal 1939; Albuquerque Journal 1940; Albuquerque Journal 1942). The resort attracted prominent people such as J.C. Penney, the famous merchandiser and distant cousin of Mrs. Meacham (Albuquerque Journal 1942). An article in a 1942 issue of the Albuquerque Journal notes that Carlito Springs was one of the most popular destinations in Albuquerque.

Interestingly, Carlito Springs seemed to be an especially popular destination for women's groups in the 1930s. Several articles throughout the decade note events being held by the Women's Aeronautics Association (Albuquerque Journal, 1938), the Chi Omega Mothers and Patronesses club (Albuquerque Journal 1932), the YWCA (Albuquerque Journal 1932), and the Albuquerque Women's Club (Albuquerque Journal 1955).

In January 1946, Carl Magee suddenly became ill while living in Oklahoma City. He died on January 31, 1946 (Daily Oklahoman 1946). Mrs. C.C. Meacham died at age seventy-three, in May 1946 (Albuquerque Journal 1946). After the passing of Mr. Magee and Mrs. Meacham, Magee's daughter Gertrude "Trudy" and her husband Tony Grenko took over the resort and ran it from 1946 to 1958 (Handley, date unknown). On April 11, 1952, Mr. Grenko's patent was signed for the 92.10 acres of land adjacent to Carlito Springs, expanding the property to a total of 172.10 acres (Bureau of Land Management 1952). The Grenkos continued to reside at Carlito Springs until 1996.

Carlito Springs continued to be operated by the Grenkos under New Mexico Resorts, Inc. from 1946 to 1958 (Handley unknown). In 1954 the main residence was remodeled by the Grenkos and a second story addition was built (Handley unknown). Replacement of a sunroom, previously a long glass "lean-to" hallway, was also completed (Handley unknown). Two fireplaces were also removed from two back bedrooms (Handley unknown).

Both Mr. and Mrs. Grenko were master gardeners with a passion for irises. They won many awards at local fairs for their prize dahlias and begonias (Handley unknown). According to an interview with Trudy's daughter, Junile Willingham, given to the East Mountain Historical Society (EMHS), Mr. Grenko planted over

250,000 tulip bulbs along the property's mountain paths (EMHS 2001). According to Trudy's other daughter, Beverly Handley, her father loved Dutch flower bulbs and would purchase 100 pound sacks and plant narcissus along the creek and in areas that would hold snow into spring (Handley unknown). Mrs. Handley also stated that her father purchased large amounts of seedling trees and planted them throughout the property (Handley unknown). The Grenkos planted English walnuts, New Mexico black walnuts (probably *Juglans microcarpa*), nectarines, cherries, almonds, apricots, and figs. Tony and Trudy also kept culinary gardens, planting the upper part of the orchard with vegetables and the lower part with Indian corn, dry beans, and squash (EMHS 2001; Handley unknown). In the 1970s both aspen and pistachio trees were planted (Handley unknown).

In the mid 1950s, the Grenkos raised trout in the ponds at Carlito Springs and sold them to local restaurants (Carlito Springs File; Handley unknown).

In the mid 1970s, health concerns began to arise regarding the wild animals that lived around Carlito Springs. In 1975, the State Environmental Improvement Agency and the City's Environmental Health Agency set out 100 bait traps with flea powder in Tijeras Canyon after the death of William Handley, age fourteen (Albuquerque Tribune 1975). It was believed that he contracted a highly contagious pneumonic plague while visiting his grandparents, the Grenkos, at Carlito Springs (Albuquerque Tribune 1975; Handley unknown). Tissue specimens of over forty animals collected from the Tijeras area showed no signs of the plague and no other human cases of plague were reported (Albuquerque Tribune 1975).

After the death of Mr. Grenko at age ninety-two, and Mrs. Grenko at age ninety-three, the property was retained by their children, daughters Junile Willingham and Beverly Handley (Handley unknown). A Quitclaim Deed for the property filed in December of 1990 was signed by Beverly Handley and included a restriction that "the property shall not be sold without the approval of John D. Grenko during his lifetime" (Handley 1990).

On December 11, 2000, Carlito Springs was purchased by Bernalillo County for \$1.5 million, to be paid by a quarter-mill property tax levy (Archibeque 2000). The property was sold to the County at less than the appraised value of \$2,314,000.00 (Jones and Lucero 2000). Five parcels made up the Carlito Springs sale. Three parcels were titled to the John D. Grenko and Gertrude Magee Grenko Revocable Trust. One parcel was titled to Bob R. Handley and Beverly G. Handley, Trustees of Handley Family Trust, and one other parcel was titled to the Billy Earl Willingham and Junile Grenko Willingham Revocable Trust (Carlito Springs File). The 177.28 acre property was purchased by the County as part of the open space preservation program. Additionally, the County acquired two more acres near the spring from Katherine Hall in 2008.

2.3 GENERAL LAND USE CHRONOLOGY

Following is a thorough listing of the known chronology of Carlito Springs. Not all events listed below are included in the historic summary above.

Year of Event	Event Description	Citation
A. D 1313-1425	Tree-ring data suggests A.D. 1313-1425 as active occupation of Tijeras Pueblo.	Cordell 1980
1313 A.D	Evidence points toward the first large aggregated community at Tijeras Pueblo at around A.D. 1313.	Cordell 1980
1800s	Orchards present at Carlito Springs since the 1800s.	(Interview with J. Willingham) author unknown, East Mtn. Hist. Society newsletter 2001
1880	Property subdivided Nov 9-15 by Max Frost	Frost 1880
pre-1882	H. G. Whitcomb was a Union veteran from Maine.	Donald Dreesen, Nineteenth Century Pioneers of Albuquerque 1991
1882	Whitcomb is sixty-two and settles part of the land that would be Carlito Springs. He testifies to having four children and that his wife is dead.	National Archives, Pre-Emption Proof, Testimony of Claimant.
1882	Whitcomb lists first act of settlement as: May 1882, “lived in tent and cultivated land and constructed irrigation canals.”	National Archives, Pre-Emption Proof, Testimony of Claimant.
1882-1891	Whitcomb lists improvements as: “6 dwellings, 1 stable, reclaimed land, set out 30 fruit trees and 80 grape vines and 1-1/2 miles pole fence (barbed wire?) and 3/4 mile graded road; value, \$2,000.00.”	National Archives, Pre-Emption Proof, Testimony of Claimant.
1891	Whitcomb lists his use of the land as “Gardening and as a summer resort and raising horses and chickens.”	National Archives, Pre-Emption Proof, Testimony of Claimant.
1891	Whitcomb has broken and cultivated “2 acres,” and harvests “15 bushels corn per year; sufficient vegetables for own use.”	National Archives, Pre-Emption Proof, Testimony of Claimant.

1884	Ad for a day trip to Camp Whitcomb appears in a June issue of the Albuquerque Journal. “Six horse bus will leave the city Sunday morning next, at 6 am, for Camp Whitcomb. The fare for the trip will be \$1.50. Leave your names at Trumble’s stable no later than Saturday evening, so that accommodations may be provided for all. A day in the mountains for a \$1.50.”	W. L. Trimule: Albuquerque Journal 1884
1884	Women and children frequently utilize Camp Whitcomb for month-long stays.	Albuquerque Journal
1884	Camp Whitcomb is present in 1884 as a statement in the paper reads: “The mountain air is so cool these mornings that those at Camp Whitcomb may want to don heavy wraps.”	Albuquerque Journal 1884
1888	H. G. Whitcomb ran a passenger and traffic service in Albuquerque.	Donald Dreesen, Nineteenth Century Pioneers of Albuquerque 1991
1890	Tom Keleher recalls that H.G. Whitcomb came across a “beautiful green spot on the” side of a mountain when prospecting for gold in the hills far northeast of Tijeras and immediately went to the area and made his home.	Albuquerque Journal 1952
1890-1898	Keleher has a relic, a notched cane Whitcomb used after he had fallen off a horse and broken his hip, which never repaired correctly; Whitcomb notched his cane thirteen times representing all the wildcats he killed at the camp. The cane’s tip was a .32 caliber rifle cartridge casing.	Albuquerque Journal 1952
1890	“While prospecting located springs northwest of Tijeras and homesteaded the location as Whitcomb Springs, recently known as Carlito Springs. He conducted a summer camp here.” “He” here refers to H. G. Whitcomb.	Donald Dreesen, Nineteenth Century Pioneers of Albuquerque 1991
1890	On 2/15/1890, Whitcomb is mentioned in the Albuquerque Daily Citizen as “H.G. Whitcomb of ‘Whitcomb’s Camp’ in the Sandia Mountains.”	Albuquerque Daily Citizen 1890
1890	On 9/19/1890, Whitcomb posted a notice that “I would like to collect some of my bills due me to enable me to meet my obligations.”	Whitcomb 1890
1890	Notice is given in the Albuquerque Daily Citizen on 12/29/1890 that Horace G. Whitcomb will make final proof on 1/31/1891 on eighty acres that would eventually be part of Carlito Springs.	Morrison 1890

1891	A second notice is given in the Albuquerque Daily Citizen that Horace G. Whitcomb will make final proof on 1/31/1891 on eighty acres that would eventually be part of Carlito Springs.	Morrison 1891
1891	Whitcomb purchases original eighty acres for 100 dollars.	National Archives
1891	Whitcomb is mentioned again in the Albuquerque Daily Citizen on 5/26/1891. “About two weeks ago, the old gentleman had one of his horses to knock him down and in the fall his left hip came in contact with a stone. In consequence, he is compelled to use crutches.”	Albuquerque Daily Citizen 1891
1892	Notice is given in the Albuquerque Daily Citizen on 2/18/1892 that Whitcomb’s patent for Whitcomb Springs had arrived from Washington D.C. via the Santa Fe land office.	Albuquerque Daily Citizen 1892
1892	Whitcomb’s acquisition of Whitcomb Springs is noted in the Real Estate Transfers section of the Albuquerque Daily Citizen on 3/10/1892.	Albuquerque Daily Citizen, 1892
1893	Whitcomb places a notice in the Albuquerque Daily Citizen noting temperatures at the camp are generally warmer at the camp than in town. He refers to the camp as ‘Whitcomb Camp’.	Whitcomb 1893
1893	Notice of Horace and Ellen’s divorce is posted in the Albuquerque Daily Citizen on 10/11/1893. The reason given is that Ellen “resides in Massachusetts and for thirteen years has objected to making New Mexico her home.”	Albuquerque Daily Citizen 1893
1895	Fourth of July event at Camp Whitcomb included numerous cyclists and over 100 visitors who noted the “natural loveliness” originally published by the Daily Citizen in July 5, 1895.	Bryan, Albuquerque Tribune 1975
1896	On March 28, Whitcomb reported that the camp was already receiving summer visitors.	Albuquerque Daily Citizen 1896
1896	On 6/24/1896, Whitcomb married Ms. S. Parker at Whitcomb Springs.	Albuquerque Daily Citizen 1896
1896	An “Events Remembered” list from 9/7/46 states that fifty years ago bicycling teams visited Camp Whitcomb for the day.	Albuquerque Journal 1946

1898	Mrs. Jessie Keleher, mother of Tom and Jesse Keleher, took over the springs in 1898; she changed the name to Whitcomb Springs and ran the resort for approximately five years.	Albuquerque Journal 1952
1898-1902	Tom and Jesse Keleher run the stage between Whitcomb Springs and Albuquerque; Tom recalls making over 550 trips the years he was there. It was 3-1/2 hrs from the Springs to Albuquerque and 4-1/2 hrs back from Albuquerque to the Springs because the road was more uphill.	Albuquerque Journal 1952
1901	“Property of summer resort Whitcomb Springs, 18 miles east of city; wife [of Whitcomb] lived at 124 S Arno.”	Donald Dreesen, Nineteenth Century Pioneers of Albuquerque 1991
1902	George F. Oliver, a saloonkeeper in Albuquerque, disappeared at Whitcomb Springs; no remains ever found, remains a mystery.	Albuquerque Journal 1952
1904	Whitcomb Springs is discussed in the context of Camp Whitcomb (sic): “...a favorite spot for the rendezvous of the crowds bent on rest, pleasure, and sight-seeing.”	Jones 1904
1905	Event recalled fifty years ago (1905), of Camp Whitcomb being used for a social gathering.	Albuquerque Journal 1955
1911	Camp Whitcomb being used for several-week retreat for locals.	Albuquerque Morning Journal 1911
1919	Carlton Cole Magee moves his family to Albuquerque, NM, from Oklahoma, mostly due to concern for his wife Grace who is suffering from tuberculosis.	Albuquerque Tribune 2004
1920-1922	Carl Magee purchased the Albuquerque Journal in 1920 and sold it in 1922 due to fallout caused by his part in uncovering the Teapot Dome scandal.	Albuquerque Tribune 2004
1922	Magee started his own paper, the Magee Independent which became The New Mexican Tribune in 1923, then the Albuquerque Tribune.	Albuquerque Tribune 2004
1920s	Carlito Springs operated as a sanatorium.	Handley date unknown
1920s	Served as a tuberculosis sanatorium.	The Independent 2000
1925	Carl Magee Jr. dies in a plane crash.	Albuquerque Tribune 2004
1930	Carl Magee purchases Whitcomb Springs and renames it Carlito Springs after Carl Magee Jr.	Archibeque 2000
1930	Carl Magee purchases Carlito Springs for his wife, who has tuberculosis.	Albuquerque Tribune 2004

1932	Carl Magee invented the first parking meter, patented it in 1932.	C.C. Magee Patent #2,039,544
1932	Carlito Springs, known as Whitcomb Springs for the past fifty years, now owned jointly by Carl Magee and Dr. and Mrs. Meacham.	Albuquerque Journal 1932
1932	Carlito Springs includes a large dining room with fireplace and tea room, which can accommodate over ninety+ guests and was used for social events; the tea room includes <i>al fresco</i> dining under wild grape vines.	Albuquerque Journal 1932
1932	Landscape includes: Sunken and terraced rock gardens “where over 2,200 trout lurk”; eight springs; formalized garden where verbena, roses, pansies and other cultivated flowers grow; and juniper, which flanks the house. Cactus gardens also present in landscape.	Albuquerque Journal 1932
1932	Article mentions that the road to Carlito Springs may be driven in bad weather, as it has been done before.	Albuquerque Journal 1932
1932	Winding gravel road with stone wall led to Carlito Spring where an orchard can be seen below.	Albuquerque Journal 1932
1933	Bernalillo County Medical society lunch, “full attendance” expected since it’s at Carlito Springs.	Albuquerque Journal 1933
1933	Ad for trout at Carlito Springs.	Albuquerque Journal 1933
1934	Carlito Springs now open with special attention given to dinner and lunch parties.	Albuquerque Journal 1934
1935	Carlito Springs now open: cabins with meals; special dinners by reservations only; one modern housekeeping cabin.	Albuquerque Journal 1945
1937	Carlito Springs reports having twenty-six cabins for rent.	Hurd 1937
pre-1938	Mr. Hunter Houston Walkup, from Portsmouth, VA, taught physics and geology at a private boys school, which is now known as Carlito Springs in Tijeras Canyon.	Albuquerque Journal 1938
1938	Article states that Carlito Springs is jointly owned by Dr. & Mrs. C.C. Meacham and Carl Magee.	Albuquerque Journal 1938
1939	Carl Magee to develop Carlito Springs; Magee is president of New Mexico Resorts, Inc., which owns Carlito Springs. VP is C.C. Meacham and Sec. is Cora Mae Meacham.	Albuquerque Journal 1939
1939	Carl Magee’s children, Mrs. John Grenko and Mr. Ted Magee, visit Carlito Springs for the summer with their families.	Albuquerque Journal 1939

1939	Classified ad for Modern cabin for four at Carlito Springs.	Albuquerque Journal 1939
1940	“Back in 1881 and 1882 columns of the newspaper were frequently spoiled with news from Camp Whitcomb, 12 miles northeast of Albuquerque in the Bear Canyon” with special reference to the “rich Black Diamond Lode”.	Albuquerque Journal, Coronado Cuatro Centennial Edition 1940
1940	“Cabins for rent under Resort: approximately twenty-five minutes from city; includes electricity lights, gas range, and ‘protected’ water.”	Albuquerque Journal 1940
1942	Furnished cabins with electricity and telephone available at Carlito Springs.	Albuquerque Journal 1942
1942	The only daughter of Dr. C.C. and Mrs. Meacham was married in June 20, 1942 at Carlito Springs on a grassy knoll near spring fountain.	Albuquerque Journal 1942
1942	Article mentions that when Carlito Springs was Camp Whitcomb it was one of the most popular destinations of Albuquerque.	Albuquerque Journal 1942
1942	Article mentions that many prominent people have visited Carlito Springs since the Meachams and Carl Magee have purchased it, including J.C. Penney, merchandiser and distant cousin of Mrs. Meacham.	Albuquerque Journal 1942
1946	Carl Magee becomes suddenly ill while living in Oklahoma City; starts to recover by January 26, 1946.	Albuquerque Journal 1946
1946	Mrs. C.C. Meacham dies at seventy-three due to illness.	Albuquerque Journal 1946
1946-1958	Cabins were rented 1946-1958.	Handley date unknown
1947	Granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Magee weds on November 8th.	Albuquerque Journal 1947
1950s	Operated as New Mexico Resorts, Inc.	Handley date unknown
1952	Mr. and Mrs. John D. Grenko (Mrs. Grenko is the daughter of Carl Magee) operate Carlito Springs in 1952.	Albuquerque Journal 1952
1952	UNM president and class explore area surrounding Camp Whitcomb for geological material.	Albuquerque Journal 1952
1953	Chapter S, Philanthropical Educational Organization (PEO) met at 1:00 pm with Mrs. J. Grenko at Carlito Springs.	Albuquerque Journal 1953
1954	Cliff Bogart built second story addition in 1954.	Handley date unknown
1954	The two back bedrooms had fireplaces that were covered during remodeling; sunroom was replaced and prior to replacement was a long glass “lean to” hallway.	Handley date unknown
1954	Mrs. Gertrude Grenko, daughter of Carl Magee, and her husband co-manage Carlito Springs.	Albuquerque Tribune 1954

1955	Carlito Springs listed as the home of Mrs. John D. Grenko, Carl Magee's daughter.	Albuquerque Tribune 1955
	Gertrude "Trudy" Grenko and Tony were master gardeners who won hundreds of awards at fairs for their dahlias and begonias; they had a passion for iris; Trudy died at ninety-three; Tony died at ninety-two.	Handley date unknown
	Trudy and Tony had two daughters, Junile Willingham (husband Bill) and Beverly Handley (husband Bob).	Handley date unknown
1953-1954	Carlito Springs received much correspondence regarding raising trout.	Carlito Springs File, Bernalillo County
1955	County Commission approves liquor licenses transfer for Fido Bar at the junction of Carlito Springs Road and Highway 66.	Albuquerque Tribune 1955
1960s	Fish were raised commercially and sold to various local restaurateurs, including Billy Means, owner of Linda Vista.	Handley date unknown
1964-1965	Brent Handley, great grandson of Carl Magee, lived in stone house at Carlito Springs while his home in town was being built.	Handley date unknown
1970	First aspen tree on property took root; all other aspen trees on property stem from this one.	Handley date unknown
1975	State Environmental Improvement Agency and the City's Environmental Health Agency set out 100 bait traps with flea powder in Tijeras Canyon after the death of William Handley (Carl Magee's great-grandson) who contracted a highly contagious pneumonic plague while visiting his grandparents at Carlito Springs.	Albuquerque Tribune 1975; Handley date unknown
late 1970s-1980s	Pistachio trees are located east of the main house along the parking area edge; were provided by Paul Gordon, a District Ranger from Ruidoso, NM.	Handley date unknown
1990	Individual quitclaim deed signed by Beverly Handley on 12/18/90 and recorded on 12/30/90 by Bernalillo County has a restriction that the property shall not be sold without the approval of John D. Grenko during his lifetime.	Quitclaim Deed 1990:1
1981	Brent Handley, great grandson of Carl Magee, registered big ponderosa pine as largest in the world.	Handley date unknown
2000	Newspaper article mentions "junkyard of rusted appliances". Later removed by the County.	Archibeque 2000

2000	County purchases Carlito Springs for \$1.5 million, to be paid by quarter-mill property tax levy.	Archibeque 2000
2000	County purchases the 177.28 acre Carlito Springs property for open space preservation program.	Archibeque Albuquerque Journal 2000
unknown	Vern Swengail had a cabin in the orchard; he was head of musicians' union; date unknown.	Handley date unknown
unknown	At the east end of the main house there was once an old church from Spanish settlement.	(interview with J. Willingham) author unknown, East Mtn. Hist. Society newsletter 2001
unknown	Enter property over white bridge named "Grace Bridge" for Junile's mother Grace Magee.	(interview with J. Willingham) author unknown, East Mtn. Hist. Society newsletter 2001
unknown	Tony Grenko planted over 250,000 tulip bulbs along property's mountain paths.	(interview with J. Willingham) author unknown, East Mtn. Hist. Society newsletter 2001
unknown	Grenko added English walnut, New Mexico black walnut, nectarines, cherries, almonds, apricot, and figs.	(interview with J. Willingham) author unknown, East Mtn. Hist. Society newsletter 2001
unknown	Water tank at southern part of property was used for Interstate 40 construction, not livestock.	Handley date unknown
unknown	Bob Handley kept bees on the property.	Handley date unknown
unknown	Septic tank for cabins was located below the road in the dahlia beds.	Handley date unknown
unknown	Orchard area had vegetables in the upper portion and Indian corn, dry beans, and squash in lower portion.	Handley date unknown
unknown	Walking downhill through orchard, older apple trees dating from the 1800s are on the right next to the creek; the younger ones are on the slope on the left.	Handley date unknown
unknown	Large cherry trees are in the lower orchard: bing and red stripe Lambert varieties.	Handley date unknown
unknown	Rocks from all over the state were brought in by Tony. Tony and Brent used these to build retaining walls throughout the property.	Handley date unknown

unknown	“Gravel road was top-dressed with material from slope behind the house. Markings on shed indicate number of loads used in a given year for the road.”	Handley date unknown
unknown	Tony had a chicken pen with a variety of fowl.	Handley date unknown