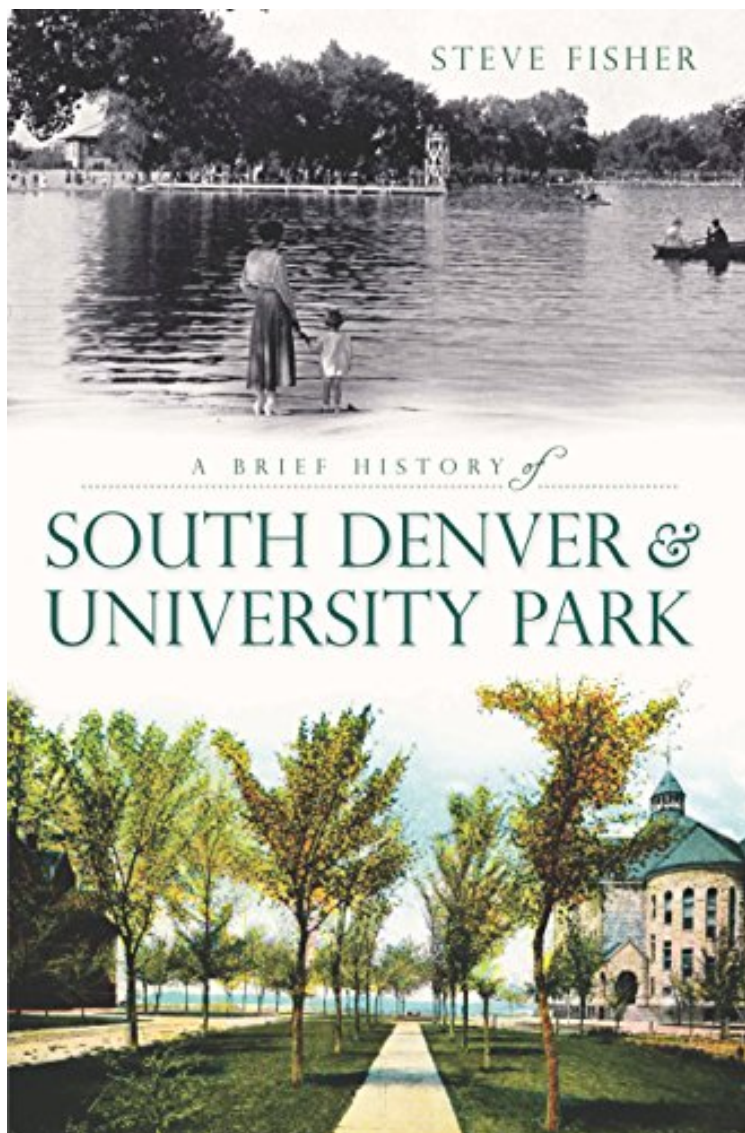


(Mobile book) A Brief History of South Denver University Park

A Brief History of South Denver University Park

Steve Fisher

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Steve Fisher : A Brief History of South Denver University Park before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Brief History of South Denver University Park:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. DecentBy Laura EdwardsWe recently moved to south Denver and I wanted to learn more about the area. While this book is full of information it skips around both in geographical location and timeline. It jumps from the early days of DU, to a state run orphanage (complete with annual costs - I'm not sure why this information was included), to Observatory Park, back to the orphanage, then to a history of the University Park Methodist Church. It listed buildings and additions as well as who they were designed by, again information I don't know what to do with that doesn't add to the story of the area. There is also a constant flow of

people introduced with no transitions between paragraphs. Overall it felt like a rather choppy read, an editor with a red pen could have made this feel a little more cohesive. I did gain some valuable information - unfortunately none of it applies to the area in which we actually live. Before reading this book I had no idea South Denver had at one time been it's own city - that is the "South Denver" in the title not the current geographical area.

University Park was founded in the 1880s when the University of Denver (Colorado Seminary) moved from downtown Denver to land donated by potato farmer Rufus Clark. The University, founded by Methodists, wanted to escape the urban blight of the city and build an oasis for education. Liquor production or consumption was not allowed, and though today the area has many pubs a number of home mortgages to this day contain old covenants forbidding the making or selling of spirits. Around University Park grew the town of South Denver, which was annexed to the city of Denver in the early twentieth century. For many years in the late 1800s the primary employer was the University of Denver, but over time others moved into the area for its attractive homes and well respected schools. The area has traditionally been upper middle class and has enjoyed one of the lowest crime rates in the city. At the geographic center of University Park is Observatory Park, named for the famous Chamberlain Observatory, built in the 1890s and still fully operational with popular public viewing nights. In the early part of the century Colorado Governor Henry Buchtel lived in the park, as did a number of famed early DU faculty such as Ammi Hyde, who beat the freshman boys in an annual foot race well into his 90's. The area boomed after World War II as many from other parts of the country who were stationed in Colorado chose to remain and make it their home. The area has remained prosperous and continues to grow, sharing in the overall success that the Denver metro area has experienced.

About the Author Steve Fisher is associate professor/curator of archives/special collections at the Penrose Library, University of Denver, a position he has held since 1981. He holds an MA in history and an MLS in library science from Case Western Reserve University. He teaches courses on preservation and rare book librarianship in the School Librarianship at DU and has written numerous articles on South Denver history. In 2009, his book University Park and South Denver was published. He is a past president of the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists. His hobbies are visiting used book sales and trying out new restaurants. He is married to Kate Fisher, and they have two children, Matt and Bridget, and two grandchildren, Riley and Madelyn.