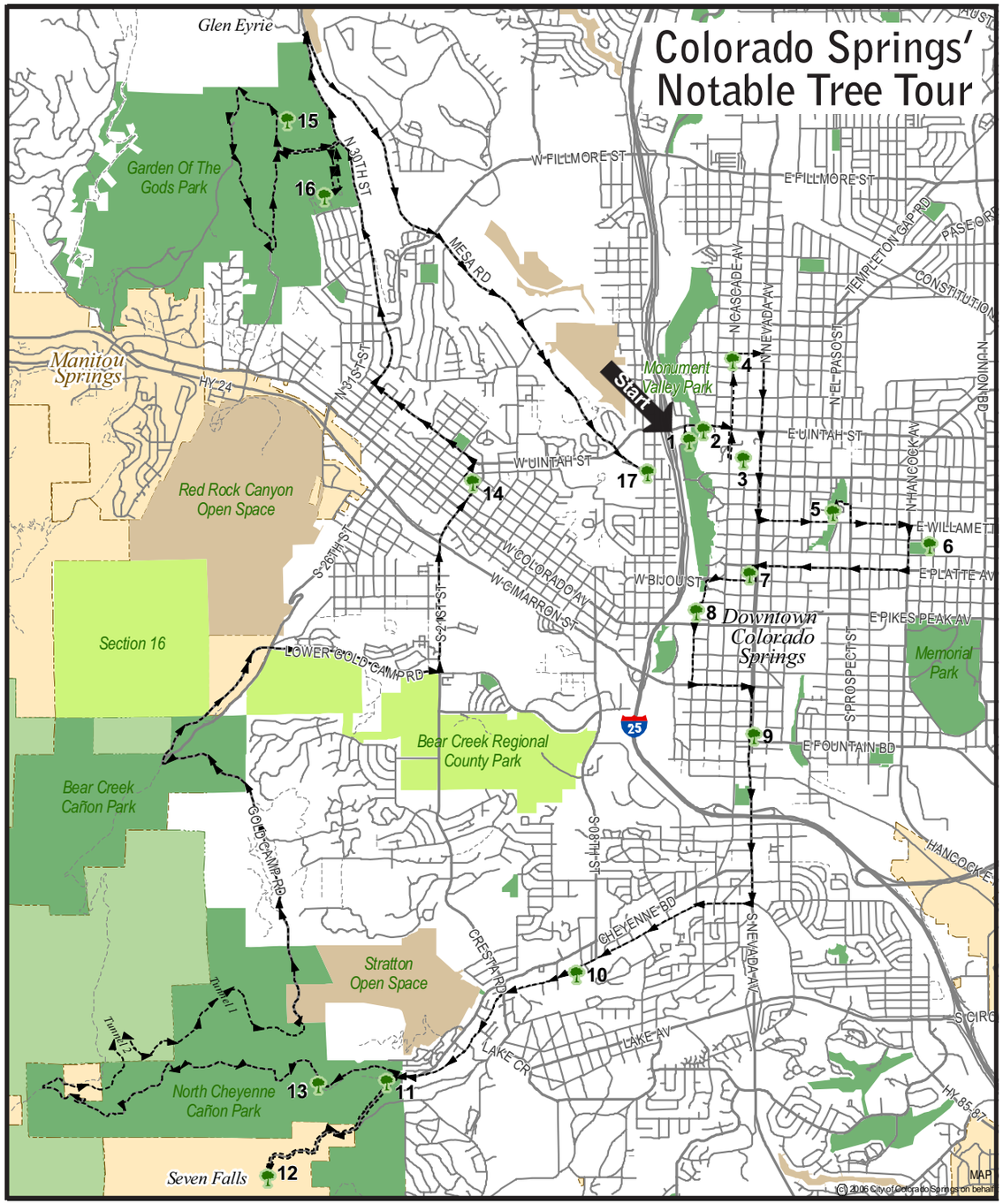

Historic North Cheyenne Cañon White Fir Tree, circa 1920
Photo courtesy of USFS

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Colorado Tree Coalition's Notable Tree Tour in Colorado Springs

Historic Pear Tree at Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site

What is a Notable Tree?

A notable tree is one that is remarkable or distinguishable in some way, or related to a famous or historical person, place, or event. A tree may also be notable if the surrounding community accepts it as being special based upon its species, uniqueness, or contribution to the community. Many of the trees in this guide are notable because they are the largest of their species in Colorado and are called Champion Trees. The Colorado Tree Coalition updates their champion tree list every year so check out the website: www.coloradotrees.org for the latest champions, or to nominate a champion or notable tree.

The Tour Begins... Colorado Springs' Beginnings: Take a Trip Through the Past

1) American elm (*Ulmus americana*)
Location: Heritage Garden, Monument Valley Park, established 1907, a gift of General William Jackson Palmer, Colorado Springs founder
Notable: 49" diameter, beautiful umbrella canopy, called the Heritage Elm, planted south of circa. 1907, Van Briggle Pottery

2) Lacebark pine (*Pinus bungeana*)
Location: Pinetum, in Monument Valley Park
Notable: largest in Colorado, brought over from China in 1933 by a Colorado College professor; pinetum is planting of conifers

3) European lindens (*Tilia x europaea*)
Location: Colorado College central campus east of Cascade Ave.
Notable: beautiful trees with ribbed trunks on Colorado College, purportedly brought over from England by General Palmer, Colorado Springs' founder, in early 1900's.
***Note:** private

4) Red oaks (*Quercus spp.*)
Location: Cascade Ave. median (1600 block)
Notable: large old red oaks, historic medians and wide avenues lined with mansions built in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

5) Plains cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides var. Sargentii*)
Location: Franklin St., Shooks Run Park
Notable: large (up to 70 " diameter), a few remaining original Palmer plantings started in 1872. Cottonwoods were brought from the Arkansas Valley.

6) Japanese pagoda (*Sophora japonica*)
Location: Boulder Park, east side near tennis courts
Notable: 26" diameter; park site once a reservoir at end of El Paso canal (1872), built to establish street trees and landscapes in a young town on the plains

7) Rock elm (*Ulmus thomasii*)
Location: Acacia Park (orig. North Park)
Notable: 26"diameter; original traditional town square park, survived Dutch elm disease in 1970's that killed many of the park's American elms.

8) American elm (*Ulmus americana*)
Location: Sierra Madre, Rock Island Depot (Guiseppes Restaurant)
Notable: 41" diameter, 70th anniversary Rock Island Lines, 1922 memorial planting
***Note:** private

9) Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
Location: Lowell School, 1st school built in 1891 with hand-cut stones from Red Rock Cañon.
Notable: over 100 years, 35" diameter with full spreading canopy

Cheyenne Cañon – settlement occurred along Cheyenne Creek beginning in the 1860's

10) Crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), this type of tree was brought from Russia in late 1800's
Location: Harlan Wolfe Park, Cheyenne Creek
Notable: 72" diameter, 1899 Wolfe home

11) Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*)
Location: South Cheyenne Cañon
Notable: over 300 years, once stood near a Homesteader's cabin

12) Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
Location: Seven Falls, top of the 225 steps above the top fall
Notable: 42" diameter, 70' tall beautiful form, over 400 years old, historic Seven Falls and cañons
***Note:** private

13) White fir (*Abies concolor*)
Location: North Cheyenne Cañon Park, established in 1885
Notable: Large 40", group of fir once classified as a Botanical Reserve

Gold Camp Road was the historical railroad route from Colorado Springs to Cripple Creek

14) Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
Location: 2110 W. Bijou St. (Old Colorado City, established in 1859 along Fountain Creek)
Notable: 35" diameter, large, historic home
***Note:** private

15) One-seed juniper (*Juniperus mononsperma*)
Location: Garden of the Gods Park
Notable: 38" diameter, largest in CO, once termed a Botanical Reserve

16) Apple and Pear (*Malus spp., Pyrus spp.*)
Location: Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site
Notable: A red apple and pear are remnants of a once flourishing orchard planted in the late 1870's by the Chambers family, the original homestead on the site

Travel along Palmer's route from Queen's Canyon and Glen Eyrie (castle built for his wife, Queen Palmer) to Colorado Springs

17) Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*)
Location: Bristol Park
Notable: 26" diameter, 2nd largest in Colorado, Gold tycoon Winfield Scott Stratton built home on this property in 1880's.

***NOTE: Private!** This tree grows on private property. Please do not trespass.