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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Park View Playground & Field House

other names/site number Park View Recreation Center

2. Location

street & number 693 Otis Place, NW ☐ not for publication

city or town Washington ☐ vicinity

state District of Columbia code DC county N/A code 001 zip code 20010

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local

D. Maloney DAVID MALONEY — 12/30/2013

Signature of certifying official — Date

DC SHPO — DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

for Edson N. Beall — 2.24.14

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [ ] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [X] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [X] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] building(s)
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
		buildings
2	2	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation/Park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation/Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH-20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival/Tudor Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Brick, Stucco, Wood
roof: Asphalt
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Description Summary:

The Park View Playground and Field House is a one and one-half acre outdoor playground and recreation site. It is located north of and across the street from the neighboring Park View Elementary School and has served for many years as an extension of the school. In addition to playground equipment, the playground contains a 1 -1/2 story field house built in 1932 and located on the north central portion of the playground property, and two non-contributing buildings. The field house—a 1-1/2-story gable-roofed building—recalls Colonial-era, Tidewater region dwelling forms with Tudor Revival-style treatment that reflects the building style of the adjacent and associated Park View Elementary School. The field house building is constructed of red brick on the first level with stucco and half-timber construction for the second floor gables and dormers. The Tudor elements of the field house were deliberately designed to complement the neighboring Park View School.

The playground also contains a non-contributing recreation center on the southeast corner of the property that dates to ca. 1980 designed by R. Ridley and constructed of concrete block. An addition to the rear of the building was constructed in 2003. There is also a non-contributing concrete block pool house and wading pool on the eastern end of the property along Warder Street. Both of these non-contributing buildings were built beyond the end-date of the period of significance, are unremarkable, and are not in keeping with either the 1932 field house or the 1916 school.

General Description:

The Park View Playground is prominently located on Warder Street between Otis and Princeton Places, NW (Lot 0001 in Square 3032). The property is bounded on the west by private residences.

Rectangular in plan, the Park View Field House is a 1 ½-story brick building with solid American bond brick walls on the first story supporting stucco and half-timbering in the half-story above. The building is set upon a low brick foundation and is covered with a steeply pitched gable roof featuring two gabled dormers on the south facade, a substantial exterior end brick chimney on the east end wall, and a single-story porch (now enclosed) spanning the south elevation. The porch, historically having wooden posts supporting its roof, is today enclosed by walls clad with stucco and wood designed to match the half-timbering of the half-story. The former porch is covered by a pent roof that is integrated into the main roof and extends from it as a catslide. Single windows originally having 6/6 double-hung wood sash (now replaced with 1/1 vinyl windows) are located in the side walls, dormers and north-facing elevation.

The Park View Field House is characterized by its 1-1/2-story Colonial-Revival-style building form and its Tudor Revival-style half-timbering.

Exterior Description

The southern façade is dominated by a single-story porch (now enclosed) spanning the length of the building. It is punctuated by two sets of double-hung windows symmetrically placed, also installed as part of the enclosure work. Two gabled dormers are located on the steeply pitched roof directly above the first level windows. Both the dormers and the enclosed porch walls are clad with stucco and wood designed to match the half-timbering of the half-story.

The eastern elevation consists of a single story capped by a gabled half-story. The first-story of the elevation is constructed of brick laid in American bond fashion terminating in a soldier course. The half-story is clad in stucco and half-timbering. A substantial brick chimney is located in the center of the elevation. An entrance door is located to the north of the chimney and a window is to the south. Both are located within the brick first-story and placed symmetrically. The enclosed porch is to the south of the brick structure and is clad in stucco and half-timbering.

The north elevation consists of single-story America bond brick construction terminating in a soldier course beneath a steeply pitched half-story roof. The brick was originally punctuated by three windows and a door at equal intervals dividing the space into quarters. The two window openings to the east are still extant. The entry door and half window on the western end have been bricked but their locations are still evident.

The south elevation continues the American bond brick first-story capped by the half-story gable clad in stucco and half-timbering. To the south the enclosed porch area continues with stucco and half-timbering on the first-story. The brick first-story is divided symmetrically into thirds. The center includes a recessed door into the building. To the north of the entrance is a double-hung window. To the south the elevation shows evidence of a former window since bricked in. Above the door, the gable is pierced by a half-round window.

Interior Description

The interior floor plan generally resembles that of a Colonial-era Hall-Parlor plan house. In the case of the field house, the large eastern room rises to the full height of the structure. It contains a four-log fireplace in the center of the eastern wall and an open staircase in the northwest corner ascending to the second level loft on the western end of the building. Both elements remain intact. A smaller single-story room occupies the western end of the interior. The center contains a hallway that once led to the former entryway on the north. This area is currently configured as a small kitchen. The enclosed porch area consists of one large rectangular room connected to the interior via two large archways piercing the original exterior southern wall.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- [ ] A owed by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1921-1954

Significant Dates

1921; 1932; 1947; 1952; 1954

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Harris, Albert L.

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance extends from 1921 when the field house was constructed until 1954, the date that all District of Columbia parks and recreation centers became legally desegregated. Although Park View Playground was desegregated in 1952, the Period of Significance extends beyond that date and through the first two years of the playground's use by all races, before desegretation became universal in 1954.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of signficance and applicable criteria)

The Park View Playground qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion A because it is associated with historical periods, social movements, groups, institutions, or patterns of growth and change that contributed significantly to the heritage, culture or development of the District of Columbia. Namely, Park View Playground was associated with a local movement to end segregation at the city's public playgrounds. Community concern about the segregated nature of District of Columbia playgrounds, and especially the Park View Playground, initiated the public debate that ultimately ended segregation in all District playgrounds. The story of integration at Park View Playground, spanning five years, is unique. The continued struggle to free the playground from the biased and segregated practices of the District Recreation Board was followed both locally and nationally, thereby extending the conversation about race and segregation far beyond the Park View neighborhood.

The Park View Playground's field house also qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as a good example of the city's recreational buildings, designed according to an established building type during the tenure of Municipal Architect Albert Harris (1921-1933). The construction of the field house was made in response to the continued growth of the community and the need to provide recreational facilities. The field house, designed in the Colonial Revival style with Tudor design elements followed a standard plan for field houses from that period. The Park View field house remains a notable example of its type and is the product of Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris, whose work is closely identified with civic architecture in Washington, D.C.

The Park View field house retains its integrity of location, setting, design, craftsmanship, materials, feeling and association. Park View Field House is a purpose-built recreational structure of the District of Columbia; it was constructed according to an established design model and embodies characteristics illustrating the evolution of recreational architecture in the District; it stands on its original site; and it retains its original building massing and materials.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

Summary Paragraph:

The Park View Playground, located on Warder Street between Otis and Princeton Places, NW, was officially established as a permenent community playground in 1921. Improvements in 1932 included a wading pool, tennis court, and a 1 -1/2-story field house based on a Colonial Revival design, but using Tudor Revival-style elements. The main elevation faces the Park View School to the south and the playground was considered an extension of the school property. The Park View Playground is significant in the Area of Architecture as an excellent example of its building type as developed by Municipal Architect Albert Harris during the 1930s.

The property is also significant in the Area of Social History for the role Park View Playground played in integrating D.C. recreation facilities. Like schools, District playgrounds were originally segregated. Along with five other playgrounds, Park View was among the first to be considered for integration in 1947 in response to changing demographics within Washington. Park View was not open to all children until 1952, two years prior to the integration of all District playgrounds. The five-year struggle of the Park View community to have an integrated playground was closely followed and reported nationally, with reports published in New York, Chicago, and Atlanta.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Park View Neighborhood: An Overview

The Park View neighborhood can trace its organization and name to March 1, 1908, when the Park View Citizens' Association first convened at the old Whitney Avenue church. The name "Park View" was chosen due to the community's close proximity to the U.S. Soliers' Home. The earliest known description of the borders for Park View is found in the first issue of the Park View News (1916). All known subsequent descriptions of the neighborhood agree with those published in 1916. The most clearly stated description comes from the 1917 Constitution and By-Laws of the Park View Citizens' Association and is provided below.

... bounded as follows: By the south side of Gresham Street on the south, Rock Creek Church Road on the north, Soldiers' Home grounds on the east, and both sides of Georgia Avenue from Gresham Street to Park Road; thence west to both sides of Park Road to New Hampshire Avenue; thence north on the west side of New Hampshire Avenue to Rock Creek Church Road.

From the 19th century to 1908 the area now know as Park View was composed of several private estates, chiefly Whitney Close, Schuetzen Park, and Bellevue. These properties, along with the Cammack family estate and others, were subdivided in turn and eventually united by the Park View Citizens' Association as one community. From 1946 to 1950 the Park View community experienced rapid demographic change from a solidly white neighborhood to a solidly black community.

Children's welfare was a high priority of the Park View community. Their concern for adequate public education facilities was a primary cause leading to the organization of the Park View Citizens' Association. Through their constant lobbying efforts, the community successfully achieved construction of a new elementary school, named after the community, in 1916. The school's need for playground space was compromised by portable classrooms located on the school grounds in 1920. Again, the community vocalized its needs for recreation area, and the city responded by purchasing the land adjacent to the school for dedicated recreation space.

As with the adjacent school, the Park View playground has a rich history of community activism which resulted in it being one of eighteen permanent playgrounds established by 1921. Of these, seven are still active. The site is significant for both being an early "modern playground" designed by municipal architect Albert Harris and due to its key and very public role in the struggle to desegregate Washington's playgrounds. The original field house, built in 1932 to designs by Harris, is uniquely designed with a colonial vernacular form and Tudor details.

Early History of Park View Playground

Playground space was unofficially located on the grounds of the Park View School from 1916 to 1920. Need for a community playground was identified as early as 1915 by the Park View Citizens' Association, which urged Congress to provide $22,000 for the purchase of a specified tract to adjoin the Park View School property then under construction. Need for establishment of a playground grew in 1919, at which time the playground space located on the grounds of the Park View School was attracting an average daily attendance of 1,100 children. So great was the need for recreation space in this section of Washington that the playgrounds department announced on January 12, 1920, that the Columbia Heights and Park View playgrounds would be kept open all winter, having received sufficient funds from private sources to fund the open status. Residents advocated for the purchase of the vacant lot north of the school house as the site of the future playground and made plans to purchase the lot and create a playground as a permanent part of the municipal system in 1919.

In response to the repeated requests of the community, in 1920 the U.S. House of Representatives considered purchasing the plot of ground north of the Park View School for a permanent playground. The empty lot north of the school was the only vacant piece of ground near the school and the school itself had no playground. The board of education and the superintendent of public schools had previously gone on record favoring the purchase of the lot for a playground. Like many Washington playgrounds at the time, the lot was already in use as a playground through a temporary lease, but only its purchase would ensure its continued use as a playground. Congress decided in favor of purchasing land for the playground and inserted in the 1921 appropriation bill $32,000 for the purchase of the land. In a board meeting on April 5, 1921, the District Commissioners decided to purchase the empty lot then in use as the playground. The funding was not available until July.

This added the 1-1/2-acre of land north of the school to the one-acre playground of the Park View School, making Park View one of eighteen official municipal playgrounds. Yet, frustration continued as few improvements had been made to the new playground by mid-February 1922 despite the expectation that work to grade the property would begin in January. Hundreds of children were cramped onto a small portion of the property as the remaining, unimproved lot was an expanse of rough red clay unfit for play purposes in its condition. Even though the lot had previously served as a playground, work begun in February 1922 was interrupted leaving much of the property unusable. Finally, after repeated efforts from the Park View Citizens' Association, work commenced and was in full swing during the first week of March. The scope of work included grading the high ground on the west side of the property for basketball and baseball. Tennis courts were laid out on the north side of the property with the Warder Street side of the playground reserved for smaller children. The construction of a new field house and bathing pool were deferred due to lack of funds. Grading of the grounds was finally completed sufficiently by May 13, 1922, allowing Park View and Georgetown to compete in the first baseball game at the playground.

Throughout the 1920s, the playground was largely a flat open space devoted to playing fields. This made the property ideal for a community carnival in October 1927. The event was in celebration of the removal of central streetcar poles from Georgia Avenue and the installation of high-power streetlights. On the first day of the celebration, cheering celebrants lined Georgia Avenue and watched a parade of more than 200 decorated automobiles and floats which wound through Washington, past the Wilson building, and ended at the playground. Following the parade there was a celebration at the playground that included Engineer Commissioner William B. Ladue among the 2,000 participants. 19-year-old Park View resident Catherine Beck was crowned queen of the carnival.

Ceremonial First Lady tree plantings also became a regular event at District playgrounds between 1928 and 1934. Under the auspices of the Women's City Club, Mrs. William Howard Taft inaugurated the short-lived tradition by planting a red maple on the grounds of the Park View playground, amid 400 children and adults. The tree was received by Commissioner Sidney F. Taliaferro, who in turn presented it to Mrs. Susie Root Rhodes, director of playgrounds for the District. Mrs. Taft was introduced by Mrs. J. Garfield Riley, president of the Women's City Club, who told of the part Mrs. Taft had played in saving the trees of Washington, and stated that Mrs. Taft had selected the red maple as it was her favorite species. After throwing a few shovelfuls of dirt, Mrs. Taft presented the tree to Commissioner Taliaferro. The children, led by Dr. E.N.C. Barnes, director of music of the public schools, led the children in singing the "Planting Song" sung to the tune of "America."

The tradition was continued on February 28, 1929, with Mrs. Calvin Coolidge planting a tree at the Chevy Chase playgrounds as one of her last acts as First Lady. More than 1,000 persons witnessed the ceremony. Though this was the second such event at a District playground, it was described as an established custom by former First Ladies in their final days in the Capital before the inauguration of a new administration.
Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was honored in 1930 with a tree planting at the Virginia Avenue Playground and Mrs. Herbert Hoover planted a willow oak on October 22, 1931, at the Mitchell Park Playground. After a two year break, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt planted the last such tree on October 28, 1934. This tree was planted at the McMillan Playground (1st and Bryant).

Albert Harris-designed Field Houses

The Park View Field House, built in 1932, was the second such structure built according to plans drawn up by Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris to replace the storage shacks then found on most municipal playgrounds (the first field house built is stll standing and located at Mitchell Park (1931)). Later examples include those built at Happy Hollow (1933 – since razed), Twin Oaks (1934), Lincoln (1934), and Chevy Chase (1936), for a total of six. The field house at Palisades (1936) incorporates the 1-1/2-story Colonial-Revival-style structure as a wing of a much larger structure. Among this Colonial Revival-style field house sub-type, Park View is unique. It is the only example constructed on a playground adjacent to a school and the only example to incorporate Tudor design elements, which were intended to make the structure compatible with the Gothic-Revival style Park View School.

Harris' development of the 1 -1/2 story Colonial-Style field house was an extension of his attempt to find appropriate Colonial-style types for the District's municipal buildings. The Colonial Revival style was already well established for the city's public schools and firehouses when Harris turned his attention to playground structures. Rather than embrace the more formal Colonial Revival style then in use for the city's public buildings, Harris drew inspiration from the Colonial-era domestic building tradition, which, presumably, he considered more appropriate for the less formal activities of play, rest, and recreation.

While Harris's development of a vernacular field house type to support the informal activity of recreation may seem to be an obvious development, there was likely more behind this choice than is apparent. Some of the city's larger contemporaneous recreation facilities were designed in the more formal Colonial Revival architecture akin to public schools – examples include the buildings at Anacostia (1925) and Banneker (1934). Harris's decision to design a small vernacular Colonial structure likely had more to do with the small size of the playgrounds where they were built and a strong association between Mitchell Park – site of the first field house of this type -- and President Herbert Hoover. By extension, the association with President Hoover also would have called to mind the strong association between Hoover and outdoor recreation; the Presidential Rapidan Camp in the Blue Ridge Mountains; and the creation of Shenandoah National Park – all of which were frequently in the news while Harris designed the 1 -1/2 story field house for Mitchell Park in 1930. While the general form of the Mitchell Park field house in keeping with many examples of Appalachian cabins, Harris's design is more in keeping with Colonial Hall-and-Parlor house types from the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Prior to becoming President, Mr. and Mrs. Hoover lived across the street from Mitchell Park at 2300 S Street, NW, during his service as Secretary of Commerce. The Hoovers resided on S Street from 1921 until 1929. The S Street house's close proximity to Mitchell Park was noted and among the reasons why Mrs. Hoover was invited to plant a tree at Mitchell Park –

in her honor – on October 23, 1931. The selection of Mitchell Park for the ceremonial tree planting was entirely due to Mrs. Hoover's former residence.

Most early Hall-and-Parlor Houses were frame structures, clad in weatherboard. The field house type developed for Mitchell Park and subsequently built at Happy Hallow and Twin Oaks conformed to this aesthetic. However, most surviving examples of Hall-and-Parlor Houses were the less typical but more durable brick houses. At Park View, Harris adapted the brick variant for his design. This house type is closely associated with the mid-Atlantic Tidewater region and is also known at the Virginia house.

The styling of the Park View field house is unique when compared to the other Harris designed structures, and this is especially true when comparing it to those built at Mitchell Park, Happy Hollow, and Twin Oaks. These three, built between 1931 and 1934, were all designed or likely in the planning phase prior to municipal architect Albert Harris's death in February 1933 . All three were of frame construction with gable roofs and three dormer windows. Rather than strictly adhering to his Colonial-revival design, Harris adapted the Tudor elements into the design due to its proximity to and association with the neighboring Park View School.

The Park View School was designed by municipal architect Snowden Ashford in the Gothic revival style. Though initially completed in 1916, by 1920 the school was over capacity, requiring the use of portable class rooms. Eventually, two new wings were designed for the school and completed in 1931. The additions, designed by Albert Harris, retained the original Gothic revival design. This, coupled with the playground's close association with the school and a desire to use architecture as a unifying element, surely led to Harris deviating from his own design aesthetic for playground field houses when construction began the following year at Park View Playground.

The Park View field house was part of a larger design to create a modern playground in Park View. With the aid of unemployed labor, Park View was one of several playgrounds enlarged and facilities increased. Along with Mitchell Park and Georgetown, Park View was a notable example. Upon the completion of the field house, wading pool, and other amenities, Park View became one of the few "modern playgrounds" attributed to municipal architect Albert Harris. While Harris was designing the field house type for Mitchell Park in 1931, he was also concurrently involved in the addition to the neighboring Park View School. Following the modernization of Park View Playground in 1932, a modern playground was constructed at Happy Hollow in 1933, once again including a field house, wading pool, and other amenities. One can presume additional playgrounds of this design would have been built were it not for Albert Harris's sudden and unexpected death in February 1933.

End of Seggregation

The Park View community was among the earliest neighborhoods in the District to integrate. Black families began to move into the neighborhood as early as the 1930s; by 1946 it was a notably mixed neighborhood. The change in the neighborhood's demographics sped up notably after the Supreme Court ruled that restrictive covenants were not enforceable in 1948. This was at odds with the District's segregated public school and playground systems then enforced.

The issue of playground segregation in the District of Columbia took on a national importance when, on June 12, 1945, the District Recreation Board voted to add language in its by-laws, rules and regulations governing the board which established the use of play areas on a segregated basis by a 3 to 2 vote. The board quickly drew criticism for this action with many organizations demanding the right to be heard – among them the NAACP, Fraternal Council of Negro Churches, and the Washington Chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. As a result, the Recreation Board scheduled public hearings for August 14, 1945. Approximately 200 Washington citizens attended the three-hour hearing, but to no avail. The board, confronted with the illegality of its own action in adopting a discriminatory by-law by the vote of less than a majority of its total membership decided to vote on the measure again in September 1945, again passing the measure by a vote of 5 to 2.

Taking up the issue again in 1947, "a committee of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare [sent a letter to the District Recreation Board]. The letter said that Negro children of the Park View School neighborhood were forced to play in the streets and alleys because Park View Playground [was] for white children only." The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and various local civic groups joined the Southern Conference on Human Welfare's protest against the racial segregation practices of the Recreation Board. The Southern Conference for Human Welfare singled out Park View Playground in their request for the board to support "mixed" activities to reflect the composition of the neighborhood.

While the Recreation Department denied the request of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare, it did result in the board deciding to support a study of the six playgrounds where the population composition of the city was changing. The

District Recreation Board's goal in conducting the study was to determine "how to get the best use out of six playgrounds located in sections of Washington where colored and white population [was] shifting rapidly." The carefully worded resolution approving the study did not exclude the possibility that segregation on the playgrounds could end. According to board president Harry Wender, "If the committee brought in a report suggesting joint use of the playgrounds which is against the rules of the board – the board then has the option of changing the rule." The playgrounds studied were Rose Park, in Georgetown; Rosedale, Seventh and Gales streets, NE; Park View, Warder and Newton, NW; Hoover, Second and N streets, SW; New York Avenue, First and New York Avenue, NW; and Happy Hollow, Eighteenth and Kalorama, NW. Of these, only Rose Park was then reserved for black children.

In evaluating Park View Playground, the District Recreation Board invited representatives of interested civic, citizen and parent-teacher groups to attend a hearing on Wednesday, July 7, 1948, to weigh in on their proposal to change the playground from white to black use. The hearing was contentious, with arguments flaring up twice between board members and speakers. The question before the board was whether Park View should be used by white or black children. Transfer of the playground was proposed by Recreation Superintendent Milo C. Christiansen, who reported school census figures showing that in the 5-year period from 1942 to 1947 the number of white children in the area had decreased from 1036 to 351 while the number of black children had increased from 427 to 576. Speakers George F. Stanton, representing the committee on the Park View Playground of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and Mrs. Lucille Freeman of the Pleasant Plains Civic Association asked the recreation board to make the playground available to "all children without regard to race or color." Stanton, in a heated debate with the board, was ruled out of order when he called for opening the playground to all children.

After deliberating, the Recreation Department Board decided on July 13, 1948 to endorse a controversial proposal made by Milo F. Christiansen, recreation superintendent, which "designated [Park View] as a Negro unit" in the District's recreation system. However, "so long as the adjacent school remain[ed] white, the playground be used by white children during school hours." This created a unique situation for Park View whereas the playground was reserved for white children during the school hours of Park View Elementary. After 3:30 p.m., the playground was reserved for black children. The action was opposed by the Petworth and Park View Citizens' Associations, which wanted no change, and the Pleasant Plains Civic Association and the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, which wanted children of both races to use the area. The later position was also expressed by the Park View PTA.

The Recreation Department staunchly attempted to enforce their dual use decision at Park View but found it impossible. Due to their inability to maintain a segregated Park View Playground in the summer of 1948, they chose to keep the wading pool at the playground dry and closed. The pool, one of the much sought-after wading pools in the city, remained dry until after the transfer of the playground from white to black children. The pool was closed by the department because it was unable to keep black children out of the playground and pool area. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission finally approved the District Recreation Board's recommendation that Park View's use be changed from white to black children during non-school hours on July 29, 1948, which ultimately ended the pool's closure.

Despite the demand that Park View Playground be operated on an integrated basis, the District Recreation Board decided in May 1949 to "experiment" with nonsegregated playgrounds at two other locations – Rose Park in Georgetown and Garfield Park in southeast. The Recreation Board's decision to open Rose Park and Garfield had little risk. Rose Park was a segregated black playground in a neighborhood with a growing white population. Enforcement of segregation at Rose Park was lax. Garfield Park, similarly, was a large playground formerly split with play areas for white children to the east and black children to the west.

Even after Park View Playground was transferred for use by black children following the lead of Park View School in the fall of 1949, the debate of opening Park View as a mixed playground continued. In addition to community residents who still advocated for Park View Playground to be operated as an open playground, by 1950 this view was supported by the District Recreation Board's chairman, Harry S. Wender. The board decided to take no action on the recommendation as Mrs. O.O. Hankins, chairman on a special committee reviewing the matter, had testified that the neighborhood was almost completely black and a change in the status of Park View would be moot. Wender countered that a number of white children still used the playground and restrictive use was not being enforced. He furthered that "the board should make the playground biracial as another step in its policy to eliminate segregation in recreation as fast as possible."

Following its 1948 experiment, the Recreation Board did adopt a conservative and non-controversial approach to playground desegregation. In 1951, they chose to "open" only those playgrounds whose naming evoked little or no opposition from white citizens. In other words, the playgrounds designated as "open" already served large or completely black neighborhoods. This policy resulted in the opening of Noyes and two other playgrounds – formerly white – for black children in 1951.

Pressure to end segregation at Park View Playground continued. Although Park View had been designated as a black playground and was in an "overwhelmingly Negro" neighborhood, in the spring of 1952 the District Recreation Board noted that children of white families in the area continued to use the playground and that there was a "growing community sentiment that Park View should serve the recreation needs of all the people." They recommended that Park View, along with Kenilworth, Sherwood, and Trinidad, be used on an interracial basis on April 24, 1952. Of the four, only Park View was then in operation as a black playground. The recommendation was in line with the board policy to eliminate segregation on the city's playgrounds as soon as practicable. By this time, the board had amended its by-laws which had prohibited inter-racial recreation activities. The playgrounds desegregated prior to 1952 included Montrose Playground, Cardozo Recreation Center, the Anacostia Playground, Garfield Playground, Langley Playground, Hoover Playground, New York Avenue Playground, and Rose Park Playground.

Ultimately the community prevailed and on May 7, 1952, Park View Playground, along with Trinidad, Sherwood, and Kenilworth, were approved by the District Recreation Board for use by all races. Of these four, only Park View was originally a white playground that had been changed to a black playground prior to desegregating. Between June, 1949, when the District of Columbia Board of Recreation's integration policy was formally adopted, and June, 1952, just twelve play areas were "opened" with more than 70 remaining segregated.

Segregation at all District playgrounds ended on May 19, 1954.

Architect of the Field House: Albert Lewis Harris (1869-1933) Municipal Architect (1921-1933)

Albert L. Harris was born in Wales in 1869 and emigrated to America with his father Job Harris in 1873. He was in the Washington area by 1890 when he began attending the Arlington Academy for three years. In 1900 he left without graduating to work for Henry Ives Cobb in Chicago for five years on residential buildings. In 1898 Harris moved to Baltimore where he worked for Wyatt & Nolting until 1900 when he relocated to Washington. He was employed by Hornblower & Marshall from 1900 until 1917, noting that he worked on the firm's two most important public commissions, the Baltimore Custom House (1908) and the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum (1901-1911) while in that office. While employed by Hornblower & Marshall Harris began receiving his formal education at George Washington University, earning a B.S. in architecture in 1912. The same year Harris was appointed assistant professor of architecture at the university; by 1915 he was a full professor, a part-time position he held until 1930. In 1924 he prepared a quadrangular plan for the university's campus and with Arthur B. Heaton also designed Stockton and Corcoran Halls.

From 1917 to 1920 Harris worked for the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks where he was principally employed writing specifications. He began working for the Municipal Architect's office in 1920 and was named Snowdon Ashford's successor the following year; as members of the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the two had served on a 1911 committee with Waddy B. Wood condemning bay windows as not being "in accord with the dignity of architecture which the Capital should maintain." In 1914 he served with the same men, as well as Glenn Brown, on the local AIA chapter's committee that first proposed licensing architects. Harris submitted the first application for architectural registration in the District and was the first to be registered on April 6, 1925.

As was true with his predecessors, Washington's schools occupied a major part of the municipal architect's design output during Harris's tenure which ended with his sudden death in February 1933. Harris responded to suggestions made by the Commission of Fine Arts about the appropriateness of the Colonial Revival style for Washington's neighborhood municipal buildings with the majority of his school designs and public buildings. His 1931 Gothic Revival additions to the Park View School were a notable exception. In the case of Park View School, Harris closely adhered to the style of the 1916 building designed by his predecessor, Snowdon Ashford.

Not surprisingly, Harris not only developed types for Colonial Revival-style schools, firehouses, and municipal buildings, but also adapted the style in developing a field house type for Washington playgrounds. In the case of the field house, however, Harris modeled his building type after the vernacular Hall-and-Parlor houses of the Tidewater region. This type was regionally appropriate to the Mid-Atlantic States, less formal, and appropriate for recreation areas. The open interior plan made them adaptable to multiple activities and their small scale made them better suited to smaller playground lot sizes. Lastly, as playgrounds' primary functions were to support outdoor recreation activities, the small scale field house complemented the primary outdoor playground functions appropriately.

While Snowdon Ashford predicted greater sophistication of the District's buildings to keep apace with developments in the city's federal architecture, Harris balanced fine-quality Colonial Revival buildings scaled and styled for Washington's neighborhoods with appropriately urban-scaled ones for the city's governing center adjacent to the heart of Washington's monumental core.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

__X__State Historic Preservation Office
__X__Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other

Name of repository: **Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives**

ML King Library Washingtoniana Division

Washington Evening Star; Washington Post; Atlanta Daily World; Chicago Defender; Baltimore Afro-American; New York Amterdam News

Library of Congress

Washington Herald; Washington Times

Engineering Library, DC Dept. Of Transportation
(in the Reeves Center, 2000 14th St NW)

Blueprints, plans dated November 25, 1922 and November 1946

Published Sources

Congressional Record.
Department of Recreation, "Recreation's Heritage: A Preliminary Historic Resources Inventory" (Washington, DC: D.C. Department of Recreation, 1984)
The Parkview Citizen (Historical Society of Washington, D.C.)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	3 24 751	43 11 319	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The Park View Playground and Field House occupies Lot 0001 in Square 3032 in the Park View neighborhood of the District of Columbia.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The Park View Playground and Field House is on its original site, as purchased by the city in 1921 for the purposes of a playground.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kent C. Boese / Commissioner, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A08 (Based on research and research reports prepared by Antionette E. Lee / historian for the District of Columbia Public Schools, and Kent C. Boese)

organization Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A date April 2013

street & number 608 Rock Creek Church Road, NW telephone 202-904-8111

city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20010

e-mail kent.boese@anc.dc.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Park View Playground

City or Vicinity: Washington

County: N/A **State: DC**
Photographer: Kent Boese

Date Photographed: April 7, 2013; April 19, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1) General view looking northeast from intersection of Otis Place and 6thStreet, NW
1 of 12

2) General view looking southeast from rear of property at Princeton Place, NW
2 of 12

3) General view looking southwest from intersection of Warde Street and Princeton Place, NW
3 of 12

4) 1932 Field House, general view looking northwest
4 of 12

5) 1932 Field House, east façade
5 of 12

6) 1932 Field House, west façade
6 of 12

7) 1932 Field House, north façade along Princeton Place, NW
7 of 12

8) 1932 Field House, Interior view facing west from entry door on east elevation
8 of 12

9) 1932 Field House, Interior view or east room facing east
9 of 12

10) 1932 Field House, Interior view of loft facing west
10 of 12

11) 1932 Field House, Interior view of loft facing east
11 of 12

12) 1932 Field House, Interior view of enclosed porch area showing portion of original exterior brick wall
12 of 12

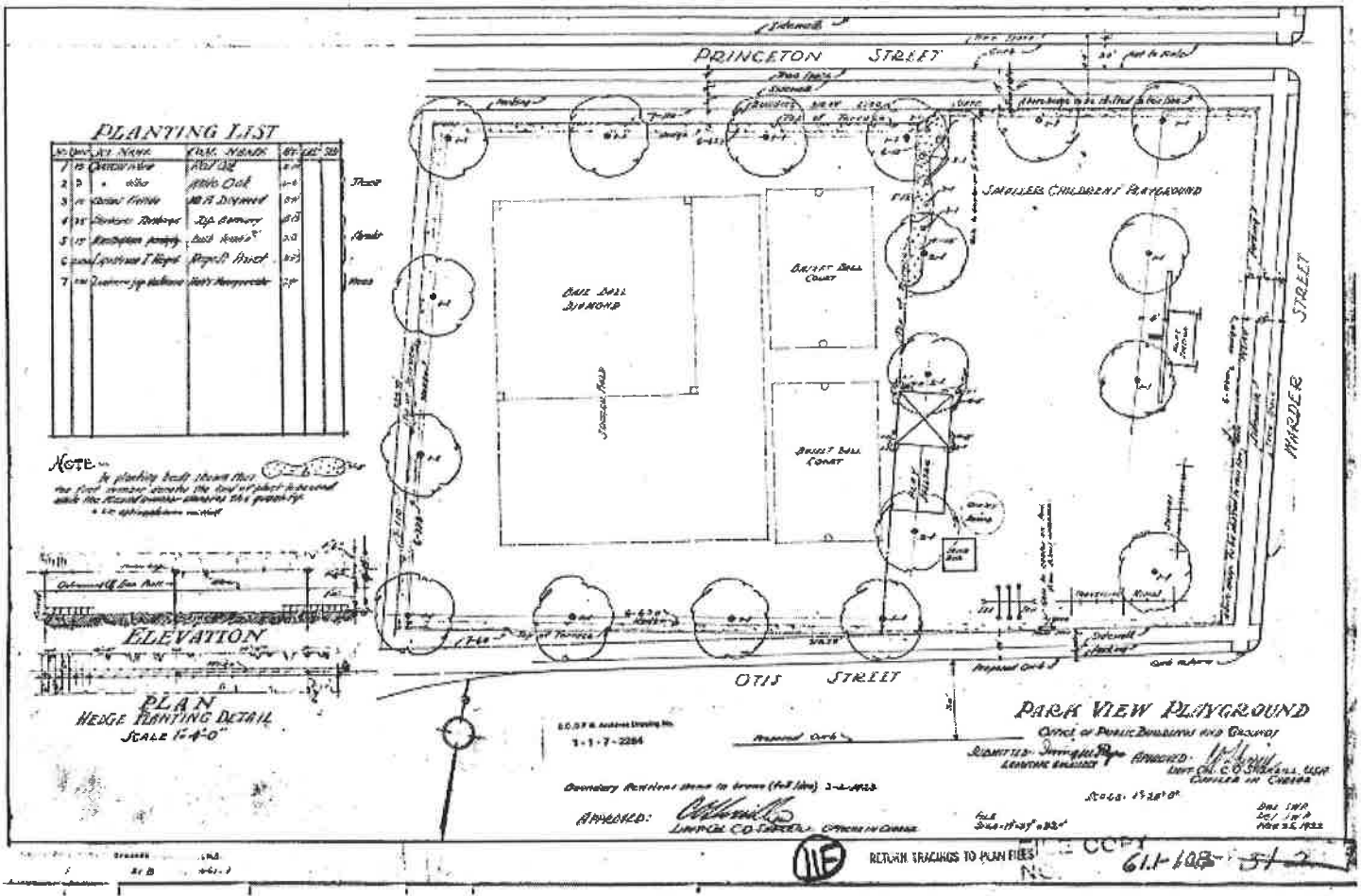
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. fo the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Site Plan:

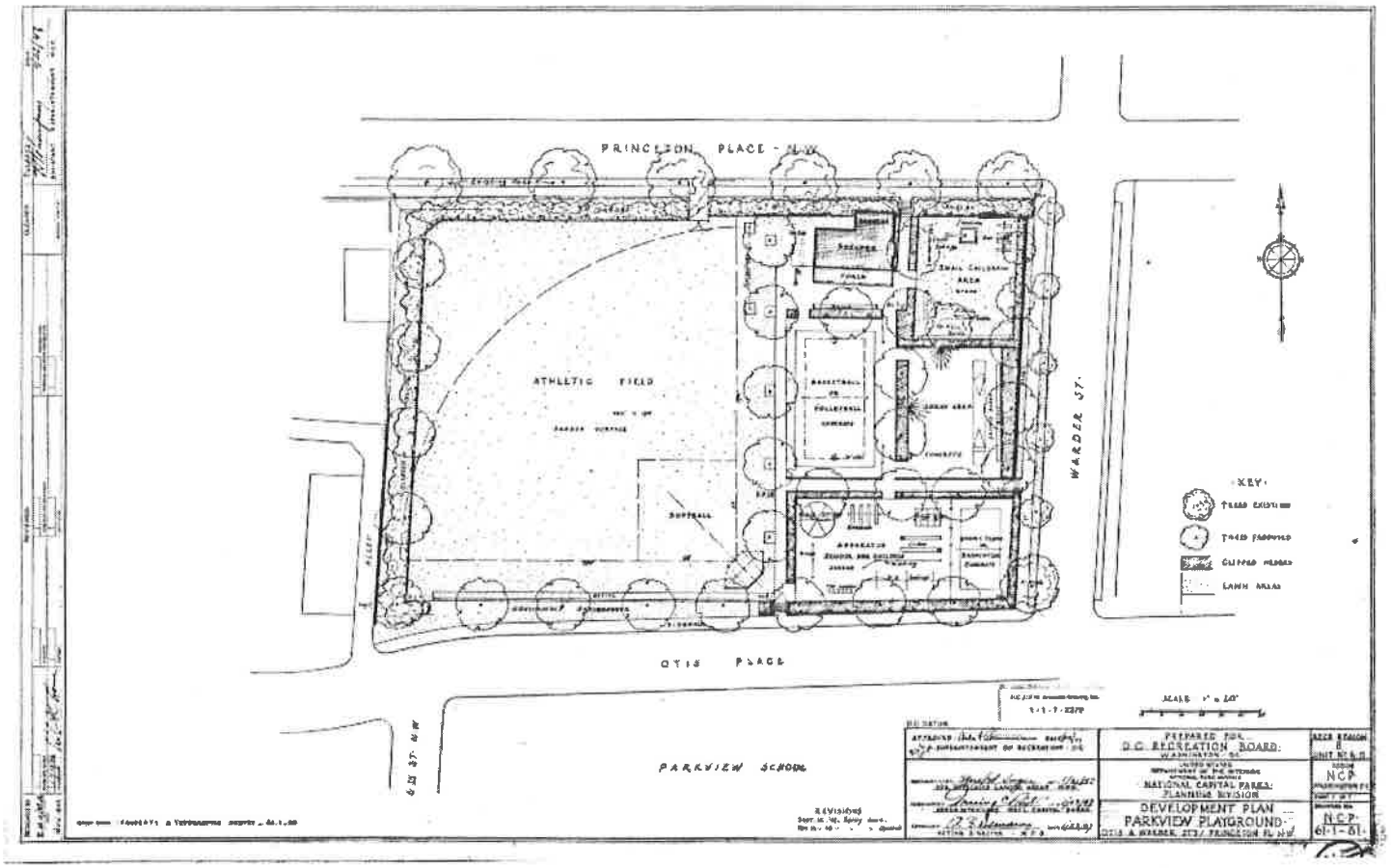
General Site Plan showing Park View Playground and Field House (from ArcGIS, 2013)

Site Plan, Park View Playground and Field House, Showing National Register Boundaries (from Arc GIS 2013)

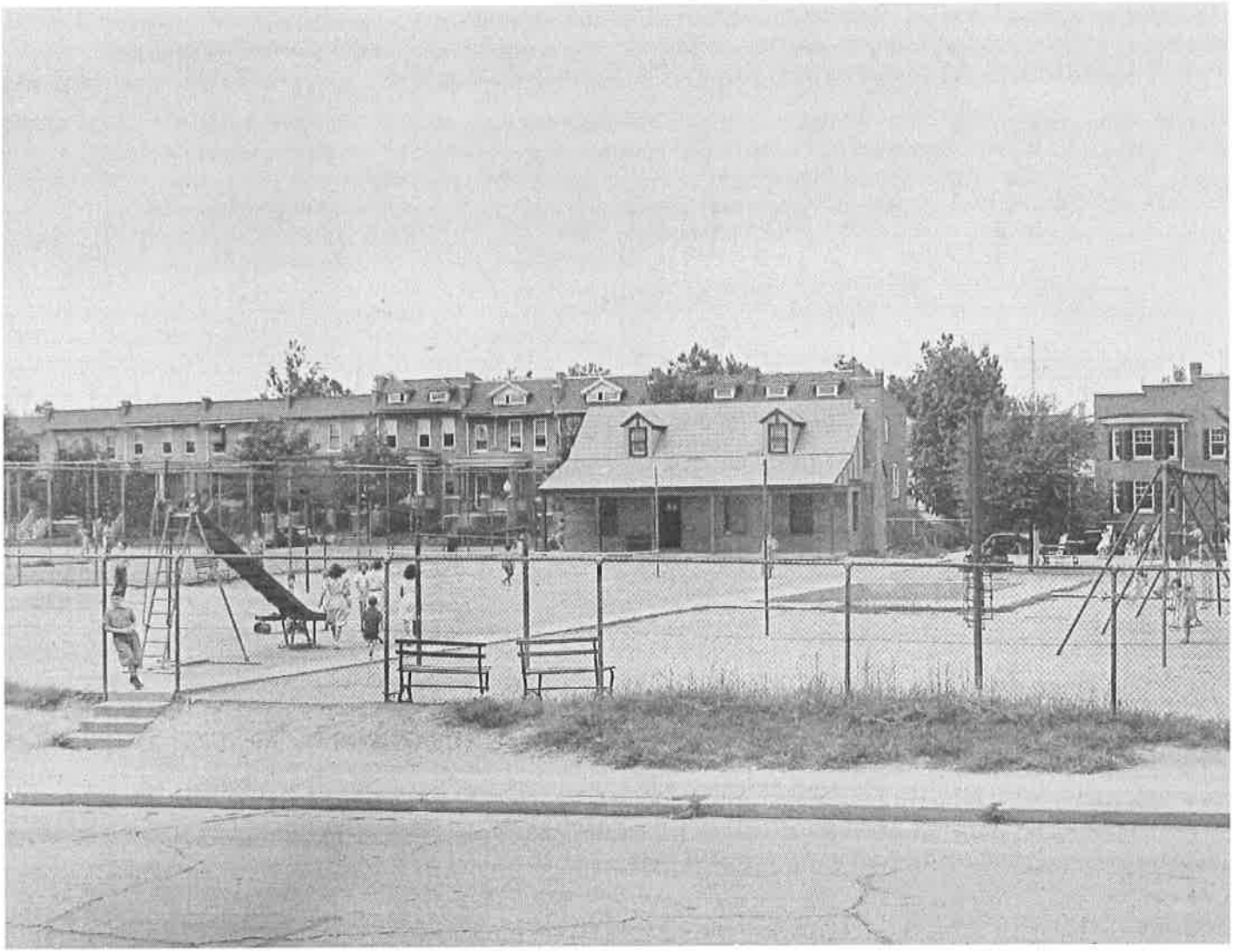
Historic Images:



Park View Playground Plan dated November 23, 1922. The playground did not yet include the Field House, built 1932.



Park View Playground Plan dated November 1946, showing the Field House at the northeastern side of the site.



Park View Playground from the south side of Otis Place, NW, August 26, 1938.
(MLK Washingtoniana Collection, Washington Star Photograph Collection)

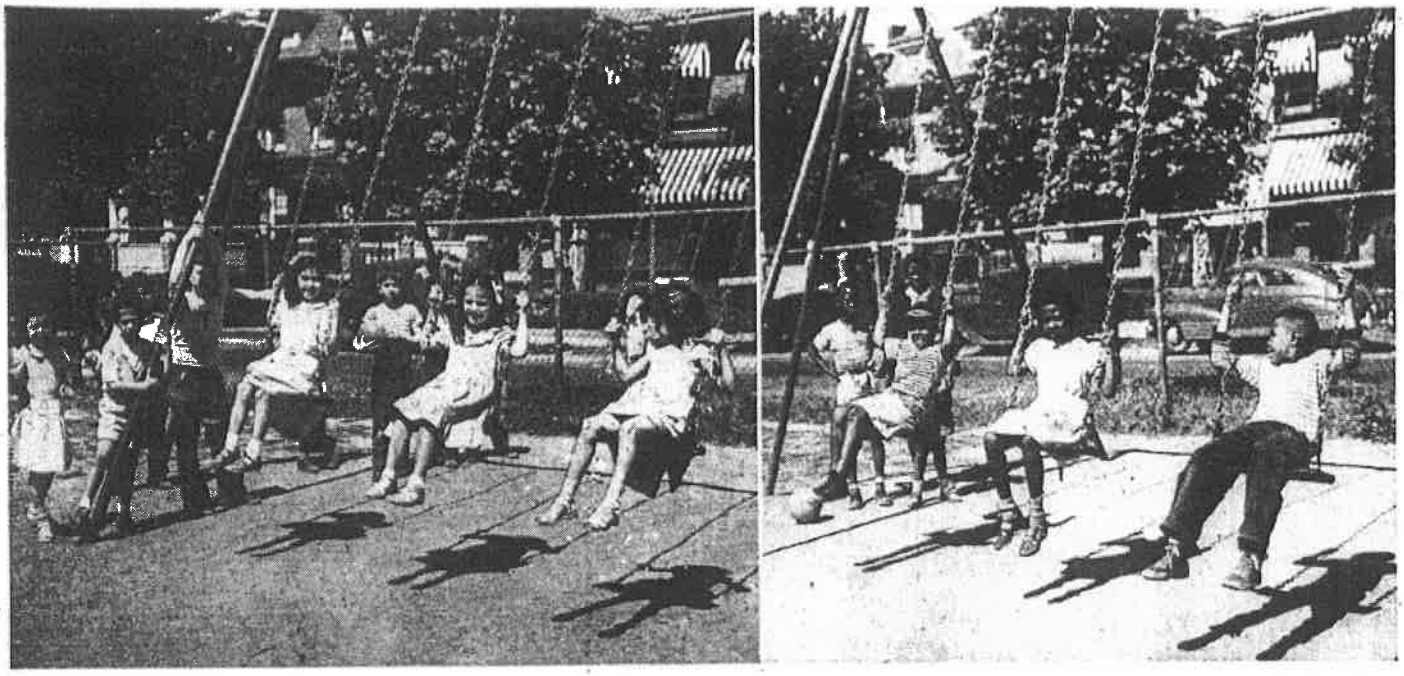
Park View Playground from the south side of Otis Place, NW, August 26, 1938 – Detail with emphasis on field house.
(MLK Washingtoniana Collection, Washington Star Photograph Collection)

TREE PLANTING MARKS MAY DAY FETE

Ceremony staged at Park View Playground yesterday afternoon under the auspices of the Women's City Club, when Mrs. William Howard Taft planted a red maple. Those in the picture are, left to right: Miss Emily Seriscner, principal of Park View School; Mrs. Taft, Mrs. J. Garfield Riley, president of the club; Mrs. Susie Root Rhodes, supervisor of playgrounds; Miss Mary E. Lazenby, Commissioner Sidney T. Taliaferro, Mrs. William E. Chamberlin, Dr. E. N. C. Barnes, Mrs. Edward T. Brown and Mrs. Frank B. Noyes.

Mrs. William Howard Taft, second from left, at Park View Playground tree planting, May 1, 1928.
(*Washington Star*, May 2, 1928. p. 3)

Park View Playground beauty contest with pool and school in the background, August 26, 1947. (MLK Washingtoniana Collection, Washington Star Photograph Collection)



Split use of playground, June 1949. Two photos taken one and one half hour apart showing unique solution to changind neighborhood demographics. Playground reserved for white children during school hours, and black children after 3 p.m. (*The Washington Post*, June 12, 1949. p. B8)

Pool at the Park View Recreation Center, September, 1969.
(*The Wahington Post*, September 7, 1969 p. 55).

Park View Playground and Field House
Washington, DC

USGS science for a changing world

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The National Map US Topo

WASHINGTON WEST QUADRANGLE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA-MARYLAND-VIRGINIA
7.5-MINUTE SERIES

UTMs
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Park View Playgd and Field Hous

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18S
10 000-foot ticks: Maryland Coordinate System of 1983, Virginia Coordinate System of 1983 (north zone)

Imagery....NAIP, June 2009
Roads....©2006-2010 Tele Atlas
Names....GNIS, 2010
Hydrography....National Hydrography Dataset, 2009
Contours....National Elevation Dataset, 2008
Boundaries....Census, IBWC, IBC, USGS, 1972 - 2010

MN GN
10° 47′ 192 MILS
1° 18′ 23 MILS

UTM GRID AND 2011 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

U.S. National Grid
100,000-m Square ID UJ
Grid Zone Designation 18S

SCALE 1:24 000

KILOMETERS 1 0.5 0 1 2
METERS 1000 500 0 1000 2000
MILES 1 0.5 0 1
FEET 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988

This map was produced to conform with version 0.5.10 of the USGS US Topo Product Standard.
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.5.15

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Rockville	Kensington	Beltsville
Falls Church	Washington West	Washington East
Annandale	Alexandria	Anacostia

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Interstate Route		State Route	
US Route		Local Road	
Ramp		4WD	

Interstate Route   US Route   State Route

WASHINGTON WEST, DC-MD-VA
2011

CAUTION

ENERGI

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