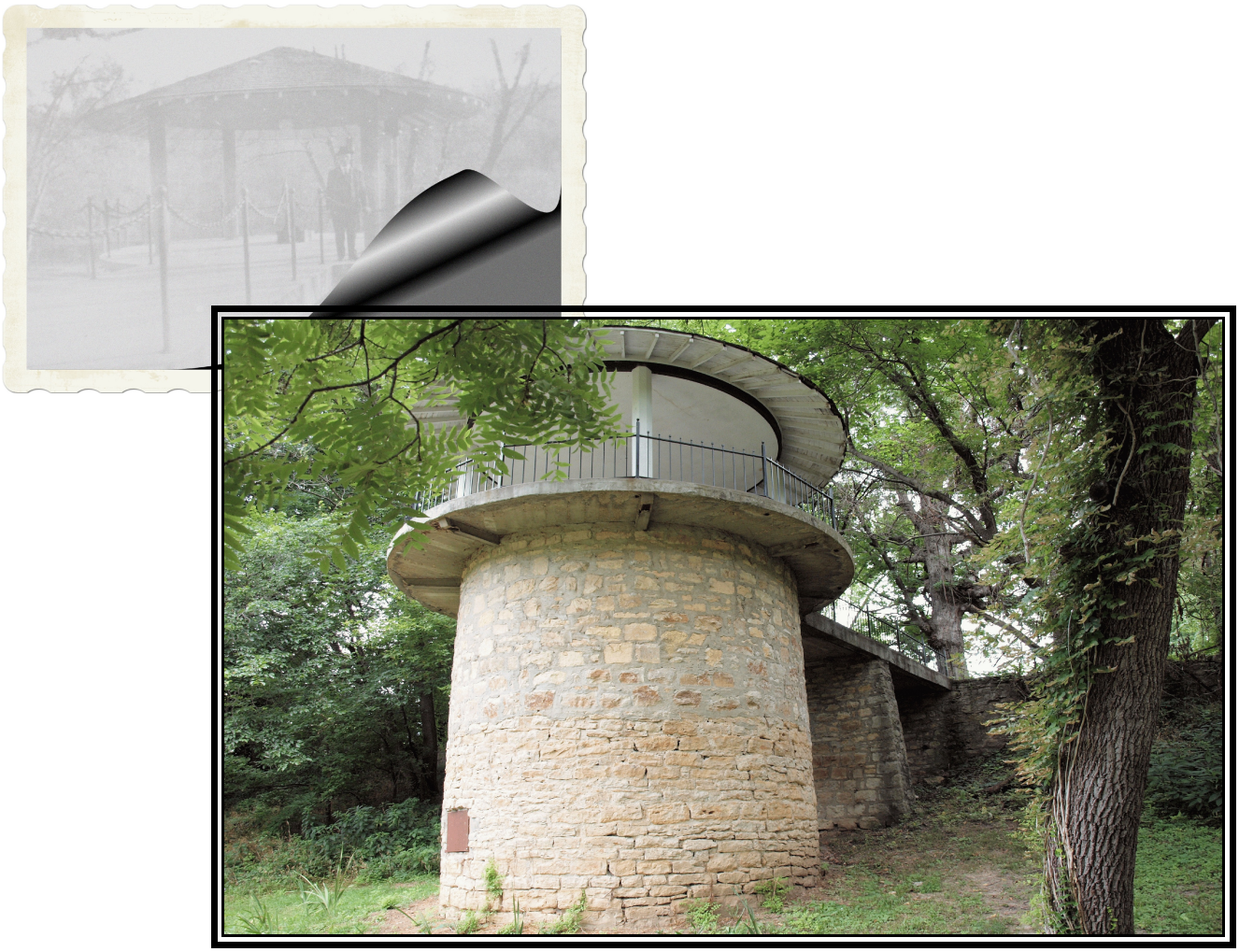
Excelsior Springs, Missouri
Historic Mineral Water Resources
Survey Report



Prepared for:
City of Excelsior Springs
Historic Preservation Commission
Excelsior Springs, Missouri

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Three Gables Preservation
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SURVEY OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of the Excelsior Springs *Historic Mineral Water Resources* historic and architectural survey was to identify and record the locations of historic mineral wells, springs, and pavilions in their current condition. Although these resources were the reason the community was originally founded, many of the locations have been lost to memory after the associated resources were demolished. Since the vast majority of these resources were mineral water wells, however, the possibility for below-ground features still exists; therefore, this survey was conducted in the event that future development should occur at historic well locations.

The extant historic resources were evaluated for their eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Recommendations for local landmark designation were also included in this project. Local landmark designation is part of the "protection" stage of preservation planning, and may help protect the few remaining mineral water resources in Excelsior Springs.

The survey will also provide information that will be helpful in planning for historic resources, including the development of educational programs and heritage tourism projects. Finally, the historic information gathered during the survey phase will be utilized in the development of the historic contexts and property types in the proposed National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form for Excelsior Springs.

An intensive-level, comprehensive survey or re-survey was conducted for forty resources associated with the mineral water history of Excelsior Springs. Both field survey and archival research was used to obtain data on the individual properties. As an accurate and complete list of all of the mineral water resources did not exist, it was first necessary to conduct archival research in order to identify their locations.

Archival research: The following sources were used to identify the resources and their locations:

- N.A., *The Waters of Excelsior Springs: Valley of Vitality* (Excelsior Springs Spa Development, March 2003).
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1894, 1900, 1905, 1909, 1913, 1926, & 1926-updated to 1942)
- Other maps
  - Excelsior Springs plat and subdivision maps
  - J.W. Hyde, "Hotel and Business Map of Excelsior Springs, Mo." 1903.
  - George Kessler, "General Realty & Mineral Water Company," ca. 1905.
  - B. Van DeGreyn, "Excelsior Springs, Missouri and vicinity in Clay & Ray Counties," January 1909.
  - "The Waters of Excelsior Springs," *in Hall of Waters Historic District Design Guidelines*
- City Directories
  - *Excelsior Springs Blue Book*, 1908.
  - *Kellogg-Baxter Excelsior Springs City Directory*, 1908-1909.
  - *Merchant's Excelsior Springs, MO 1917 Directory*, 1917.
  - *Dunham's City Directory*, 1922.
- "Excelsior Springs Mineral Water Springs and Wells," *The Idle Hour*, accessed 17 January 2012, http://theidlehour.com/springs.html
- "Springs," *Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives*, accessed 5 November 2012, http://exsmo.com/museum/springs/springs.html
- John J. Gaines, M.D., *A Souvenir Guide-Book of Excelsior Springs, Mo.*, 1912.
- "Springs, Excelsior Springs, MO.," (listed 3/1/25), folder V1.200.100.64, Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives.
- [List of springs], Bicentennial Committee, 1976; folder V1.200.100, Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives..
- [List of springs, from the history book compiled by Sam C. Sherwood], folder V1.200.100.59, Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives.
- Betty Bissell, "The Waters," personal research.
- Various "springs" files at the Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives
- Historic postcards

Over the years, transcription errors led to a few instances of incorrect addresses associated with some of the wells. Most of these errors have been corrected with cross-checking against all of the various sources listed above. Identifying various well locations was further hampered by the similarity of names for the wells, with a dizzying combination of Sulpo/sulphur, salt/saline, lithia, or soda, and to a lesser extent, Excelsior. A list of the forty properties selected for inventory is found in Appendix A. Locations and/or information for some mineral water resources could not be determined, however; these are found in Appendix B.

After locating the sites, in addition to the previously listed sources, the following repositories were reviewed for any historical data on the properties.

- *City of Excelsior Springs, Planning Department Offices:* Plat maps and other city documents.

- *Clay/Ray County Assessor's Office:* Legal description and property owners' names.

- *Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society:* Files on previously inventoried sites, National Register of Historic Places nomination forms.

- *Kansas City, Missouri Public Library*: Digital copies of the Sanborn Maps, published histories on Excelsior Springs.

- *Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives:* A wide variety of sources were available here, including: historic photographs; separate files on significant resources; annual city reports; promotional pamphlets and advertising; and numerous histories and newspaper articles.

- *Oral interviews:* Interviews were conducted with willing property owners and the general public, members of the Excelsior Springs Historic Preservation commission, and staff and volunteers at the Excelsior Springs Museum. Sonya and Kevin Morgan were especially helpful, and Betty Bissell of the Historic Preservation Commission also shared her research.

Field Survey: After determining the locations of the historic (pre-1963) mineral water resources, forty properties were selected for intensive-level survey. Site visits were conducted by Deon Wolfenbarger and Kerry Davis. Existing conditions were photographed, and measurements taken if there were any extant features. An on-site analysis of each property assessed each property's present condition, integrity, identification of style or type, materials, approximate construction date, and obvious alterations and/or additions. Kevin and Sonya Morgan assisted in locating several of the hard-to-find sites.

Photography: Color digital images will be taken of each individual property and any extant features. Scans of historical photographs were provided within the survey forms. All of

the field survey images were saved in <.jpg> and <.tiff> format and stored at the Planning Department offices at the City of Excelsior Springs. In addition, black and white prints for each property were provided to the Missouri SHPO.

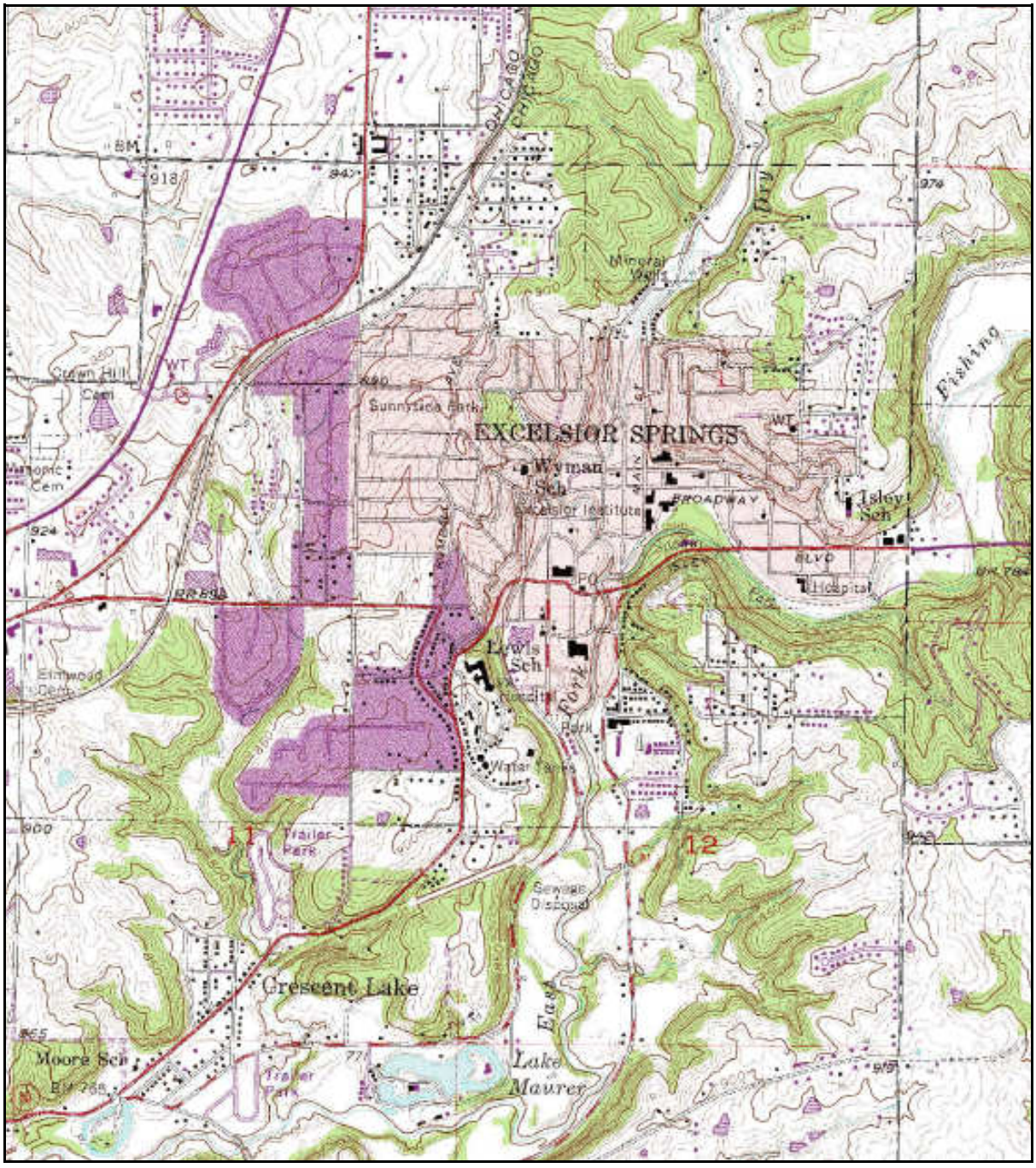
Maps: Maps were created by Nick Pappas, Geographic Information Systems Coordinator, City of Excelsior Springs, Missouri, through GIS software and saved in <.pdf> format.

Documentation: The data that results from this project were recorded on the Missouri Department of Natural Resources *Architectural/Historic Inventory Form.* Hard copies, as well as Word and PDF versions, were submitted to both the Missouri SHPO and the Planning Department offices at the City of Excelsior Springs.

Evaluation: The properties were evaluated according to National Register of Historic Places guidelines, bulletins 15 and 16A, and any other applicable bulletins (e.g. bulletin 18 for historic landscapes).

Problems: Locations for some of the forty inventoried resources were only estimates. Since many of the mineral water resources were located in the basin of the Fishing River, frequent floods over the years destroyed many of the historic wells and changed the river bed locations. Thus for some of these resources, only general locations were recorded. Also, the locations or historic information for a few lesser-known resources were not determined (see Appendix B).

The survey boundaries for the inventory of scattered resources is the 2011 city limits of Excelsior Springs. The City of Excelsior Springs is located in northwestern Missouri approximately thirty miles northeast of central Kansas City, Missouri. The majority of the city's 9.8 square miles is located in the central eastern portion of Clay County, with the eastern section of town extending into Ray County (one resource was in Ray County). The population was 10,847 in the 2000 census.



The town is located along the East Fork of Fishing River, with winding stream valleys leading into the river and hills alongside. There are several native stone outcroppings, which are related to the city's historic mineral water resources. Due to the steep topography, historically the town was developed with narrow lots centered around the Fishing River and the early mineral water wells.

"Mineral water resources" were identified as a potential property type in the 1991 *Excelsior Springs' Historic Resources Survey Plan.* The survey plan identified a historic context, "Missouri's National Health Resort: 1880 - 1963," which extended from the discovery of the health benefits of the waters in 1880 through 1963, when legislation prohibited the advertisement of cures as a benefit of the town's mineral waters. Although extant mineral water resources are extremely rare, they are among the most significant in the city as they are associated with the reason for the town's early development.

Since this was a targeted survey of scattered resources based on historic associations (i.e., mineral water resources) and not geography, the survey boundaries were the 2011 city limits of Excelsior Springs. However, the vast majority of survey resources are located near the historic central portion of town along or near the various branches of the Fishing River.

The survey identified forty properties which have or formerly contained wells, springs, or pavilion sites. Most of the forty inventoried resources were located on properties with less than one acre each, with the exception of those found in various city parks.

A multiple property documentation form (MPDF) for the National Register of Historic Places was prepared in conjunction with the survey of mineral water resources. Below is a summary of excerpts from Section E of the MPDF, which provides a historic context for the mineral water resources, and their significance to the development of the City of Excelsior Springs.

I. Discovery and development of Excelsior Spring's Mineral Waters Industry: 1880 -1914

An African American farmer, Travis Mellion, is credited with discovering the medicinal benefits of the iron-rich water gushing from a spring along the Fishing River in Clay County, Missouri. After curing Mellion's daughter of scrofula, another nearby farmer decided to try the water on his rheumatism as well as an old Civil War wound.[1] When word of both of these recoveries spread, the area was soon visited by other seeking cures from the spring, which was located on land owned by Anthony W. Wyman. Intrigued by the stories of the cures, Rev. John Van Buren Flack, a merchant-preacher from nearby Missouri City, came to the area to collect samples of the water and send them off for analysis. The chemist's report confirmed that the waters contained minerals that "justified expectations of curative results." Rev. Flack named Wyman's spring "Excelsior" after a popular poem by Henry Longfellow, and persuaded Wyman to plat his farm land into a town. On September 1, 1880, county surveyor Thomas B. Rogers surveyed Wyman's land holdings, and later that month, the town was platted by Wyman and Flack. The new town comprised the entire northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 1, Township 52, Range 30, and covered forty acres.[2]

In the meantime, people were already flocking to the springs to avail themselves of the curative powers of the water, camping in nearby groves and relying on the farmers of the area for their provisions.[3] At first, the development at the springs was quite crude. The water was captured by a barrel sunk in the mud, with people bringing their own tin cups to drink.[4] The name of the first spring was changed to "Siloam" in 1881, and the barrel was replaced by a small, wooden Oriental-style pagoda.[5] The city later installed a pump and stairs, and within less than a year of its discovery, over one hundred houses were built.[6]

The water at Siloam Spring was free, but hopeful entrepreneurs began exploring the area for other springs with curative values. In 1881, a strong flowing spring was discovered a short distance down the Fishing River by Captain J. L. Farris. He also sent it off for analysis, and like

[1] "The Legend Lives On: A Brief History of Excelsior Springs Mineral Water," V1.200.100.75, in "Waters" folder, V1.200.100, Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives, Excelsior Springs, MO.
[2] N.A., *The Waters of Excelsior Springs: Valley of Vitality* (Excelsior Springs, MO: Excelsior Springs Spa Development, March 2003) 9.
[3] W. H. Woodson, *History of Clay County, Missouri* (Topeka, KS: Historical Publishing Co., 1920) 174.
[4] *The Waters of Excelsior Springs: Valley of Vitality*, 3.
[5] Harry Soltysiak, *Reflections of Excelsior Springs: A Pictorial History of Excelsior Springs, Missouri* (N.P.: Heritage House Pub. Co., 1992) n.p.
[6] "The Legend Lives On."

the Siloam spring, it also contained iron manganese water. Originally called the Empire Spring by Farris, it was later renamed the Regent Spring.[7] Lithia No. 1 Spring was discovered in 1883-'84 by Thomas McMullin. These waters were first used as his family's private supply, but when its medicinal value was determined, a stone arched pavilion was built on the ground floor of the property with a second story building above. The Soterian, Excelsior Springs Lithia Spring and the Salt Sulphur Spring were all discovered in 1888. Water for the Excelsior Springs Lithia Spring was kept on tap in the lobby of the Planters Hotel on Broadway, while the Salt Sulphur Spring water was piped to a pavilion on the Music Hall grounds, as well as to Harr's Pavilion on W. Broadway and the Salt Sulphur Pavilion at the Elms Hotel.[8] The pagoda at the Superior Spring was built in 1901, and two more springs were discovered in 1906 – the Seltzer Salt Soda Spring on E. Foley Street and the Sulphur Salt Soda Spring located just north of the Relief Spring on Caldwell. Over the next two decades, more than thirty separate well or spring waters were discovered in the town, which were separated into five distinct types of waters: ferro(iron)-manganese, calcium bicarbonate (lithia), sodium bicarbonate (soda), saline, and sulphur; the sulphur and saline waters were later considered a single category.

Although some of these waters came up through the ground as springs, many were discovered during the digging for household wells. As the mineral content varied from each spring, in order to make claims about the health benefits, the waters were tested for their content. Thus, the analyses obtained from chemists around the country were key to the promotion for each well. Specific curative properties were assigned to the various waters, and letters from the medical profession as well as testimonials from clients added strength to the scientific claims. The purity of the waters was also a significant part of the advertising for the various wells. The Siloam Spring used the report of H. A. Buehler, state geologist from the Bureau of Geology and Mines, to show that its waters were "free from any mineral content of a contaminating nature and indicated that the spring is not subject to pollution from surface water."[9]

The fame of the city as a health resort was sealed with the recognition of the waters at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Charles W. Fish, general manager of the Excelsior Springs Bottling Company, exhibited the waters of the Regent as well as Soterian Ginger Ale (made from the waters of the Soterian well) and both were awarded first prizes. The Ginger Ale later won another medal at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The Excelsior Springs Bottling Company began bottling water in 1889 in a building originally intended for tourist excursions. The four waters bottled -- Siloam, Regent, Sulpho-Saline and Soterian -- were all piped directly to the works. The building contained a fountain and two bottling tables, and boasted that no air ever contaminated the waters.[10] Production reached 10,000 bottles a week, and when operating at full

[7] *Golden Jubilee: America's Haven of Health* ([Excelsior Springs, MO:] Excelsior Springs Chamber of Commerce, 1930) 6.
[8] *The Waters of Excelsior Spring*, 23, 28.
[9] *Golden Jubilee: America's Haven of Health.* 18.
[10] "Large Growing Industry Is The Excelsior Springs Bottling Works," *Excelsior Springs Daily Call*, Vol. XXIV, No. 303 (15 July 1905) 1.

capacity, the company employed twenty-five workers. Carloads were shipped out from the rail spur that extended to the building located south of the Elms Hotel.[11]

Excelsior Springs Bottling Company

Due to the geological formations in the Fishing River valley, different water types were found at varying depths or strata. As previously noted, the waters were categorized in groups based either on their mineral content or their therapeutic value. *Ferro(iron)-manganese* waters were typically surface springs, although wells that were dug to capture these waters were between ten and thirty feet deep. This group included the two earliest discovered springs – the Siloam and Regent – as well as Superior No. 2 Spring, Steck's Iron Spring, Excelsior Spring, and Fowler's Magnaferro Spring. These waters were reputed helpful in building up the blood. Rapidly absorbed by the body, they claimed to add iron to the blood stream. In various promotional pamphlets, Excelsior Springs claimed to have two of the six known iron-manganese springs in the world, and the only two that were commercially available in the United States.[12]

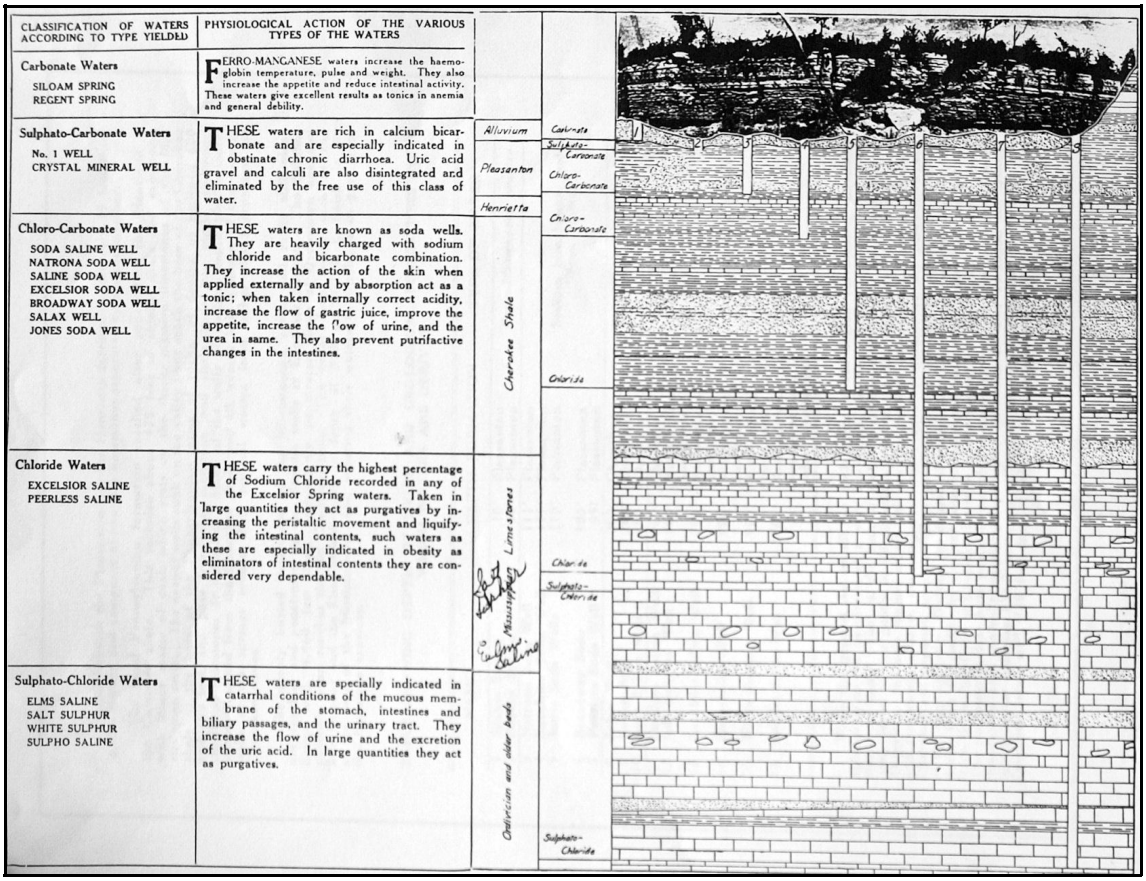
Calcium Bicarbonate (Lithia) waters were noted for treating kidney and bladder disorders, and were found from thirty to sixty feet below the surface. There were fifteen calcium springs: Crystal Lithium Spring, Excelsior Lithia Spring, Imperial Lithia Spring, Keystone Lithia Spring,

[11] "Fire Destroys Large Frame Building Here," (10 March 1930), in "Excelsior Springs Bottling Company" folder, Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives, Excelsior Springs, MO.
[12] "The Mineral Waters," *Excelsior Springs Daily Standard* (1940) 11; in 80.139, Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives, Excelsior Springs, MO.

Lithia No. 1 Spring, Lithium Magnesium Spring, Montrose Spring, Peerless Spring, Old Smith Spring, Park Lithia Spring, Relief Spring, Saratoga Spring, Soterian Spring, and Willow Park Lithia Spring.

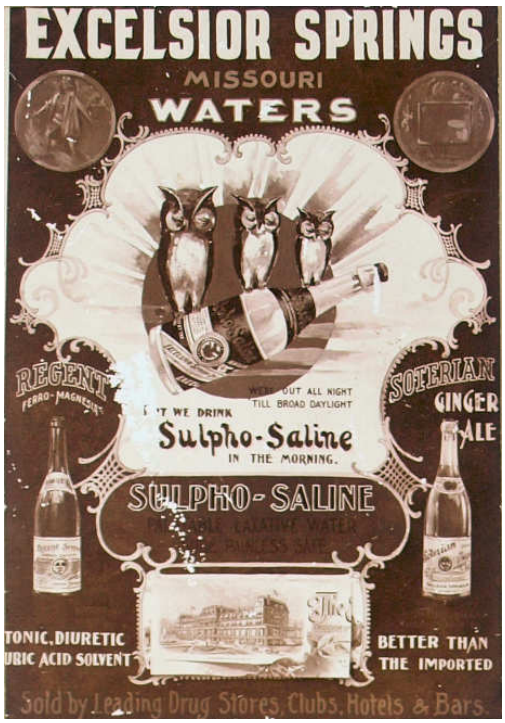
Sodium Bicarbonate (soda) waters were around ninety to one hundred feet in depth, and were reportedly useful as a stabilizing agent for the stomach. Noted for their neutralizing effect, they were also used in anti-acid therapy. There were eleven Soda Bicarbonate springs that operated in Excelsior Springs at various periods: the Hiawatha Spring, Jones Soda Spring, Link Soda Spring, Muriated Soda Spring, Natrona Soda Spring, Pioneer Spring, Seltzer Salt Soda Spring, Soda Carbonic Spring, Soda Saline Spring, Sulphur Salt Soda Spring, and Vichey Iodide Spring.

The *Saline* and *Sulphur* waters were sometimes listed together as a single category in promotional material – the *Sulpho-saline* waters. This group included a variety of mineral waters reputed to have effects on many conditions, but were mainly known for their laxative effects, though, and were taken either internally or externally in hydrotherapy. The strong saline waters were found between 425 and 550 feet, and the *Salt Sulphur/Sulpho-Saline* waters between 800 to 1,300 feet. This group included the Sulpho-Saline Spring, Excelsior Saline (Salt Sea) Spring, Salt Sulpur Spring, Salt Soda Spring, Salax Spring, Superior No. 1 Spring, Sulpho Salt Spring, and the White Sulphur Spring.



Illustrating the depths of wells for the various mineral water categories, from a 1919 report on the classification of waters by the state Bureau of Geology and Mines.

Although new wells were continually being discovered, existing wells were sometimes purchased by new owners and renamed. The frequent name changes and usage of *sulpho/sulphur, soda, lithia/lithium, salt,* and *Excelsior* in the well names make it difficult to ascertain the exact number of wells, although the various promotional brochures and pamphlets give a general idea of the number in operation at any one time. However, these pamphlets do not always give the complete picture since, depending on the publisher, some of the smaller private wells were not always listed. The Excelsior Springs Company, for example, always focused on its own mineral waters which were bottled and sold around the country. The 1908 *Excelsior Springs, MO., Blue Book* lists fourteen "medical drinking waters: Sulpho-Saline Pavilion, Montezuma Pavilion, Crystal Lithium, Imperial Lithia Spring, Seltzer-Salt Soda, Saratoga Spring, Siloam Spring, Salt Sulphur Pavilion, Sulpho-Saline Pavilion, Lithia Spring, Relief Spring, Regent Spring, Superior Spring, and Sunnyside Spring. At any one time, up to twenty different mineral waters were in operation.



Advertisement from the Excelsior Springs Company, featuring its four mineral waters

Although Excelsior Springs did not have any naturally occurring hot springs, the town did not rely on "taking of the waters" as the only promoted use of the mineral waters. Bathhouses were also established, with the first purportedly built by Cap. Nickolson and operated by Robert Spence Ewing, an African American.[13] Other bathhouses followed, with some installed in commercial buildings or hotels, while the larger enterprises constructed their own buildings. Some of these larger bathhouses included Keith's Sanitarium and Bath House, the Montezuma Bath House, Kihlberg's Karlsbad Bath House and Sanitorium, Siloam Bath House, and The Orient. The large elaborate Music Hall was later renovated for use as a bath house. As separation of the races was the norm in Missouri during this period, the Doxey's Bath House and Star Bath House were owned and operated by African Americans for black clients.

Acutely aware of their competitors across the country, a newspaper article in a 1903 Excelsior Spring's newspaper did not mince words when comparing the town to other water health resorts. The *Excelsior Springs Standard* claimed that:

> She has more visitors today than Manitou, and as many as Hot Springs. She is curing more disease with her matchless waters than any six health resorts put together, in the United States. . . It is estimated that thirty thousand dollars are left in Excelsior Springs each week by our prosperous visitors . . . And all this, has for its cause or origin, the priceless virtues of Excelsior Springs waters. Take away a single spring and our property would suffer financially more than any money

[13] "First Bath Man," *Excelsior Springs Daily Call* (2 May 1904).

> panic could cause . . . There is not such as group or variety of mineral springs on the globe, as exist here. We have the laxative, the ant-acid, the lithiated, and the ferruginous. . . Where in any locality . . . could you find the waters of any six well-known health resorts together that would make a combination equal to ours? Take the waters of Manitou, Hot Springs, El Dorado Springs, Colfax and Saratoga New York, yet Excelsior Springs has practically a duplicate of each of them.[14]

With the town's economic survival clearly dependent on the waters, the city became more involved with the operation of the wells after the turn of the twentieth century. Beginning in 1905, a sanitary analysis of the waters was completed monthly by a chemist employed by the city, as well as an analysis of the city's own water supply. The city eventually passed ordinances giving it the power to license and control all the springs and wells – this coming at the insistence of the Chamber of Commerce. However, with only the Siloam and Regent springs owned by the city during this period, this resulted in the city attempting to oversee the remaining privately operated wells with varying degrees of success.[15]

The city's oversight, for example, did not prevent spurious claims from private owners of the wells, bath houses, or clinics. One such claim in 1900 from the Bauserman Cancer Cure Sanitarium used "special applications of electricity in stomach diseases coupled with use of mineral waters" to assert that "We can cure Cancer and other tumors without the use of knife. By our methods Cancers are removed without leaving a scar and they never return."[16] These wild proclamations were only rarely countered. In 1906, a warning to Charles Fish, manager of the Excelsior Springs Bottling Company was sent by the Chicago Clinic and Pure Water Journal in Springfield, Illinois. In its letter, the company cautioned:

> that it is neither scientific nor attractive to medical men to advertise a water as "curative of stomach diseases; of kidney diseases; of blood diseases." There is not water on earth which can be broadly claimed as curative of "stomach diseases". . . if a water is advertised to cure "stomach diseases" it should cure all pathologic conditions of the stomach, including cancer of the stomach etc. Just what we are to understand by "blood diseases" I am by no means certain."[17]

This letter was quietly filed away, and town boosters continued to heavily promote the health benefits of the various water treatments. Protecting their investments and promoting the town's reputation was foremost. Sometimes this required investment in infrastructure. When frequent flooding endangered the original Siloam Spring, as well as others further down the river, the course of Fishing River was altered in 1901 to prevent further damage. In 1908, a deep well system was built, expanding the potential of the springs. After a long dry spell in 1910, the Excelsior Springs Water Company sank new wells near Miltondale, closer to the Missouri River,

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[14] "How About Excelsior Springs?" *Excelsior Springs Standard* (14 August 1903).
[15] *Golden Jubilee: America's Haven of Health*, 18.
[16] *Excelsior Springs, Missouri, and its Marvelous Waters: Reached via Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Ry., and Wabash Railroad* (Kansas City, MO: Hughes Publishing Co., [1900]).
[17] Letter to Mr. C. W. Fish, from Chicago Clinic & Pure Water Journal" (7 January 1906). In "Chemists – early years" folder, Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives, Excelsior Springs, MO.

and in 1911 prepared new pipelines extending a mile and a half to that site to insure they retained a steady water supply.[18] This deep well system and the various wells associated with it were either individually or jointly owned at this time, although that would change by the 1930s when local government became more heavily involved.[19] The final major initiative by the city during the latter part of this period was to pass an ordinance in 1913 regulating hospitals, prohibiting treatment of malignant, contagious or infectious diseases. Wells and springs were required to have a water analysis, and shipped, bottled waters were required to have an official analysis on their label.[20] Otherwise, the period up to the first World War was a time when the private entrepreneur set the rules for town development.

II. "Missouri's National Health Resort": the Public Health Years in Excelsior Springs: 1915 – 1963

The start of the first World War marked a change in the development of Excelsior Springs, although the war was not related to most of the factors affecting this development. Many of the town's earliest boosters and entrepreneurs were no longer involved, and the next generation did not produce as many grandiose plans. Instead, the early to mid-twentieth century was a time of increasing involvement by federal, state and local government. Although conceived earlier by private entrepreneurs, the City of Excelsior Springs initiated the city's parks and boulevards system. The local government also purchased and consolidated many of the privately owned wells and springs. The federal government financed the construction of the Veterans Administration hospital, the elaborate Art Deco Hall of Waters, as well as many small parks projects and city street paving projects through work relief programs of the New Deal.

This period also saw an increasing emphasis on medical treatments utilizing the town's mineral waters, particularly with a growing use of hydrotherapy. Although many bath houses closed, those that remained grew larger. Several of these expanded into sanitariums or hospitals, and after World War II, these were the largest employers in town. Primarily because of the economic reliance on the health sanitariums in the 1950s and 1960s, a national exposé in 1963 on health clinics such as those in Excelsior Springs marked a dramatic end to this period of development.

The period began, however, with ambitious plans by the city to improve the conditions in Excelsior Spring's downtown. Many of the privately owned spring pavilions were showing their age, and the town had received unfavorable press regarding the trash left along the banks of the Fishing Rivers. Furthermore, the frequent flooding of the river required action to protect the many wells along its banks. Ambitious city-wide projects such as stream widening, beautification, and a city-wide parks system could only logically be addressed by the efforts of local government. The projects were supported, and in some cases, suggested by the Commercial Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

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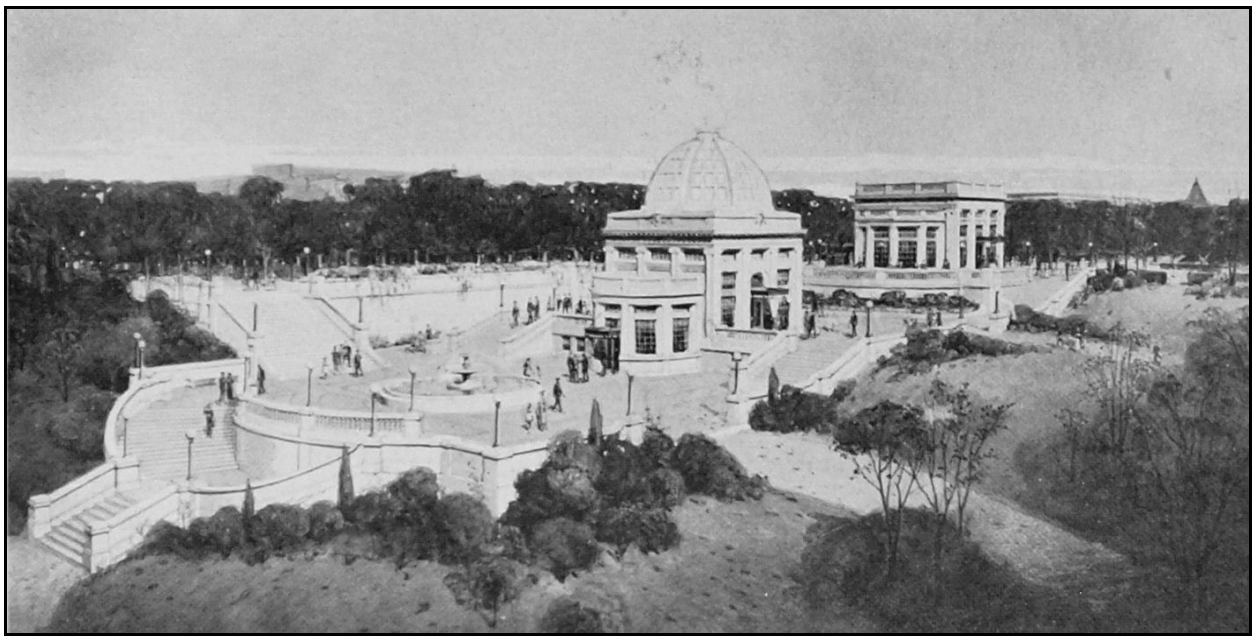
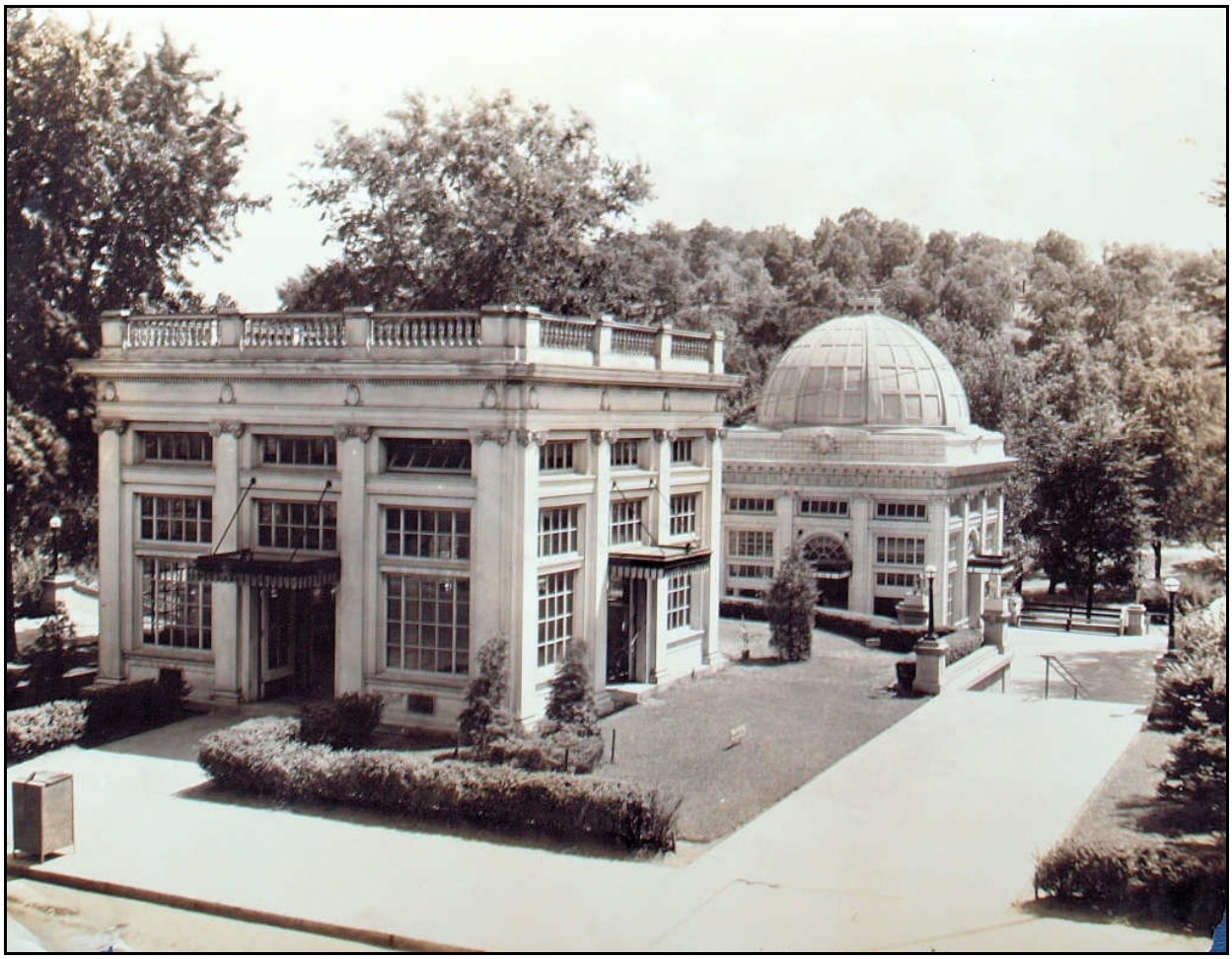
[18] "Boring for More Water," *Excelsior Springs Daily Call* (5 January 1911) 1.
[19] "The Legend Lives On."
[20] *Revised Ordinances Excelsior Springs, Missouri, 1913* (Excelsior Springs, MO: Excelsior Spring Daily Journal Print, 1913).



Original plans for Siloam and Sulph-saline pavilions, with elaborate terraces.

In February 1915, landscape architect George Kessler and his assistant visited the city to consult with the park board, primarily about plans for the new Siloam pagoda but also for park work in general. He was given approval to move ahead for the plans around Siloam by the city council in April 1915. By this time, the city was already working on widening the channel of Fishing River through Siloam Park.[21] Although Kessler designed an elaborate setting and gardens for the Siloam and Sulpho-Saline pavilions, the plans for the two classically-inspired spring houses were completed by architect Henry F. Hoit. In spite of the support of the business community, many of the local residents objected to Kessler's $1,000 salary, and formed the "Friends of Old Siloam" in protest. Thus when Siloam Gardens opened in 1917, many aspects of Kessler's plans were not completed, and work had not even started on the pavilions. As a result, by the 1920s, the previous decades of private ownership and years of visitors had taken its toll on the original Siloam pavilion and grounds. The platform was unsafe, and the city was facing a pending damage suit. The citizens of Excelsior Springs realized that they all had a vested interest in the development of Siloam and other key sites around the city. The American Legion of Excelsior Springs adopted a resolution on November 11, 1922, noting the continued drop in attendance to Siloam Springs under the present conditions, and decrying the delay of several years of the plans for beautifying Siloam Gardens. The organization whole heartedly endorsed an upcoming bond issue for the construction of the gardens and pavilions according to the plans of Kessler and Henry F. Hoit.[22]

[21] Deon Wolfenbarger, "Excelsior Springs Park & Driveway System: Landscape Architectural Historic Survey," (15 February 1994) 13.
[22] Ibid., 13-14.



Pavilions, as constructed without Kessler's elaborate terraces

By the start of the Great Depression, the city's population had grown to 4,519 in 1930. Outwardly, the city did not seem as concerned as other communities about the economic effects to Excelsior Springs. As the *Golden Jubilee* booklet published by the local Chamber of Commerce in 1930 noted:

> We are, first of all, a HEALTH RESORT. Just that. Not a commercial or manufacturing center, mining town, or national airport -- no, those things are purely secondary to an industry devoted to the mineral water cure.[23]

In spite of the town histories reporting that the city was not as hard hit as other communities due to its focus on health and medicine, unemployment was still a pressing concern during the Depression.[24] The election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 brought two forms of

[23] *Excelsior Springs: America's Haven of Health* (Excelsior Springs, MO.: Excelsior Springs Chamber of Commerce, 1930) foreword.
[24] *Report City of Excelsior Springs, Missouri: "America's Haven of Health"* ([Excelsior Springs, MO]: n.p., year ending March 31, 1932.

relief to the city's economy – the repeal of prohibition and the initiation of various New Deal work relief programs. Roosevelt's work relief programs, often referred to as the "alphabet soup" agencies, were designed to put the nation's unemployed back to work, while at the same time providing the manpower and funding to complete maintenance and construction of new infrastructure that was neglected during the Depression. The CWA, WPA, and PWA were just some of the programs that were responsible for work relief projects during the 1930s. The Works Progress (Projects) Administration paved many of the streets in town that were still dirt at the start of the Depression, and completed several projects on parks properties. The litter and trash dumped in the Fishing River, noted before the turn of the century, was still evident in the 1930s. A series of articles by the *Daily Standard* in the spring of 1932 included a survey by industrial analyst Kenneth Evans noting that "Excelsior Springs has one of the finest natural beauties found in any resort, a stream flowing through the center of town. But is it well that is has been hidden. Its banks are piled high with rubbish, refuse is thrown into the stream. The city and the Chamber of Commerce are backing a move to correct this error and promise that within two years to make the stream a real beauty spot."[25] With its coffers depleted from the effects of the Depression, the city turned to the WPA to complete several park projects. The largest and most significant project, however, was undertaken with grants and loans from the Public Works Administration (PWA).

At the very onset of the PWA program in 1933, the City of Excelsior Springs petitioned for a loan and grant to complete an ambitious mineral waters project that would consolidate all the springs and wells, and build a comprehensive city-owned hydrotherapy and mineral waters system. This type of authority, however, required approval from the state legislature. In 1933, Governor Guy Park signed a bill authorizing the city to operate a mineral water system with funds obtained from a Reconstruction Finance Corporation loan. This special act of the legislature and subsequent state supreme court decision was required in order to: establish the city's right to go into this type of business; to delegate its authority to a special committee; to issue bonds of nearly $100,000 to secure the federal grant; and to convert park property into a revenue-producing unit from the sale of water and charges for use of pool and other facilities. The mineral water committee would have full control over development during the twenty year federal loan amortization period.

Plans were prepared in advance and submitted with the city's application to the federal government. The architectural firm of Keene & Simpson designed the plans for the building; the engineering firm of Black & Veatch prepared economic studies as well as the plans for transporting the various mineral waters to the proposed Hall of Waters building; the structural engineer was Erwin Pfhul; and mechanical engineer was W. Cassell. In 1938, the landscape architectural firm Hare & Hare prepared the site plans, as well as a planting plan, completely eradicating the Kessler designed gardens around Siloam.

When Missouri's PWA projects were finally approved in 1935, the Hall of Waters projects was second on the list. A portion of the money was used to purchase the mineral water rights to ten

[25] Soltysiak, n.p

various approved springs and wells in the city on October 1st, 1935. In order for the city to gain control of one or more of each of the different types of water, it was necessary to condemn four more springs in addition to the ones that the city already owned. After the 1935 purchases, the wells or springs that the city owned were: Siloam Spring in Siloam Park; Regent Spring in Regent Park; Calcium No. 1, East Broadway; Park Well (Calcium No. 2), near Highway 10 in Siloam Park; Natural Soda (Jones) on E. Excelsior; Natrona Soda on E. Excelsior; Excelsior Saline on Thompson Avenue; White Sulphur near the post office on Highway 10; and the Salt Sulphur and Sulpho Saline wells on the north end of Main. The city would eventually own fifteen wells in town, piping in ten of them to the Hall of Waters.

In 1935, ground was broken for the large Hall of Waters building, and work began on reconditioning the wells and laying four miles of specially designed pipes (different for each type of water). The pipes brought the water from the city-owned springs to the Hall of Waters. The Sulpho Saline water, used by most bath houses, was also piped to the privately owned Broadway, Star, Battle Creek, and Carlsbad bath houses, as well as to the bath houses within the Snapp, Royal, and Elms hotels – all of which established usage agreements with the city. Inside the Hall of Waters building, the various waters would be dispensed for drinking purposes at the "world's longest water bar," bottled and shipped around the world, and would also be used for hydrotherapy treatments in the building.[26]

As a unit of the City of Excelsior Springs, the "Mineral Water System" was similar to other city-owned utilities. A city ordinance established the details of the system's operation. The justification for the city's purchase was that

> Health-giving mineral waters are a natural resource that must be developed for the benefit of everyone. Private competition and exploitation have no proper place in these humanitarian services. It was the duty of the city, in inviting people to come here for health, to follow the practice of other important spas of the worlds by controlling the waters and guaranteeing their purity and sale under property conditions.[27]

The City Council appointed a Mineral Water Committee, charging it with administration of the system. In turn, the Committee appointed a project manager who was actively in charge of operations. All salaries, bonds, and loans were to be paid out of receipts from the operation of the system. The project received $591,000 in government loans, a $157,000 grant, and approximately $100,000 in local bonds, leading to the oft repeated boast that the Hall of Waters was a million dollar project.

With the building partially completed in 1937, the city opened the Hall of Springs (water bar) on October 7th. In November 1937, the Mineral Water Swimming Pool was opened, and the

[26] "The Legend Lives On."
[27] "What You Should Know about Your Mineral Water System," (5 November 1936); reprinted in "Special Hall of Waters Anniversary Edition, *The Daily Standard* (1 October 1987).

separate men's and women's bath departments were completed by April 1938.[28] The swimming pool conformed to A.A.U. regulations, and was intended to be used for championship events, sporting a balcony that seated 500 spectators. It was open all year, with large moveable doors that opened in the summer to let in fresh air. The hydrotherapy departments featured the most up-to-date equipment, with a solarium in both the men's and women's areas. There was also a therapeutic polio pool with wheelchair ramp.[29] The bottling department was located on the west side of the north wing, and was set up for both mineral waters and carbonated beverages. The operation of the building was estimated to provide employment for sixty people once fully established.

Hall of Waters, "World's longest water bar"

As impressive as the operations of the Hall of Waters building were, the design and construction of the building were equally remarkable. The large T-shaped building was four stories on south and east, two on the west, three on the north, and additionally featured a one-story basement completely below grade. Stone and concrete decoration featured Mayan Indian decorative panels set within an overall Art Deco framework. The concrete column supports featured curtain walls of varying materials – ashlar limestone, cast stone of black granite aggregate resembling smooth

[28] "A New Era Unfolds," *Excelsior Springs Daily Standard* (1940) 9; in 80.139, Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives, Excelsior Springs, MO.

[29] "Special Hall of Waters Anniversary Edition," *The Daily Standard* (1 October 1987) 6-7.

cut limestone, and exposed reinforced concrete. Exterior trim included glazed tile, cut stone, and various metals, including the elaborate bronze main entry doors with cast aluminum Art Deco grill work above and matching light bollards. The boiler stack, located at the T intersection of the wings, was hidden within a decorative tower of ashlar limestone and glass block with a copper and cast stone cap. The rounded south wing contained the world's longest water bar, set within a two-story space open to the roof. The bar was constructed of tile with decorations continuing the Mayan Indian theme, and featured an elaborate tile fountain at one end.

The focus of the Hall of Waters development on the use of hydrotherapy was no coincidence. Hydrotherapy had became a more significant aspect of the usage of the mineral waters in treating various ailments since the turn of the century, rivaling the earlier period's for consumption of the waters in importance. The Saline-Sulphur waters were particularly promoted as conducive to medical treatments when applied externally. As noted in the 1930 *Golden Jubilee*,

> It has been fully recognized that bathing is one of the most valuable curative agents employed in the modern watering place. The action of the waters is exerted on all the emunctories of the body, external and internal. Here, the tub, vapor, showers, sprays, local hot packs, electric light (dry heat) and massage each plays its part in hastening elimination, allaying local inflammation and easing pain.[30]

The impetus for the Hall of Water's construction was to provide a modern mineral water system complex for the city, allowing it to compete with cities such as Hot Springs, Arkansas, where the federal government operated most of the springs. However, another benefit was the employment the construction project provided for out-of-work men. The plan originally called for thirty hours per week of labor skilled workers. Based on the complexity of the project, the acting director requested this be raised to forty hours per man in order to complete the building on time.[31] As of November 1, 1936, the general contractor, MacDonald Construction Co. of St. Louis, employed about 150 men; other men were employed through the various sub-contractors.

In spite of the massive PWA project aimed at revitalizing Excelsior Spring's historic downtown, a number of disasters hampered the city's efforts. At the end of the 1930s, a large fire destroyed the 200 block of East Broadway, and floods continued to plague the downtown area in the 1940s and '50s.[32] In 1941, twenty inches in the Hall of Waters basement damaged the new structure, and water rose to the thirty-two foot mark on sides of some downtown buildings. Another flood two years later completely filled the bottling works and boiler rooms at the Hall of Waters. The downtown was revisited by floods again in 1947, and three more times in 1951 before the city finally received federal aid to help with the damage. [33]

Frequent flooding in the seventeen years since the completion of the Hall of Waters resulted in

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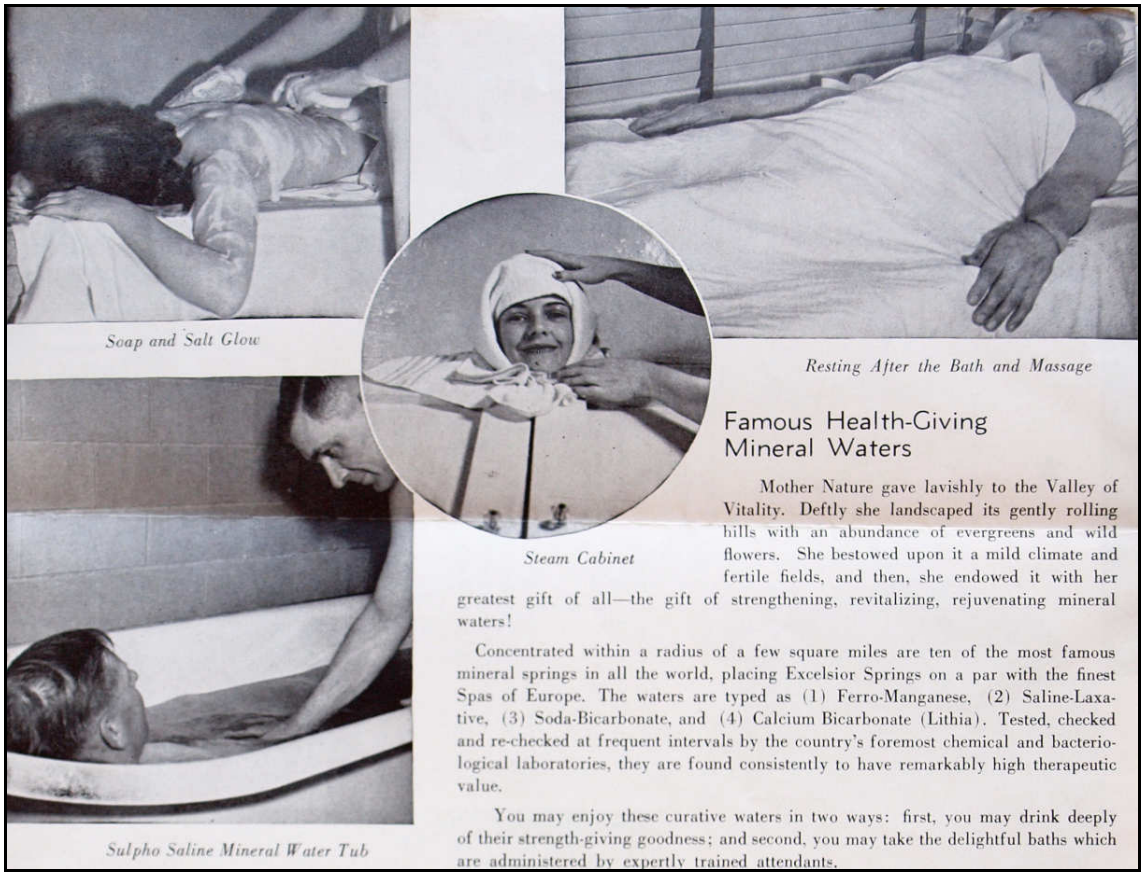
[30] *Golden Jubilee: America's Haven of Health*, 18.
[31] "Special Hall of Waters Anniversary Edition," 6-7.
[32] *America's Haven of Health*, reprinted in "Greater Excelsior Springs Centennial: 1880-1980," (Excelsior Springs, MO: Leader Publications) 38.
[33] Ibid., 38-40.

the Reconstruction Finance Corporation finally liquidating the federal government's loans. The floods ruined equipment and shut down plant operations, necessitating the relocation of bottling works to another building on higher ground. The heating coils for the swimming pool were ruined, forcing the pool to be closed in cold weather. By 1953, only about $50,000 of original $618,000 loan was repaid. Consequently, the RFC notified the city that loans were being foreclosed, forcing the city to seek refinancing.[34]

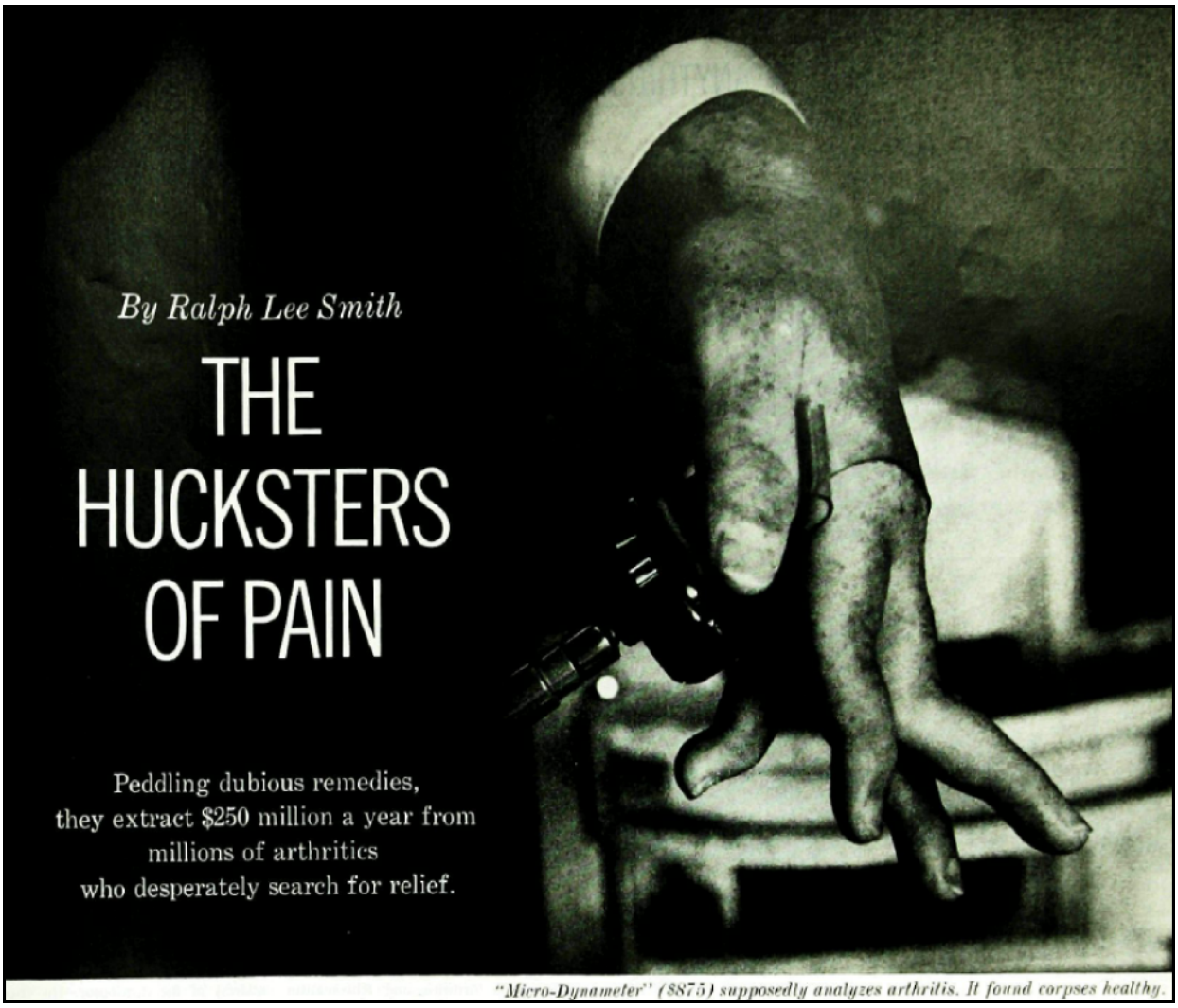


Brochure increasingly promoted hydrotherapy after WWII

Although there were no longer any privately operating mineral water wells after 1935, the private clinics, sanitariums, and hospitals expanded their services after World War II, with treatments continuing to include baths, massages and consumption of mineral waters. However, in many instances it became necessary to consolidate services in order for the various clinics to remain open in the 1950s. By the early 1960s, a more serious blow to Excelsior Spring's economic base occurred. There was growing suspicion nationwide about the effectiveness of treatments that were offered in the types of clinics found in Excelsior Springs. The Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation was skeptical of the value of hospitals such as the Ball Clinic. Legislation was passed which prohibited clinics from advertising cures. The most damaging event was an article in the August 24, 1963 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post.* Journalist Ralph Lee Smith came to

[34] "Famous Spa Has Water Woes But from Unexpected Source," *Kansas City Star* (13 December 1953).

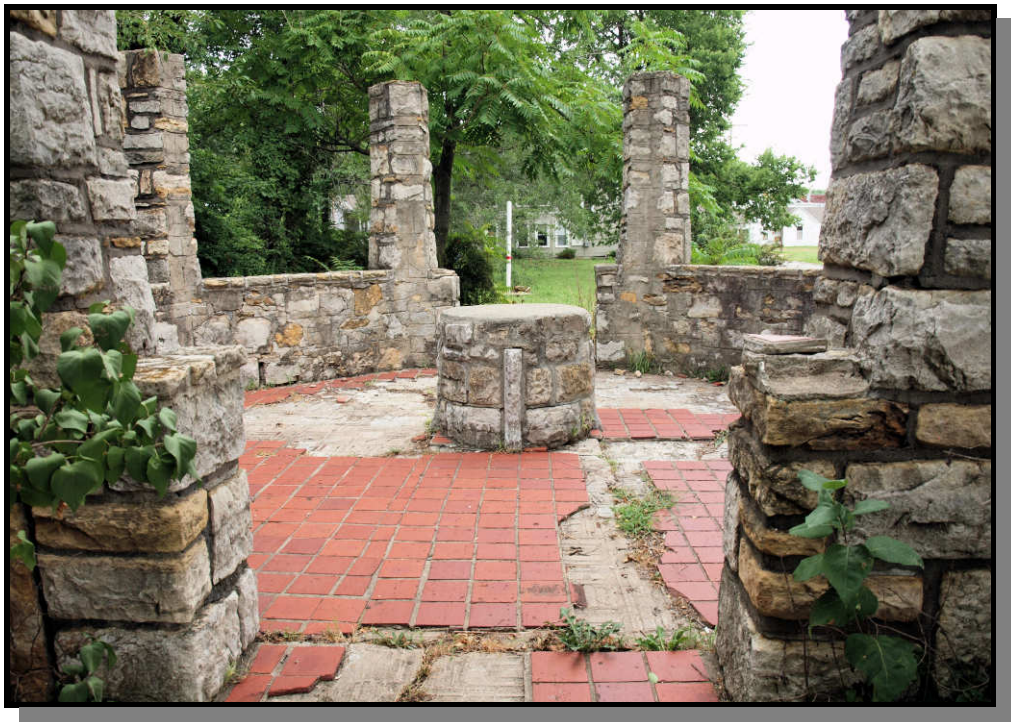
the Ball Clinic posing as a patient, and wrote about his findings in the article "The Hucksters of Pain." The clinic could not survive the negative publicity, and closed its doors at the end of the year.[35] Although the building was sold to the Midwest Arthritis & Rheumatism Clinic, which operated until the 1970s, the heyday of the health industry was over.



The Saturday Evening Post article that debunked the Ball Clinic

[35] "New Era Recalls Ball Clinic Grandeur," *Daily Standard* Vol. 87, No. 116 (11 June 1975).

The survey of mineral water historic resources identified and evaluated forty properties, listed in Appendix A. Although it was expected that several of the above-ground features of this property type have been demolished over the years, the extent of the demolition was not fully anticipated. Only one intact well house remains in Excelsior Springs, the Superior No. 1 Spring. The stone pagoda for the Link Soda Spring and Sulfo Salt Spring was also still extant, although missing its roof. During the course of this survey, rehabilitation of this resource had begun, including constructing a new roof.



Link Soda Spring and Sulfo Salt Spring pagoda (ca. 1910s-1920s)
Photo 29 June 2011, prior to roof reconstruction

In contrast to the two properties that still retained their spring house or pagoda, there were twenty properties with no visible remains above ground. Three properties either had documented or purported well mechanisms on building interiors: the Siloam Spring pump is located on the interior of the Hall of Waters building, while the wells purportedly located inside of 215-217 E. Broadway and 118 W. Excelsior were in privately owned buildings, and thus not accessible. There were two reconstructed pavilions, but only one (the Lithia No. 1 Spring at 245 E. Broadway) was built upon an extant historic concrete well pad.

There were five concrete well pads marking the original locations of wells; several of these still retained the metal well opening noting the exact well site. Some extant features were prsent at six properties, but it was uncertain if these features were related to the mineral water resources. For example, there were paired, narrow concrete pads barely visible in the side yard at 12859

Orrick Road. This property was the location for the Old Smith (Blue Rock) Spring, which was partially sunk in the ground. While it is likely that these remnants are associated with the Old Smith (Blue Rock) Spring, this warrants further investigation. Another example are the numerous stone and concrete features located in the general area of the Soterian spring. As no historic photographs were discovered of this spring, it is uncertain if the concrete pillars and circular platform set within the hillside are associated with the Soterian.

Above: *Concrete features in the ground at 12859 Orrick Road, which appear to correspond to the steps leading to the sunken floor of the Old Smith Spring.*

Right: *Old Smith Spring photograph courtesy of Dennis Hartman.*

Concrete pillars found near the historic location of the Soterian Spring.

Finally, there were several features associated with two significant historic wells at 905 Salem Road – the Salt Sulphur Spring and the Sulpho Saline Spring wells. These wells never had sales pavilions at this property; instead, the waters were piped into town to separate sales pavilions, and eventually the Hall of Waters. The city of Excelsior Springs still retains an easement on these wells.

Salt Sulphur Spring well

Sulpho Saline Spring well feature

The survey did not include property styles or types as typically classified by the National Park Service in the National Register of Historic Places bulletins. Instead, there were the following categories (either historic or extant):

- Spring or well house — If not also associated with sales, these were utilitarian buildings, and not typically found in historic photos. This category may also include other structures, such as filter buildings.
- Sales pavilion or pagoda — Most were frame; two masonry examples remain. Some were located over the spring or well; others merely sold water
- Well pads & other features — Originally stone; the extant examples are concrete

As the vast majority of inventoried properties lacked any above-ground resources, there were few evaluated as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. However, because of their rarity, and particularly due to the historic significance, nearly all of the properties with any significant amount of extant features were evaluated as eligible. Even though some of these were only well pads, they represent the changes over time that occurred when the wells were no longer operated by private entrepreneurs, and instead were purchased by the city in the 1930s. After the city purchased the private wells, most of the well houses, sales pavilions, and pagodas were demolished. Instead of free-standing structures scattered around the city, the mineral waters were

piped into the new PWA-built Hall of Waters. The remaining well pads are thus physical reminders of this shift from private ownership to public operation of the mineral water system.

Due to their significant historic associations with the development of Excelsior Springs, many of the resources may be eligible for local designation; the table in Appendix A lists the eligibility recommendations for both National Register and local designation.

National Register of Historic Places

In conjunction with this survey, a multiple property nomination form was prepared that included historic contexts and property types, including mineral water resources. As there are so few eligible mineral water resources, it is recommended that individual nominations be prepared for those that lie outside of existing N.R. districts. A few, however, are located within the two existing district nominations; these nominations could be revised to include these resources in the "contributing" property count.

Excelsior Springs Landmarks Register and Historic Districts

Due to their local significance, association with the city's historic development and main economic base, more properties are eligible for local designation, either as individual landmarks or as contributing resources within existing locally designated historic districts. It is recommended that the city-owned mineral water resources be designated first, followed in turn by those resources with willing property owners.

Additional survey and research

Additional research is needed in order to determine the locations or historic information for the properties listed in Appendix B. Furthermore, a few of the properties inventoried in this phase would benefit from additional archival and site research (see individual survey forms for specific recommendations). For this latter group, the survey forms should be updated and copies sent to the Missouri SHPO.

Planning activities

During the course of this survey project, extensive redevelopment occurred along E. Excelsior and E. Foley. This area contained several historic well locations (see map in Appendix C). The survey consultant interviewed the construction manager during the project; the latter stated that while no wells were discovered during demolition and site grading, there were several stone "cisterns." It is possible that these were, unfortunately, historic well sites.

The survey forms and maps that resulted from this project should be utilized in future redevelopment, whether funded through federal grants or privately. The Historic Preservation Commission is also encouraged to share these results with residents, as many of the wells were located on private property. It is possible that new information about extant features may be discovered.

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Van DeGreyn, B. Map. "Excelsior Springs, Missouri and vicinity in Clay & Ray Counties." January 1909.

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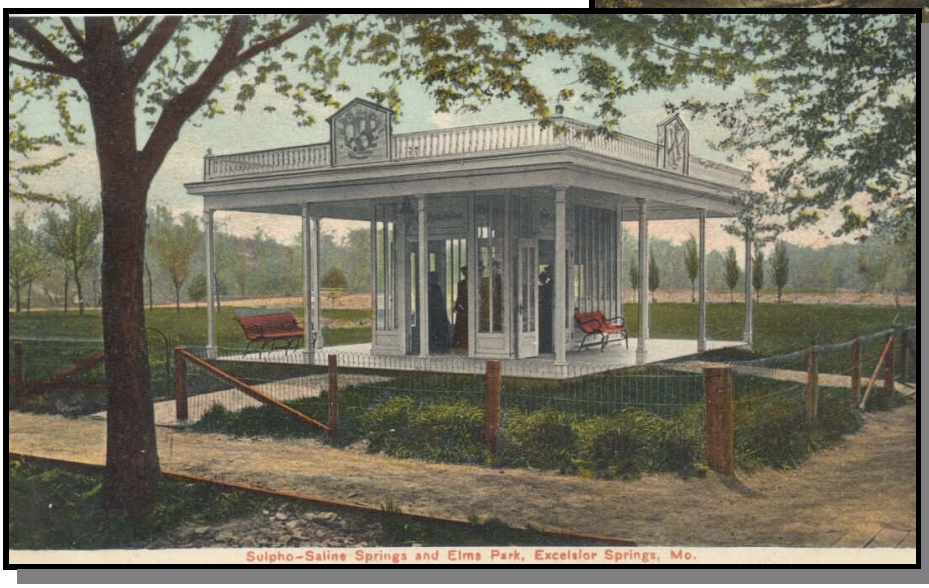
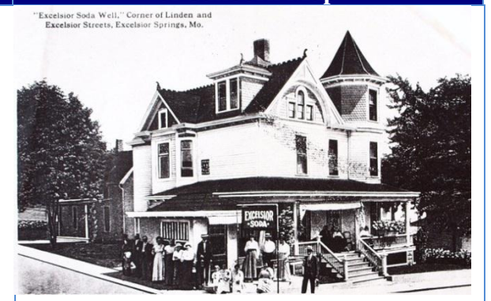
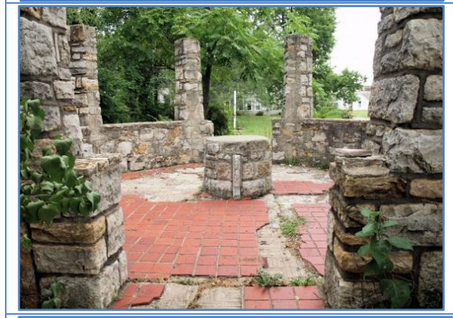
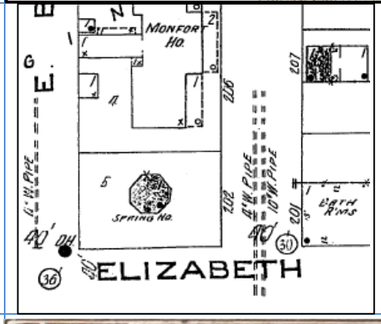
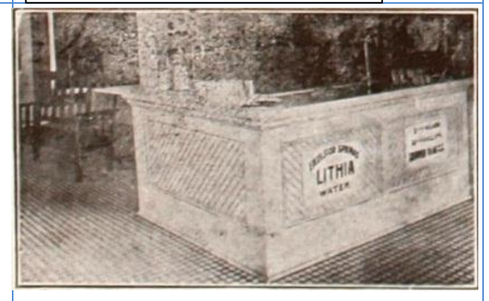
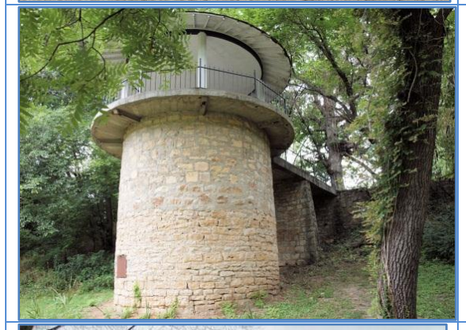
Regent Spring, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

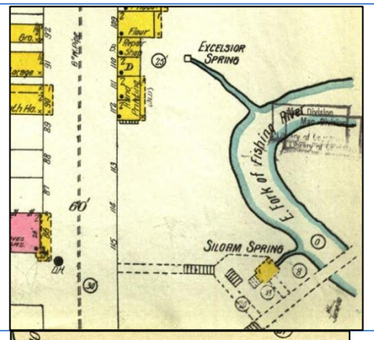
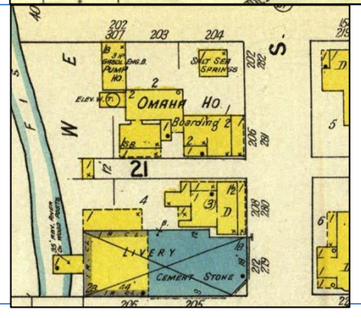

Sulpho-Saline Springs and Elms Park, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

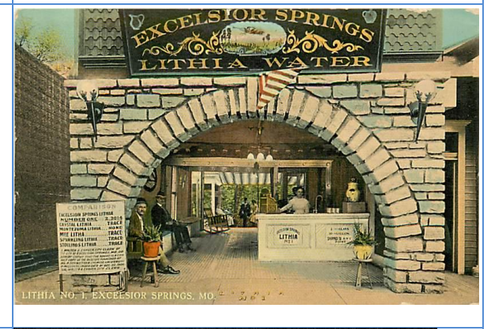
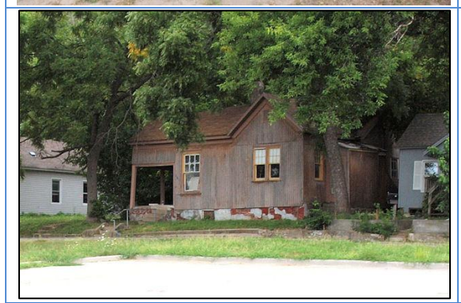
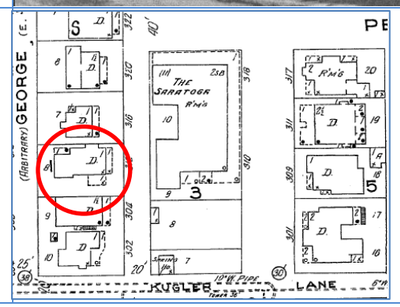
Appendix A: Historic Mineral Water Resources - Survey 2011-2012

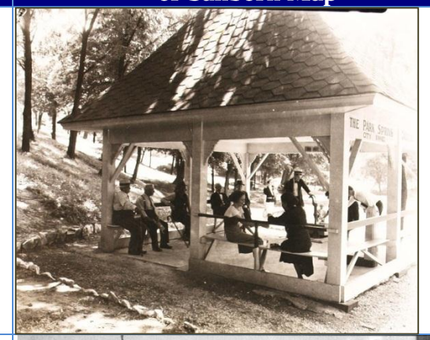
Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-001	101 Linden Avenue	Excelsior Soda Spring Hiawatha Soda Spring	Yes	Listed	Spring house demolished, but associated historic boarding house still extant. A hand pump marks approximate location of spring house. *Postcard: ca. 1915-1920s*	
	CL-AS-010-002	118 W. Excelsior Street	Fowler's Magnaferro Spring	No	Yes	Well is purportedly in the basement of historic building. Confirmation of well location may change N.R. eligibility evaluation. *Historic photo postcard: after 1905*	
	CL-AS-010-003	200 E. Excelsior Street	Link Soda Spring, ***and*** Sulfo Salt Spring	Yes	Yes	Original brick pavilion on NE corner of Excelsior & Elizabeth. This was replaced by the present stone pavilion in the late 1910s to early 1920s. Present pavilion is missing its roof, but is one of only two extant historic pavilions in Excelsior Springs. A new roof was added to the pavilion in 2012. *1926 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*	
	CL-AS-010-004	200 E. Broadway Ave.	Excelsior Springs Lithia Springs; Montezuma Lithia Spring	No	No	Water was served from bar within historic hotel – no longer extant. There was never an exterior pavilion. *Historic advertising photo: date unknown*	

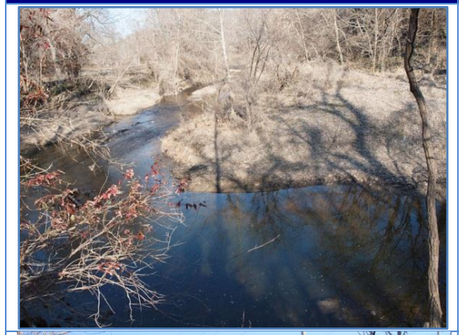
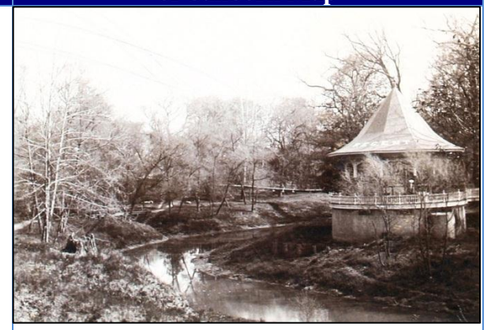
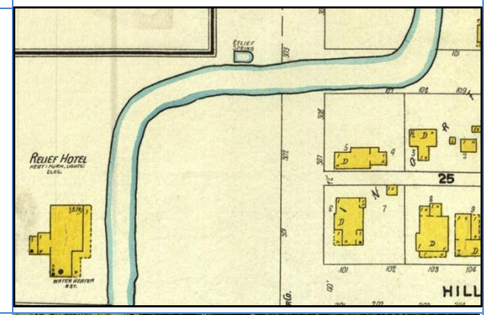
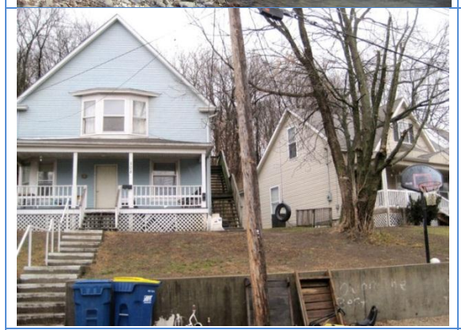
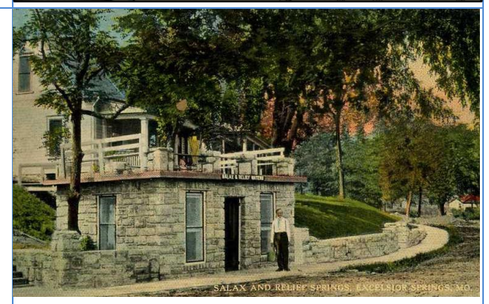
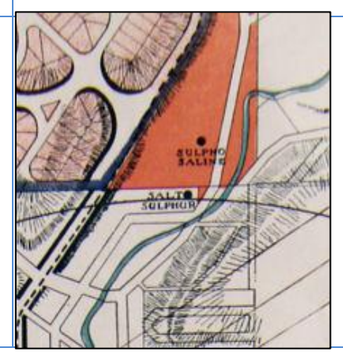
Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-005	302 W. Excelsior Street	Lithiated Soda Spring (Soda Saline Spring) ***and*** Excelsior Lithia Water (well also referred to as the Callerman Well)	No	Yes	The Sanborn maps show the pavilion was at the southeast corner of the lot, and the well was in back of the cottage. The well is marked today by the current well pad and plaque, and is located in a parking lot. *Postcard: ca. late 1910s-1920s*	
	CL-AS-010-006	334 E. Foley Street	Seltzer Salt Soda Spring, ***and*** Lithium Magnesium Spring/Well	No	No	No extant remnants. *Historic photograph: post-1906 to 1910s*	
	CL-AS-010-007	401-403 Benton Avenue	Crystal Lithium (Lithia) Springs; Crystal Mineral Water Company	No	No	New (non-historic) reconstructed pavilion is set slightly further back on lot than the original. *Historic photograph: ca. late 1910s-1920s*	
	CL-AS-010-008	402 E. Excelsior Street	Natrona Soda Spring	No	Yes (contr.)	Original wood pavilion located on southeast corner of the front yard. This was replaced by a later stucco pavilion located in southwest corner of front yard. The property may be eligible for local designation as a contributing resource in a district. *Historic photograph: ca. 1910s*	

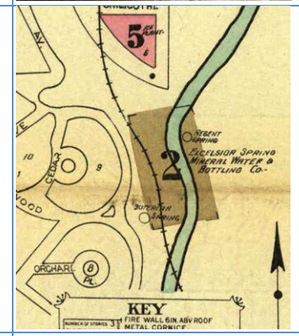
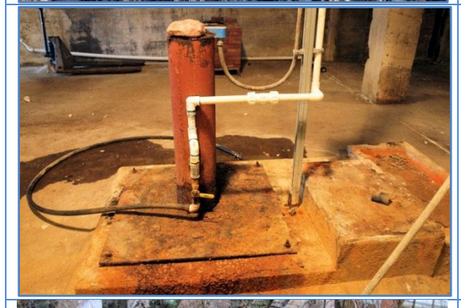
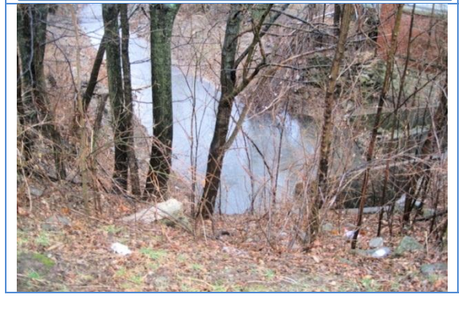
Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-009	406 Isley Boulevard	Imperial Lithia Spring	No	Yes	Well/pavilion located near Isley Blvd., southeast of the house. *Historic advertising photo: ca. 1900-1910s*	
	CL-AS-010-010	424 E. Broadway Ave.	Soda Carbonic Spring; Grant's Spring	No	No	Approximate location between the buildings at 418 and 424 E. Broadway, near the rear of the lots along E. Excelsior Street. *Postcard: post-1909 through 1930s*	
	CL-AS-010-011	Approx. 80' SW of intersection of Roosevelt & Superior	Superior No. 1 Spring	Yes	Listed	The only extant, intact, historic well and pavilion in Excelsior Springs. *Historic photograph: post-1912*	
	CL-AS-010-012	410 Superior Street	Superior No. 2 Spring	No	Yes*	Location of pavilion is marked on Sanborn maps. No visible remains are extant to mark the site. (local eligibility is primarily for the property's association as a hospital, since no extant features remain for the well) *Historic photograph: ca. 1923*	

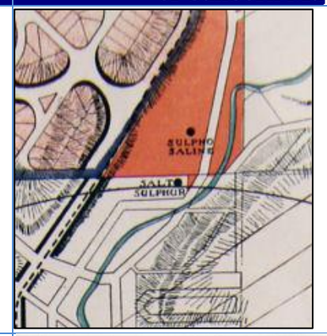
Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-013	North of intersection of Isley Blvd. & Regent Av. (county assessor's address "000 Isley Blvd.)	White Sulphur Spring	Needs data	Yes	The sales pavilion was on the east, and the well house was west (seen in the right on the historic photo). The extant concrete well pad, with metal manhole cover over the well, marks the location of the well house, which was demolished in 1936 when the Hall of Waters was constructed, and this water was piped to that building. *Historic photograph: ca. 1920s*	
	CL-AS-010-014	914 S. Marietta Street	Empire Twin	No	No	Historic stone features at this site were demolished shortly after this photograph in February 2012. Although they were in the purported location, it is uncertain if they are related to Empire Twin well due to lack of historic documentation. Due to lack of documentation about Empire Twin well(s), another theory is that the Regent and the Soterian wells were the "Empire Twins."	No known photographs or other historic documentation
	CL-AS-010-015	215-217 E. Broadway Ave.	Excelsior Spring	Listed (cont.)	Listed (district)	Well may be in sub- basement of this building. Sanborns show spring/well was closer to the rear of 233 E. Broadway – needs verification. The current designations do not include information on the historic associations with the Excelsior Spring. *1900 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*	
	CL-AS-010-016	112 S. Thompson Av.	Salt Sea Spring (Excelsior Saline Spring) ***and*** Keystone Lithia Spring	No	Listed (district)	The pavilion location is seen in the Sanborn maps, at the southwest corner of the intersection of South & Thompson (South Street formerly extended past the west side of Thompson Av). Property is located within the locally designated "Hall of Waters" district, although not counted as a resource. *1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*	

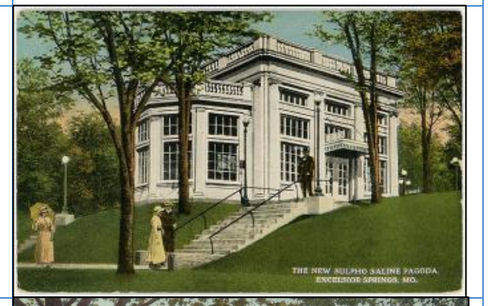
Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-017	421 E. Excelsior Street	Jones Soda Spring	No	Yes	Owned by the city, although the neighbor to the east currently uses the concrete well pad for swings, and the adjoining vacant land (which historically contained the associated house) for parking. *Postcard: ca. 1910s*	
	CL-AS-010-018	245 E. Broadway Ave.	Lithia No. 1 Spring	Listed (contr.)	Listed (district)	A reconstructed gazebo is above the well pad. The property is within an existing N.R. historic district; the well pad and the concrete stairs with stone balustrade were counted as contributing features in the "Excelsior Springs Hall of Waters Commercial East Historic District" National Register of Historic Places listing. The property is also in the local "Hall of Waters" district. *Postcard: ca. 1910s-1920s*	
	CL-AS-010-019	304 E. Excelsior Street	Mee Soda Spring	No	No	Historically located on the west side of the lot, along Kugler Lane (Street). During this survey project, the property was graded in preparation for new construction. *Postcard: ca. 1915-1920s.*	
	CL-AS-010-020	312 E. Foley	Muriated Soda Spring	No	No	The well was possibly located within the house, or at the rear of the property. During this survey project, the house was demolished in preparation for new construction. *1926 Sanborn map: no well or pavilion shown.*	

Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-021	in Siloam Park (part of 201 E. Broadway parcel)	Park Lithia Spring	No	Yes	A reconstructed concrete well pad with wood decking (the original gazebo well pad was square). A gazebo was reconstructed twice but fell victim to vandalism.	
	CL-AS-010-022	207 E. Excelsior	Peerless Lithia Spring; Leonard Well	No	No	The historic location was on a lot east of the building shown in the existing conditions photograph. This building was demolished during the course of this survey. *Postcard: ca. 1910s*	
	CL-AS-010-023	107 South Street	Pioneer Well	Listed (not counted)	Listed (district)	Pavilion was located just west of the boarding house/apartments which formerly stood on the site of the current parking lot (see historic postcard). Although the property is in the National Register "Excelsior Springs Hall of Waters Commercial West Historic District," it is not included in the resource count. It is also within the boundaries of the locally designated "Hall of Waters" district. *Postcard: ca. 1910s*	
	CL-AS-010-024	12859 Orrick Road	Old Smith Spring; Blue Rock Spring	Needs data	Yes	Historic well house was partially sunken, some concrete/stone remnants are barely visible in the side yard; possibly eligible under Criterion D. *Real photo postcard courtesy of Dennis Hartman: date unknown*	

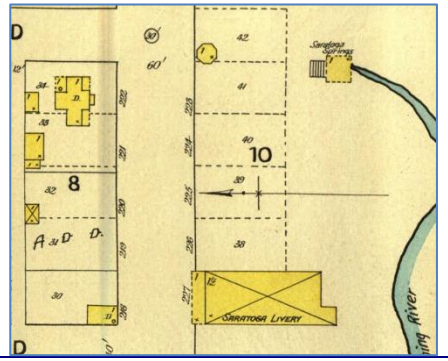
Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-025	Regent Park, southwest of corner of S. Marietta and Richmond Streets	Regent Spring	No	No	Although frequent flooding has changed the course and banks along the Fishing River, the location of Regent Spring was ascertained from historic maps and comparing historic photographs with existing natural features, such as the low-lying shelf in the Elms Hotel property along the west side of the river.	
	CL-AS-010-026	Near north end of Marietta Street, at Caldwell Avenue	Relief ***and*** Salix Springs	No	No	The original Relief sales pavilion was located above the spring, in the basin of the Dry Fork of the Fishing River; there are a few historic photographs. Salax Spring was drilled adjacent to the Relief (no known photos of the Salax *well*). Due to frequent flooding, the sales pavilions were moved to Caldwell Avenue (see next entry). Flooding and realignment of the river bed have obliterated any remnants of these springs. *1905 Sanborn Map*	
	CL-AS-010-027	508 Caldwell Avenue	Salax & Relief Spring pavilion	No	Yes	Due to frequent flooding of the Dry Fork of the Fishing River (where the wells for the Relief & Salax springs were located), a sales pavilion was constructed on Caldwell Avenue in front of private residences. The pavilion is demolished, although the historic homes remain. *Postcard: ca. 1910s*	
	CL-AS-010-028	905 Salem Road	Salt Sulphur Spring well	Yes	Yes	Well located on south side of private property, although the city still retains an easement. This is the well location; the water was piped to and sold from several pavilions and later the Hall of Waters; see survey # CL-AS-010-038. *Map: 1905, prepared by George Kessler*	

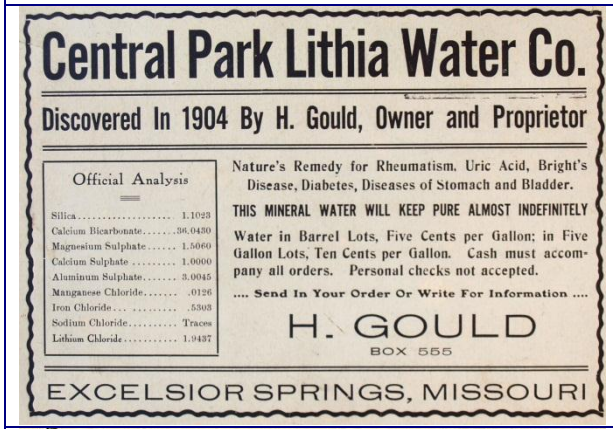
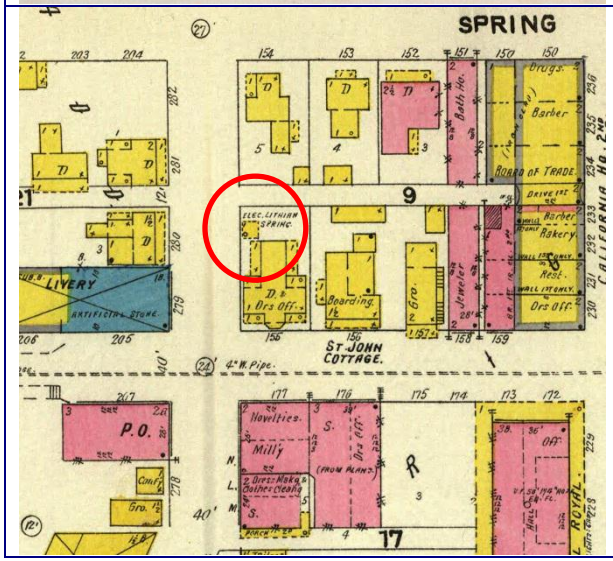
Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-029	339 E. Broadway Ave.	Saratoga Springs sales pavilion	Yes	Listed	Carnegie Library was built on the former sales pavilion site associated with *The Maples*. The well (and original sales pavilion) was located behind the current building at 106 Saratoga Avenue. The National Register eligibility & local landmark designation are based on the property's historic association and architecture as a Carnegie Library. *Postcard: ca. 1903-1910s*	
	CL-AS-010-030	West of 703 S. Kansas City Avenue	Soterian Spring	Needs data	Needs data	Likely location of Soterian Spring containing a semi-circular site against the hillside, with several concrete and stone pillars scattered around the location. Also, remnants of a possible stone stairway are just south. Soterian water was pumped into the nearby bottling works plant, but never sold from the well site. Thus there are no historic photographs of the well. Additional site investigation may reveal N.R. eligibility under Criterion D. *1905 Sanborn Map*	
	CL-AS-010-031	201 E. Broadway Ave.	Siloam Spring & pavilion (Excelsior Spring)	Listed	Listed	Currently under the Hall of Waters. Water was dispensed at the water bar. *Postcard: ca. 1903-1922*	
	CL-AS-010-032	Thompson Avenue near bridge over Dry Fork of Fishing River	Steck's Iron Spring	No	No	Historic photograph shows a pavilion in the creek bed; exact location unknown, although Steck owned property in this area *Historic photograph: ca. 1900*	

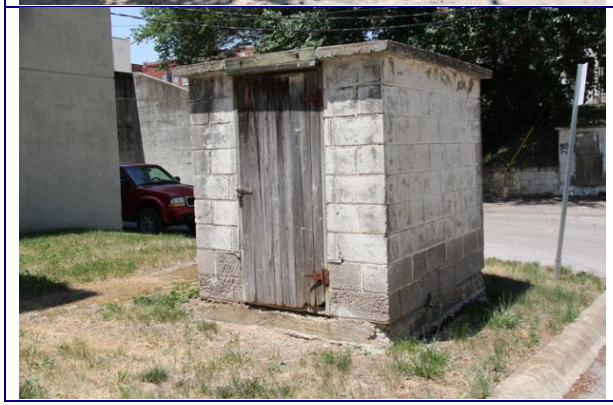
Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-033	905 Salem Road	Sulpho Saline Spring well	Yes	Yes	Well located on north side of private property, although easement still retained by the city. This is the well location; the water was piped to and sold from pavilions and later the Hall of Waters. *Map: 1905, prepared by George Kessler*	
	CL-AS-010-034	528 Caldwell	Sulphur Salt-Soda Spring	Needs data	Needs data	Stone ruins in back of house. A well was recently filled in during 2011. However, this may have been a family well only. Another possible location for the Sulphur Salt-Soda Spring is the vacant lot to the southwest – 526 Caldwell (possible the house seen in the historic photograph to the right). *Historic photograph: ca. 1906*	
	CL-AS-010-035	Sunnyside Park on Dunbar Avenue	Sunnyside Spring	No (see notes)	No (see notes)	Existing conditions photograph is of marker; exact well location undetermined. Although the well site was not located, the park may be eligible for designation as a contributing resource to a parks system nomination. *Historic photograph: date unknown*	
	CL-AS-010-036	249 E. Broadway Ave.	Willow Park Lithia Spring	Yes (contr.)	Yes	Located behind 249 E. Broadway, although this section of land is actually part of the city-owned parcel which includes the Hall of Waters and the park along the river. It was not included in the resource count for the existing N.R. district, but would be a contributing feature. *Historic postcard: ca. 1920s*	

Photograph	Survey #	Address	Historic Name	NR eligible	Local eligible	National Register & Local Landmark Eligibility Existing Conditions Comments	Historic photograph or Sanborn Map
	CL-AS-010-037	Near 615 S. Kansas City Avenue	Excelsior Springs Bottling Works	No	No	No physical remnants of the building remain. *Historic photograph: prior to late 1920s*	
	CL-AS-010-038	216 W. Broadway Ave.	Harr's pavilion Salt Sulphur Pagoda	No	No	Location of Harr's pavilion, which sold Salt Sulphur water. Now part of a larger parcel, the original address was 206 W. Broadway. *Historic postcard: ca. 1931*	
	CL-AS-010-039	201 E. Broadway Ave.	Sulpho-Saline Spring Pavilion No. 1	Listed	Listed	Located along sidewalk across from intersection w/Elizabeth St. Listed individually and within a N.R. district, although not for its association as the former location of the Sulpho Saline pavilion. *Historic postcard: ca. mid-late 1920s*	
	CL-AS-010-040	415 St. Louis Avenue	Sulpho-Saline Spring Pavilion No. 2	No	No	Pavilion was in two locations: on the SE corner of the intersection, and across from 514 S. Kansas City Av. *Historic postcard: ca. 1905-1909*	

Appendix B: Possible well/springs – not inventoried

Photograph/Sanborn	Name	Location	Notes/Source of reference
	Salt Soda Spring	Unknown	*The Waters of Excelsior Springs: Valley of Vitality*, pg. 41. Analysis provided, but no address.
	Salt Sulphur Spring pavilion	417 Thompson Av.	*The Waters of Excelsior Springs: Valley of Vitality.* Located on the former Music Hall and Bath House grounds. Purportedly just a pavilion; however, local residents report a well in the basement of this building.
	Saratoga Springs **well**	Behind 106 Saratoga Avenue	1894 Sanborn Map. Located approximately 105" south of Broadway and 50' west of Dewey Road (later Saratoga Avenue). Although the pavilion was located on the SW corner of E. Broadway & Saratoga after The Maples was built, the original well was further south. 

Photograph/Sanborn	Name	Location	Notes/Source of reference
	Sudphunet Salts pavilion	206 S. Wyman near P.O.; Broadway near Siloam Spring; Elms Park Pavilion; St. Louis Av, s.e. corner Kansas City Av.	1908-1909 *Kellogg-Baxter City Directory*
	Central Park Lithia	Unknown	"Central Park Lithia" folder, V1.200.112, Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives.
	Electric Lithia(n) Spring	Wyman, n.e. corner of South	1908-1909 *Kellogg-Baxter City Directory*. 1905 Sanborn Map.

Photograph/Sanborn	Name	Location	Notes/Source of reference
	Vichey	200 E. Excelsior *(Waters* book); or corner west of Saratoga (Gaines book, same location as Mee's Soda)	*The Waters of Excelsior Springs: Valley of Vitality.* Included in list on pg .58, but not in individual summaries. John J. Gaines, M.D., *A Souvenir Guide-Book of Excelsior Springs, Mo.,* 1912.
	Montrose Spring	Unknown	*The Waters of Excelsior Springs: Valley of Vitality,* pg. 32. Analysis provided, but no address.
	Montezuma Pavilion	202-204 E. Broadway	1908 *Blue Book of Excelsior Springs*
	Rocky Mountain Mineral Water	256 E. Broadway	1917 *Merchants City Directory*
	Unknown	Behind 215-217 E. Broadway	From "Mineral Wells Springs Eternal," V1.200.100.24, Excelsior Springs Museum & Archives: "White cement block buildings in the back of the Hall of Waters housed the city's wells, says [former Mineral Water Manager] Wilson. Unlike the Siloam Spring . . . these were soda wells. In this area was another well . . . which also produced soda water. It was located in back of what is now Brown's Pharmacy." Or possibly the "Excelsior Spring" which was purportedly located in the basement of 215-217 E. Broadway.
	Unknown	East of Hall of Waters	See above

Photograph/Sanborn	Name	Location	Notes/Source of reference
 	Lake Maurer mineral water pool	Lake Maurer Road	Formerly an amusement park in the early twentieth century, it was purchased in 1965 by the Assemblies of God for use as a camp. It is now a retreat center with year round activities.