



- EXPLANATION**
- SMOKY HILL TRAIL AND CHEROKEE TRAIL — Approximate locations of the traces of the trails as located by Long (1947). Dates indicate those years when parts of the trail were most commonly used; as one branch of the trail became popular with immigrants, others fell into general disuse except by local residents
  - ▲ CEMETERY — Where pioneer settlers of the Parker area are interred
  - MONUMENT COMMEMORATING THE 20-MILE HOUSE
  - 12 STAGE STOP AND HOSTELRY ON THE SMOKY HILL TRAIL — Commonly known as the 12-, 17-, or 20-Mile House, for their distances from early-day downtown Denver, these houses served as lodges, restaurants, forns, post offices, and gathering places for the general use of local residents. Almost all the houses have been torn down, and locations are approximately shown. Cherry Valley Stage Station, a predecessor to 12-Mile House, was abandoned when 12-Mile House was established
  - HIGHLAND — The higher surfaces in the quadrangle, which generally provide unlimited views of mountains and plains. For example, the view from location "X" on the map encompasses the Front Range from Longs Peak on the north to Pikes Peak on the south, and includes much of the Denver metropolitan area
  - FORELAND — Surfaces flanking the highlands, which mostly provide extensive general views of plains and nearby countryside, as well as somewhat restricted views of the mountain front. For example, the view from location "Y" on the map encompasses the Front Range from Devils Head in the Rampart Range on the south to the Table Mountains near Golden on the north, as well as much of the western Denver metropolitan area, Cherry Creek valley, and Cherry Creek Reservoir. Some areas in steep-sided canyons allow "gunbarrel"-type views downvalley that are somewhat restricted laterally. Foreland surfaces commonly form steep to moderately steep slopes, but locally may be on very gentle slopes
  - UPLAND — Elevated, gently sloping to gently rolling land surfaces above stream valleys which generally provide unobstructed but somewhat restricted views of the enclosing higher lands. For example, the view from location "Z" on the map encompasses the valley and flood plain of Cherry Creek from near Parker to the Cherry Creek Reservoir, as well as the upland and foreland areas east of Cherry Creek
  - LOWLAND — The lowest surfaces in the quadrangle, composed mostly of flood plains and stream valleys, which generally provide very limited views. Views are least restricted within the Cherry Creek valley where the plain is wide and has a gentle slope
  - APPROXIMATE TRACE OF RIDGE CRESTS — From which more extensive views are available than from other places on the same surface feature

**DISCUSSION**

The eroded landscape in the Parker quadrangle provides many potentially attractive building sites that have either views of the mountains or plains or views of nearby hills and valleys. This same dissection of the countryside also controlled location of the early trails and immigrant routes, for wagons generally took the easiest route between settlements. Traces and dates of use of these routes and approximate sites of the stage stops, from Long (1947), are shown on the map. Pioneer cemeteries and a monument marking one of the stage stops are still in place and are located on the map. Of the trails shown, the Smoky Hill was an early-day immigration route to the Denver region from Kansas; the Cherokee Trail coincided with the Smoky Hill as far south as Parker, and then trended southward to connect with the Santa Fe Trail near Pueblo, Colorado.

Placement of map-unit boundaries was determined by the field of view available from various parts of the land surface. Landforms were the principal factors used to distinguish highlands, forelands, uplands, and lowlands; these areas provide the broadest to most restricted views, in the order listed. Generally, views westward from high places include the mountains and part of the Denver metropolitan area. Views eastward include the plains country of eastern Colorado. Views in both general directions locally include the valley of Cherry Creek and the Cherry Creek Reservoir.

This map is designed to emphasize some factors of human and physical geography in the Parker quadrangle that are of common interest. It should be used only as a guide in land-use planning and is not suitable for selection of individual sites. Specific sites considered for development should be studied by a specialist in the planned use. Such a study should include all physical factors that may affect land use.

**REFERENCE**

Long, Margaret, 1947, The Smoky Hill Trail: Denver, W. H. Kistler Co., 376 p.



Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1965  
Photorevision as of 1972  
10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system, central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue

SCALE 1:24,000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

**MAP OF PIONEER TRAILS, STAGE STOPS, AND AREAS WITH A VIEW IN THE PARKER QUADRANGLE, ARAPAHOE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES, COLORADO**

By  
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