NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

82

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property
Historic name: Linden Community and Recreation Center
Other names/site number: The Linden Center
Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing
N/A

2. Location
Street & number: 334 Norwood Avenue
City or town: Dayton State: OH County: Montgomery
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

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
Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___B ___C ___D

Barbara Powers
DSHPO Inventory & Registration February 3, 2014

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 3-26-14

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Private:	☐
Public – Local	x
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

Building(s)	x
District	☐
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
Recreation and Culture: auditorium/auditorium
sports facility/gymnasium, swimming pool
health care/clinic

Current Functions
Vacant/not in use

7. Description
Architectural Classification
Late 19th/Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials:
Principal exterior materials of the property:
concrete
brick
clay tile

Narrative Description; Summary Paragraph

The Linden Community Center, built 1930-1931, is a two story rectangular building faced in brick and set upon a bottom band of limestone and concrete. The exterior building envelope is clad in common bond brick and is topped with a central barrel vault roof having flat roofs at each end. It is located on the west side of Dayton in Montgomery County, Ohio. The site consists of approximately two and one-quarter acres, two thirds of which is an open grassy field with recently paved play areas. The building placement is typically urban with the main façade facing the north property line and public sidewalk along Norwood Avenue. Alleys have been vacated to provide paved access east and west of the building. On-site paved parking faces Germantown Street and has been historically added by vacating Pease Street. The site is bound on the south by a railroad right of way. The western site boundary consists of adjacent light industrial commercial property.

Narrative Description

The Linden Community Center was designed by Dayton architect, Rollin E. Gebhart and built 1930-1931. The building consists of two upper floor areas set atop a basement level that extends to about six and a half feet above grade. Each floor area is approximately 8,600 square feet. The building is rectilinear, with an approximate height of 35 feet. The front and rear building areas have flat roofs with low parapets. The middle section of roof forms a barrel shape over the short span of the building and terminates at parapets as well. The perimeter roof line is fairly consistent in elevation. Three distinct building sections are manifested by fenestration patterns which reflect different functions within the building.

The structure is a combination of brick and structural tile exterior bearing walls. Interiors have bearing partitions along with steel reinforced concrete columns. Steel reinforced concrete joists tied into steel reinforced concrete header beams form the elevated floor systems. The basement consists of concrete slabs (on grade) or steel reinforced formed concrete tunnels and floors of the natatorium. Flat roofs consist of Massillon steel joists (with wood inserts) supporting wood plank decks. The barrel roof consists of steel trusses with semi-circular upper chords supporting a tongue and groove wood deck on steel channel purlins.

The façade faces north and fronts Norwood Street (photo 1) and portions of the east and west elevations (photos 2 & 8) possess modest neo-Romanesque styling. This styling incorporates brick piers as rhythmic columns simulating a blind arcade that is punctured by multiple window openings (photos 1, 2, & 8). These piers terminate with plainly sculpted limestone imposts supporting multiple semi-circular brick rowlock arches (photo10). The arches are in-filled with brick in header bond and are accented with over-scaled smooth limestone pateras (photo 10). Walls below the arches have punched windows. Wall areas below the windows are in-filled with brick in header bond matching the brick in-fill of the arches. Certain window heads have brick soldier courses. Window sills are typically smooth limestone (photo 1). The upper wall is terminated as a corbelled parapet. Corbeling (photo 1 & 10) is initiated utilizing projected brick dentils set below successively projected brick courses capped with a projected smooth limestone coping. The wall areas above the arches are given a tabled effect via a string course of brick headers set on top of a continuous course of brick soldiers aligned with the pilaster imposts of

the semi-circular arches (photo 2 & 8). The common bond brick coursing of the lower wall is subdivided horizontally by brick soldiers set along the approximate elevation of the first floor (photo 1). This (northernmost) section of the building has its face brick set on a two foot high band of limestone which wraps the northeast corner, building front, a northwest corner, and contains the dated building cornerstone. (Photos 1, 2, 8, &13)

This northernmost section of the building contains the main building entrance. The entry is a stylized portico composing a single deeply recessed compound brick semi-circular arch topped with corbelled brick and limestone coursework forming a gable (photo 9). The roof parapet centered above the portico is trimmed with a peaked and stepped limestone coping above brick dentils and corbelled brick. The outer steps in the limestone coping are sculpted with a scrolled and curling acanthus-type motif. Centered below the peak and within the brick field is a limestone plaque inscribed with 'V' cut lettering forming the word 'Linden' Each side of the inscription is accented with ornamental details.

The middle section of the building continues the neo-Romanesque motif with larger and multiple semi-circular brick arches. Windows are set within each brick arch and centered between brick pilasters (photos 3 & 7). The semi-circular arches (photo 11) set above the large two story steel window sash are double rowlock. Each window has a smooth limestone keystone and simulated impost-like limestone accents. Full height brick pilasters are evenly spaced along the lengths of brick wall between the windows. Pilasters are terminated with a low parapet formed by a slightly projected brick soldier course below a smooth band of limestone coping. The east elevation incorporates a minor grade level entry set within with a single row semi-circular brick soldier arch with a smooth limestone keystone (photo 7). Soldier brick soldier coursing is used to horizontally subdivide the face brick along the lines of the simulated imposts of the semi-circular arches and along the approximate finish floor line. Star shaped metal plates are used to embellish the exposed terminations of anchor bolts (photo 11). Windows have limestone sills similar to that of the northernmost building section. The brick courses of the middle section are set upon an exposed concrete ledge set to clear the adjacent grade line.

The rear section of the building (photos 4, 5, & 6) is relatively free of stylistic influence. Walls are set atop a ledge of exposed concrete and continue the use of red brick in common bond terminating at low profile parapets having one projected soldier brick course supporting a smooth limestone coping The rear building section possesses symmetrically located windows, louvers, multiple grade level access/egress doors, and an elevated double leaf stage access door with an exposed steel hoist beam (photo 12). The rear building section is framed by exposed concrete stairs having metal railings (photo 4 & 6). Except for the minor incursions noted below, the building is free of significant alteration.

The north, east, and west elevations have the steel window sash at the first and second floors of the building. These windows have been covered with storm windows and have replacement glazing of various sorts. The original grade level windows openings, certain stairwell and stage platform windows have been in-filled with brick, stone, or glass block. The original wood entry doors, framing and glazed wood transom glazing have been replaced with hollow metal doors

and frames. These incursions were performed without structural modifications of the original wall openings.

The exterior monumental concrete stairs and railings of the rear building section appear as original. The steel stair and second floor door opening on the east elevation appears as a reconfiguration of an original system. The original roof mounted metal rotary ventilator system and a brick chimney are intact.

Interior

The basement and first floor are 'split level', as the floor /ceiling structure is several feet above grade. South and west basement areas are primarily dedicated to the natatorium (swimming pool), having had full complement of lockers, showers, towel, toilets, and storage rooms for both men and women. The pool and deck of the natatorium (photos 16 & 17) feature ceramic mosaic tile surrounded by salt glazed vitreous tile walls and an exposed concrete ceiling structure. Here the original exterior window sash has been replaced with glass block.

The east and central portion of the floor has the coal room, boiler room, and a 'U' shaped narrow central corridor leading to a single east stairwell. A concrete tunnel system exists beneath the boiler room and extends around and beneath the natatorium, and it houses all swimming pool related mechanical equipment.

The north section of the basement remains compartmentalized for smaller spaces (originally related to the medical services of two physicians and a dentist). Several glazed tile partitions and some door/frames that formed the original waiting, treatment rooms and offices areas are intact (photo 18), yet the original windows have been in-filled with masonry block and brick. These same areas were recently adapted as recreational center craft rooms. This basement area is accessible by an independent exterior concrete stairway connected to the public sidewalk at the northwest corner. The tile partitions on the basement level are full height with certain partitions utilized for structural bearing. Panelized wood doors were typical. Plastered ceilings were used in corridors that were not exposed to above 'wet' areas such as the natatorium.

The first floor contains the gymnasium (with a stage), a library, one large play room, one check room and several offices. The main rooms are configured as large rectangular spaces around a single widened central 'L' shaped corridor connecting enclosed stairwells (serving as entrances or exits) at each corridor end.

The gymnasium was multifunctional. In addition to the obvious basketball court it contains an elevated stage platform (having a pronounced proscenium), a dumbwaiter system, and movie projection windows. The gym floor, windows, and stage proscenium are original (photo 15). Walls are full height glazed vitreous tile, topped by a painted exposed wood plank deck and exposed steel trusses shaped as a barrel vault. The original wood exterior gym doors have been replaced with hollow metal doors. The gym window sash is original, but all glass has been previously replaced. Activities within the gym can be zoned for independent access via exterior or interior stairs or a stairwell (photo 21) that connects all floors.

The library, main desk, coat check, adjacent activity rooms, and offices and gym are accessible by a wide 'L' shaped central corridor. Doorways to the library, playroom, and main entry have double leaf panelized wood doors with wood transoms. Doors and transoms are glazed with crystal glass in metal cames (photo 20). Partitions around these doorways are full height plaster (with plaster cornices abutting the plaster ceiling), rather than glazed vitreous tile wainscots having plaster upper walls and plaster ceilings. First floor activity rooms (except the gym) are topped by second floor.

The second floor contains large activity rooms, a kitchen (with dumbwaiter), a projection room, men's and women's restrooms, and one office. Again these spaces are configured around a single widened central 'L' shaped corridor. This corridor connects with a single interior stairwell. Glazed tile is topped by large wood frames fitted with crystal glass. Doorways are panelized wood doors in wood frames having ten or four pane wood transoms. Exterior windows have steel sash (photo 19). Floors have been covered with vinyl tile. Certain light fixtures and ceilings have been replaced.

The building interior is well maintained and retains its original configuration which characterizes the programs that it historically housed. Walls and partitions are glazed vitreous tile, with some being vitreous tile wainscots combined with plaster or wood framed glass. Floors vary from original hardened concrete, to mosaic tile (restrooms and natatorium), to quarry tile (entry corridors and offices), and maple, yellow pine, or oak features in the gymnasium, stage platform, or library. Generally doors are panelized wood. Some feature glazing with glazed wood framed transoms. Certain second floor plaster ceilings have been concealed by suspended lay-in tile ceilings and fixtures. Certain wood doors have been replaced, and basement windows have been replaced.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- [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.
- [ ] 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

- [ ] A. Owned 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
Ethnic Heritage/African American
Community Planning and Development
Social History

Period of Significance
1930-1963

Significant Dates
1930-1931

Significant Person

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Gebhart, Rollin E.

Statement of Significance; Summary Paragraph

The Linden Community and Recreation Center is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A, for its association with the development of the African American community in West Dayton and as an early example of an all-inclusive community center. The Linden Center represents a response to the challenges faced by African American citizens in a segregated community early in the 20th century. The Center, conceived, created and administered by African American community leaders, provided comprehensive services that included recreation, medical treatment, educational programming and life skills without regard to race or gender. The concept of the Linden Center was to develop a greater and mainstream model of community self-determination, autonomy, and integration through civic, cultural and recreational participation.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Dayton Linden Community and Recreation Center (also known as the Dayton Linden Center) was constructed by the City of Dayton as a community recreational and cultural center to serve West Dayton's growing African American population. It later evolved to serve all citizens of Dayton regardless of race, gender, religion, or national origin. It is also representative of the general community center archetype, which was created to serve social and recreational needs within urban communities.

The Linden Community and Recreation Center was built at the outset of the Great Depression. It was conceived and administered primarily through the civic advocacy and political efforts of local African American community activists, politicians, and military veterans. The construction of the building was financed mostly through a municipal bond levy and private donations, which were politically encouraged by African American leaders. Construction began during the spring of 1930, and the building was formally dedicated in March 1931. (Mallory)

The Linden Community and Recreation Center was built within the context of a national trend of growing corporate and public involvement and funding for planned recreational opportunities and social services. This trend was supported and promoted by the work of organized foundations such as the Rosenwald Fund and Russell Sage Foundation, which promoted equal public educational opportunities for disenfranchised groups such as African Americans and white Appalachians. While the Linden Center was not directly associated with these specific organizations, it was part of the widespread movement toward a more inclusive and self-sustaining society.

While these organizations are known to have implemented many programs, they also highlighted serious deficiencies in social, cultural, and religious concerns and created job training opportunities in general for disadvantaged communities. In addition, they fostered the idea of local community involvement and self-help through activism, fund raising and community organization. Little attention had been devoted to recreation as a public responsibility before the turn of the twentieth century, but by 1930 it had become fairly common. Both private and public entities had turned their attention to using recreation as a way to enhance and stabilize an

increasingly diverse population. By 1929, over 800 cities had created recreation departments within their municipal organization; up from only three cities in 1900. (Sealander 127) Dayton had developed its first community and recreation center in 1906. (Dunham 75) This facility was known as the Bomberger Community and Recreation Center. It was, however, established as a segregated community center that maintained a policy of racial exclusion of African Americans for decades. It was not coincidental that the Linden Community and Recreation Center's founder Reverend Edward Terrell Banks, a decorated military veteran of the Spanish American War, began his vision and plans of a community playground for "all" children during this same year. Reverend Banks also founded Dayton's NAACP organization, and the Dayton Urban League. With full knowledge that African American citizens were not welcomed to use the Bomberger Center facility, Bank's vision for recreation and playground development was constrained by the context of a racially segregated City of Dayton during the Jim Crow Era. This exclusion was not just a Dayton phenomenon, but occurred throughout the nation due to de facto segregation.

In 1914, Banks secured from local philanthropist and businessman, Edward Schantz, a donation of a house and approximately two acres of land on which to plan the construction of a new community center. In the meantime, the existing house served as the site for programming that Banks developed. Reverend Banks later recruited World War I veteran, Captain Robert H. Mallory to help him with his vision. In 1926, Mallory began to promote the advancement of African Americans through diversified programs of cultural development, character building activities, athletics, and neighborhood assistance, housed at the donated site.

In reaction to exclusionary public policies existing in Dayton in the late 1920's, Dayton's core NAACP leadership, comprised of Reverend Banks, Mallory, Bertie Ellis, and others conceptualized the proposed modern community center for the participation of West Dayton's African American citizens in a two-fold manner. First, they viewed the new community center as a civic advancement mechanism for Dayton's African Americans. Second, they recognized the proposed new community center as an opportunity to suitably advance and implement venues for including African American women and girls in recreational and cultural activities, because they were excluded from community center facilities in Dayton. This need for gender inclusion is reflected in the history of the naming of the Dayton Linden Center.

African American women played a prominent role in the establishment of the Linden Center. For example, Bertie Ellis, (Mrs. George Ellis), was the first president of Dayton's League of Colored Women Voters and a Board member of the Dayton Urban League. She worked to promote the municipal bond issue that helped build the Dayton Linden Center and was director of the Linden Center's women and girl's activities for eleven years (Peters 56). The Adelaide Hand Room at the Linden Center (Peters 127) honored the volunteer services of Mrs. Adelaide Hand, who as a senior citizen was involved with Bertie Ellis in the Unique Study Club, an African American women's historic and cultural advancement organization formed in 1900 in Dayton's West Side. Members of the Unique Study Club studied the works of then current black authors, historians, and activists, and they sponsored and participated in activities such as the

Emancipation Day memorial ceremonies and parades, the American women's suffrage movement, and other human rights struggles, both locally and nationally. (Peters 122)

Dayton's new community center facility for African Americans was named the Linden Center in acknowledgement of the writings and advocacy by the nationally recognized African American female historian, author, journalist and NAACP member and leader, Delilah Leontium Beasley of Cincinnati, Ohio. Her reputation amongst African American civil rights leaders is nationally well known. Her social justice leadership efforts and journalism in the early 1920's catalyzed the concerns surrounding *The Linden Street YWCA* (aka the "Colored YWCA") in Oakland, California, which was created by local African Americans in response to the lack of access by African American women to the all-white branches of the YWCA organization there. (Mulroy et al 216)

The civil rights leaders in Dayton were keenly aware of her advocacy efforts and knew of her pioneering civil rights and social justice work through national NAACP conferences. The Dayton Linden Center's mission provided training as recreation, character building, and cultural activities for African American female citizens through acknowledging the critical roles that women have provided in the economic, cultural, and civic advancement of colored people and children. It was natural for West Dayton community leaders to enlist the 'Linden Center' name for the new West Dayton facility to associate it with the Oakland facility and to acknowledge gender inclusion in local community and recreational activities.

In 1928, The Dayton City Commission put a levy on the ballot to raise $140,000. Reverend Banks coordinated wide-based West Side community support and helped secure passage of the historic tax levy to expand the center. The budgeted allocations were as follows: $28,000 for development of the land, $12,000 for equipment, and $100,000 for building design and construction. Dayton architect, Rollen E. Gebhart (d. 1958) was charged with designing this multi-functioning building. Gebhart was educated at the University of Pennsylvania; local works included the Shawen Acres Children's Home, Miami Valley Golf Club and the Third and Montgomery Fire Station. The six-room house, which was the former center, was replaced with the nominated property containing multi-purposed recreational facilities, including a heated indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium and multiple activity rooms There was also an ample outdoor playground area. The Linden Community and Recreation Center was formally dedicated in March 1931.

Reverend Banks was Dayton's first African American citizen to run for elected office as a City Commissioner. A vote of more than four thousand above his nearest contestant brought this honor to Banks. He was hardly a politician, but a man whom politicians and everyone else trusted. He was considered Dayton's most influential African American leader of his time. He died after a career of significant civic and institutional accomplishments in 1940.

Reverend Banks' goal, through the Linden Community and Recreation Center's was to equip the African American community with facilities and services that they did not have access to within the greater community due to racial discrimination. As a result, an advanced mix of recreational,

cultural, academic, civic, healthcare services, music, arts and theater, job training, and social activities were combined in its programming and facilities design to provide a composite and unique palette of engaging programs for adults, youth and children's activities including:

- A reading library with offices
- Physician's health clinic, with both waiting and treatment rooms
- Dental clinic with treatment room
- Children's play room with supervisor's office (daycare)
- Food preparation kitchen with dumbwaiter system (banqueting facilities)
- Dual social halls which could serve as meeting spaces
- Movie projection room with projection equipment spaces
- Elevated (theatrical stage) platform
- Coat check room
- Indoor gymnasium with a full basketball court and bleachers
- Indoor natatorium (swimming pool) with locker, shower, and towel rooms for both men and women
- Multiple restrooms accessible from interior compartments and exterior grounds
- Comfort stations (restrooms) for the outside playground
- Multiple and independent entrances and exits for flexible and zoned access

The building was designed to contain multiple self-contained activities; a feature it retains and exhibits. In this manner, the Linden Community and Recreation Center was able to render diverse programs for its participants, and represent the embodiment of progress for African Americans during a time of segregation and economic inequality.

Such multi-functionalism was a very modern idea at the time of the building's construction. Social Halls were outfitted with access to a full service kitchen. Day care was afforded by the creation of a children's playroom. Community medical services were provided by the Linden Center's medical clinic complete with waiting and treatment rooms for dentistry and physical medicine. There was a library with book circulation and librarian offices. Each floor was designed with adequate custodial rooms, storage rooms, and restroom facilities. Each area was envisioned to operate independently. From its earliest beginnings, its architecture aimed to service a broad spectrum of community life, as was originally purposed by its founders as a place of inclusion for all of the community's citizens.

The Linden Community and Recreation Center functioned as an attractive hub and central community place serving the objectives of local activists, community leaders and national programs such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA). During the recovery from the Great Depression, the Linden Community and Recreation Center evolved into a major delivery point for the federally sponsored (WPA) programs established under the "New Deal" administration programming during the 1930's and 1940's.

The Linden Community and Recreation Center facility built on its community role with WPA programs for local civic involvement. The WPA sponsored both Federal Writer's and Federal

Musician's programs under its cultural impact mission. The Linden Center provided jobs and skills training as well as provided fully equipped venues for various projects involving artistic performances in the Federal Theater program, showcased local musical talent and held other cultural events. This vigorous local and community support resulted in an effective and productive partnership between the Linden Community and Recreation Center and the Federal Works Progress Administration by 1937. The presence of the WPA programs at the Linden Center encouraged racial integration since these programs required participation by citizens of all racial and/or ethnic backgrounds.

The Linden Community and Recreation Center through thoughtful design considerations served the community with a visionary composition of architectural space and function. As a community resource it was "all things to all people"; serving simultaneously as an athletic and recreational sports facility, a medical and dental clinic, a library, a theater, a meeting and banquet hall, daycare facility, social services offices, an employment and job skills resource venue, and as a cultural arts repository. Programs delivered to its users included medical and dental care, graphic arts, fine arts and music, aquatics, dance and theater performances and lessons, academic and vocational training, team athletics and sports leagues, outdoor and indoor recreational play for children, classes in health education, entertainment, and all types of cultural enrichment programs. It opened its doors to any citizen of Dayton who wished to participate without discrimination.

Although the Linden Center's original mission was not to be a social services agency, it performed a similar function at times through the medical, dental and educational programs that were offered. Since its inception it served as an operating arm of the municipality of Dayton as a facility within its Parks and Recreation Bureau.

From day one, the concept of the Linden Center was to develop a greater and mainstream model of community self-determination, autonomy and integration through civic, cultural, educational and recreational participation. From the city's poor children whose multiracial faces Reverend Banks had envisioned on the original community playground, to the recasting of greater national and local issues, the Linden Center became the hub of new socio-economic paradigms. The Linden Center was not strictly a recreation center as we know them today, but rather an embodiment of self-help social services, educational, civic, and cultural advancement representing the mainstreaming of American life for all citizens seeking the American Dream.

Programs developed and provided by the Linden Community and Recreation Center continued its mission of providing after school activities, arts and crafts, basketball and other recreational opportunities to the West Dayton Community until it was shuttered by the city of Dayton in 2006. (Dayton Daily News)

The Linden Community and Recreation Center stands today as one of the last vestiges of Dayton's early African-American business and economic corridor (Dunham 74). It possesses an enduring legacy that remains a subject of much interest and celebration within Dayton's African American community which benefited greatly from its existence. (Peters 144) It represents an

important aspect of community development, social and African American history for the City of Dayton during a period of institutionalized discrimination and segregation. The struggle for equity and inclusion was characterized by programs intended to enrich the minds and provide an entryway into mainstream society for a marginalized population.

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Sitkoff, Harvard. ***A New Deal for Blacks: The Emergence of Civil Rights as a National Issue: The Depression Decade***. Oxford University Press, 1981.

Streitmatter, Roger. ***Delilah, Beasley: A Black Woman Journalist Who Lifted As She Climbed.***
American Journalism Historians Association 11, 1994. pp. 61-75

The Ohio Historical Society. ***The African American Experience in Ohio, 1850-1920: New Year Post Card Shower for Colored Soldiers and Sailors***; Volume 06, Issue 29, p. 3, December 20, 1918.

Wilkerson, Isabel. ***The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of American's Great Migration***. New York: Random Housing Publishing, 2010.

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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MOT0439718

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.2163 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References

[x] NAD 1927 or [ ] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 739265	Northing: 4403778
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description
The boundary includes parcel # R72 08509 0001 and sub-parcels:
R72 08510 0001, R72 08509 0017, R72 08509 0004, R72 08509 0029, R72 08509 0023, R72 08509 0025, R72 08509 0024, R72 08510 0002, R72 08509 0003, R72 08509 0040, R72 08509 0019, R72 08509 0002, R72 08509 0026, R72 08509 0021, R72 08509 0039, R72 08509 0028, R72 08509 0020, R72 08509 0027, R72 08509 0060, R72 08509 0022 R72 08509 0018 which comprise the entirety of the nominated area illustrated by the boundary map.

Boundary Justification
The boundary reflects the urban lots historically associated with this building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Irving S. Moses, Jr. and David A. Pigford
organization: Urban Metroplex Redevelopment Group, L.L.C.
street & number: 907 West Fifth Street, Suite 117
city or town: Dayton state: Ohio zip code: 45402-8372
e-mail jsmoses@urbanmetroplex.com
telephone: 937-490-9461
date: October 5, 2013

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

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

Photographs
LINDEN COMMUNITY CENTER
Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio
Photographer: David A. Pigford
Date: June 2012

1. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0001
   View: North Elevation (camera facing South)
   Description: Main Façade along Norwood Ave.

2. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0002
   View: Northwest (camera facing southeast)
   Description: Main façade (left) and West Elevation (right)

3. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0003
   View: West Elevation (camera facing East)
   Description: West Side Elevation of Building.

4. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0004
   View: Southwest (camera facing Northeast)
   Description: West Side Elevation (left) & Rear South Elevation (right).

5. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0005
   View: South Elevation (camera facing North)
   Description: Rear of Building.

6. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0006
   View: Southeast (camera facing Northwest)
   Description: Rear South Elevation (left) and East Side Elevation (right) of building.

7. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0007
   View: East Elevation (camera facing West)
   Description: Side of Building along Germantown St.)

8. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0008
   View: Northeast (camera facing Southwest)
   Description: East Side Elevation (left) and North Façade (right).

9. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0009
   View: North (camera facing South)
   Description: Main Entry on Norwood Ave.

10. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0010
    View: Upper Activity Rooms (camera facing West)
    Description: brick and stone detailing

11. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0011
    View: Gymnasium (camera facing East)
    Description: brick, stone & ornamental metal details.

12. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0012
    View Shown: Rear Elevation (Camera facing Northwest)
    Description: steel 'scenery' beam above stage door at rear.

13. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0013
View Shown: Northeast building corner (camera facing south)
Description: cornerstone and limestone band.

14. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0014
View Shown: Grounds (Camera facing North)
Description: playground area.

15. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0015
View Shown: First Floor Gymnasium (camera facing South)
Description: barrel vaulted roof deck, salt glazed tile, stage, hardwood flooring.

16. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0016
View Shown: Basement Swimming Pool (camera facing North)
Description: mosaic tile floors & pool.

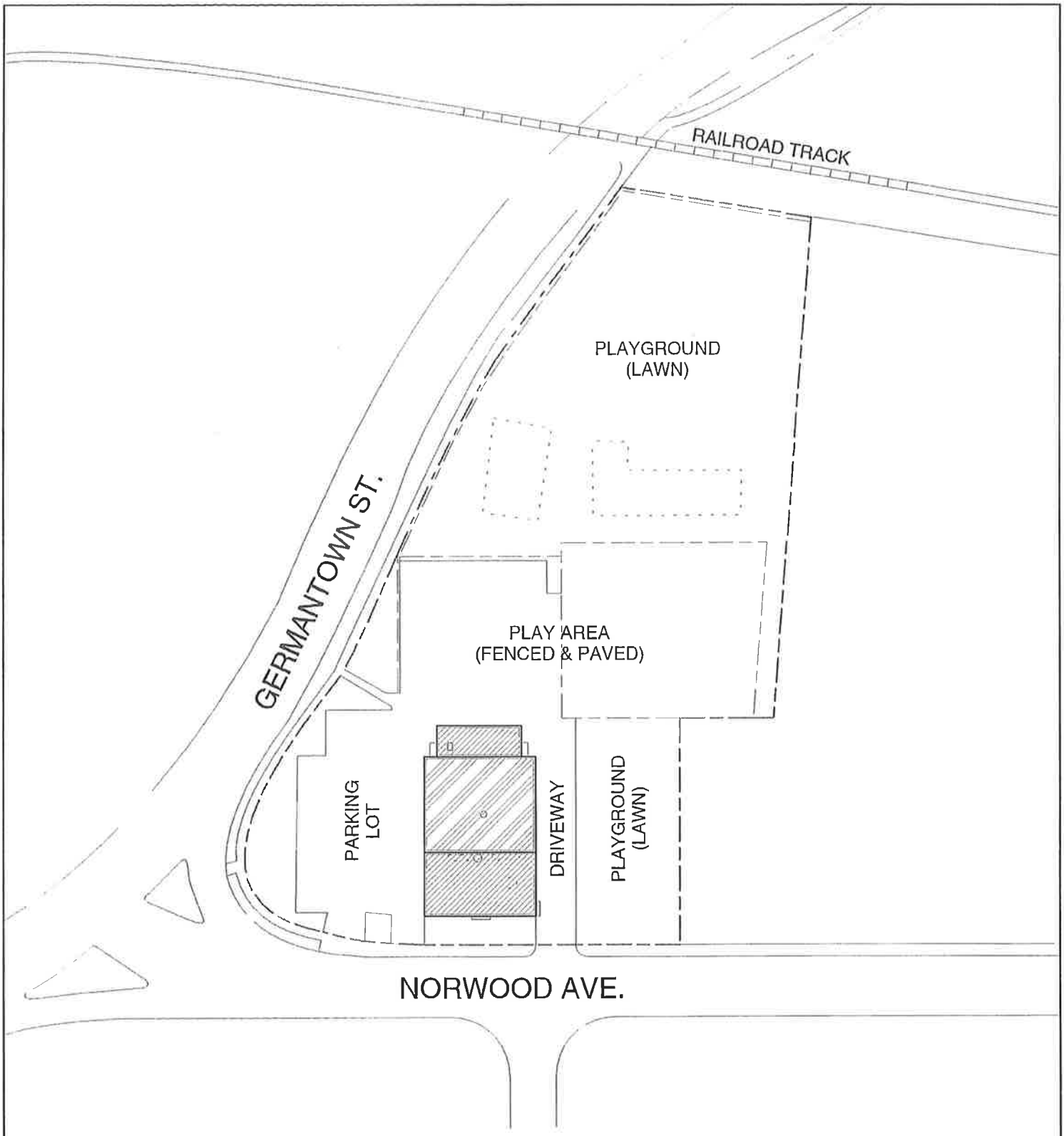
17. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0017
View Shown: Swimming Pool edge (camera facing west)
Description: inset ladder.

18. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0018
View Shown: Corridor (camera facing East)
Description: wood doors & transom glazed with metal cames, quarry tile, crown molding.

19. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0019
View Shown: Activity Room Window (camera facing North)
Description: typical steel sash.

20. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0020
View Shown: Interior finish (camera facing Northwest)
Description: wood framed half glass & salt glazed tile partition.

21. OH_MontgomeryCounty_LindenCommunityCenter_0021
View Shown: Stairwell (camera facing East)
Description: wood handrail, salt-glazed tile wainscot.

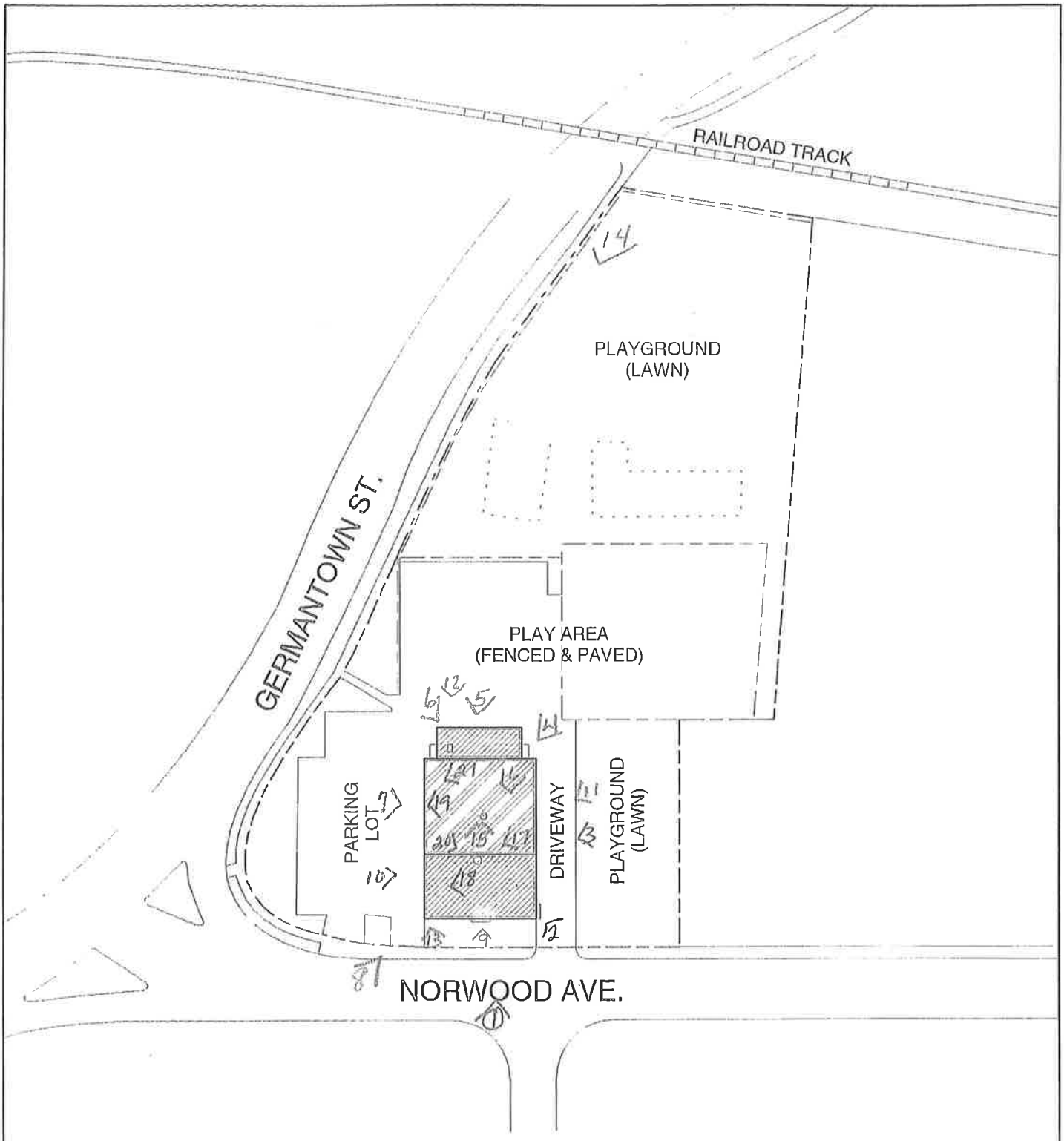


LINDEN COMMUNITY CENTER - SITE PLAN

Linden Community and Recreation Center
Montgomery County, Ohio

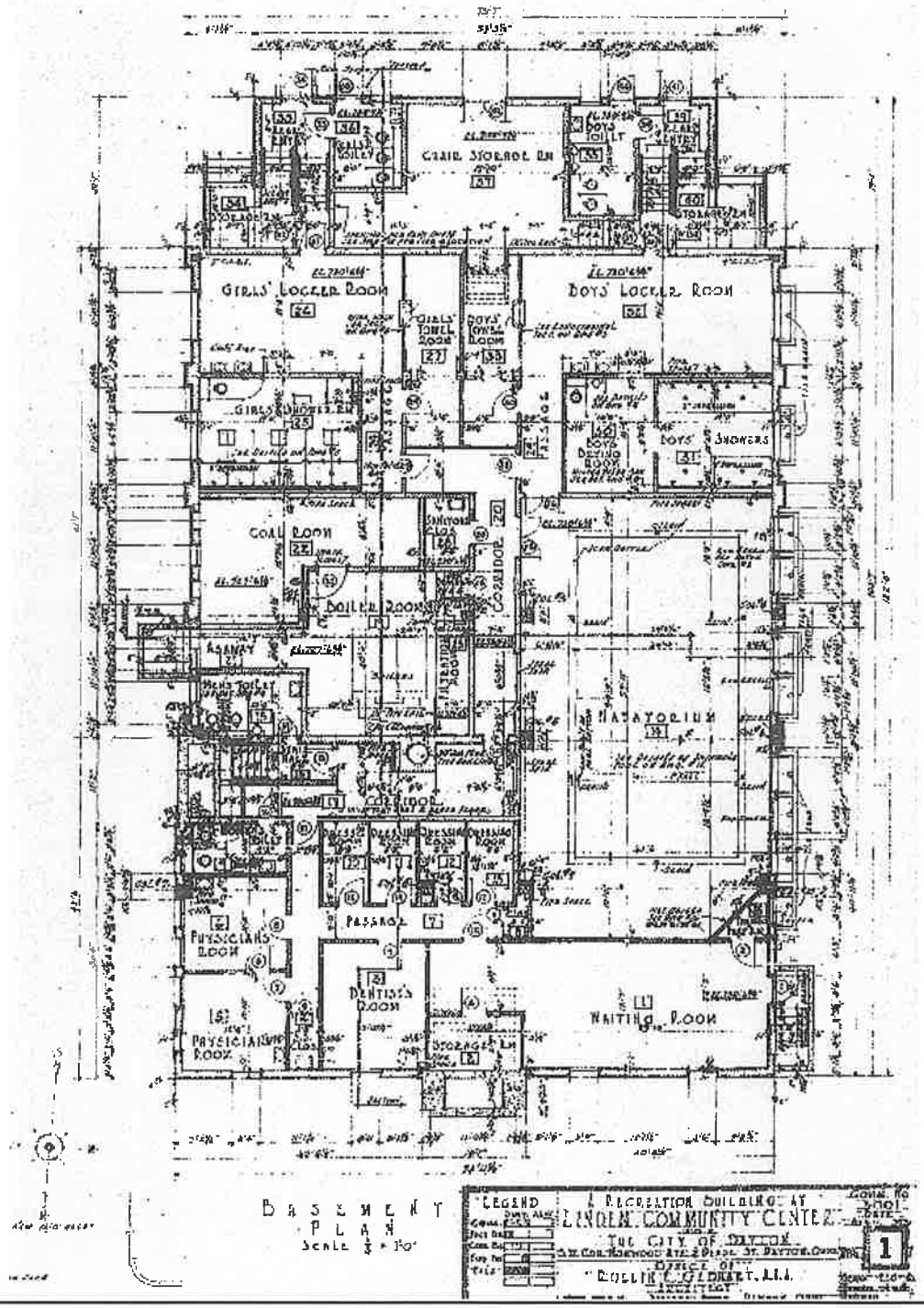
National Register Nomination
Sketch Map Boundary

NORTH

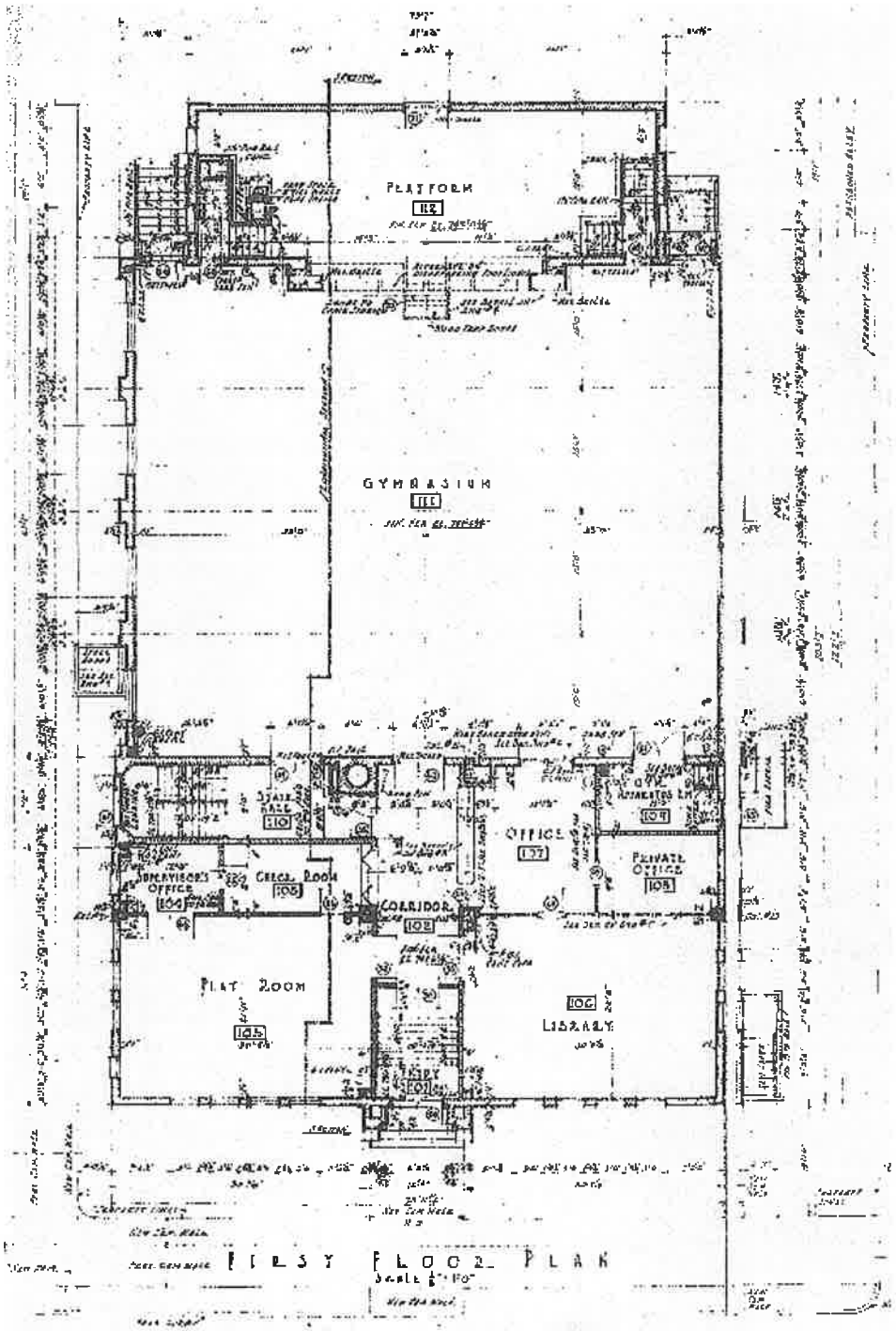


LINDEN COMMUNITY CENTER - SITE PLAN

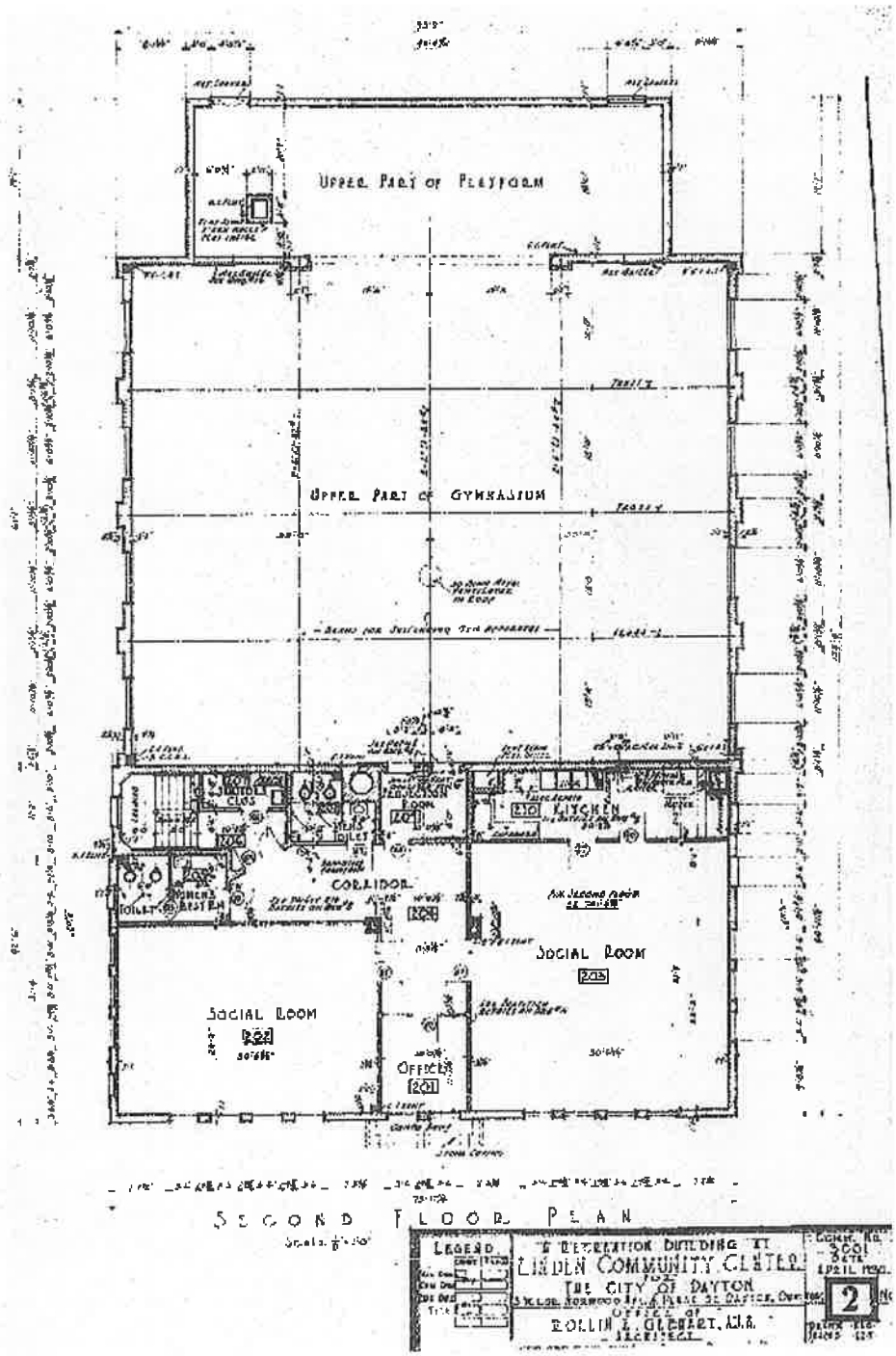
National Register Nomination
Photo View Map



Basement Floor Plan



First Floor Floorplan



Second Floor Floorplan

Attachment A

This article appeared in the City of Dayton Annual Report of 1941, pages 12-16

Linden Community Center
by Captain R. H. Mallory, Director

"In the year of 1906, just thirty-six years ago, a certain colored preacher-janitor, Edward T. Banks by name, living on the West Side of Dayton, opened his back yard to the children of the neighborhood as a playground. The children were of all races, creeds and nationalities and "Ed" neither made nor allowed any discrimination. In his act – though he did not realize it at the time – he was laying the foundation for what is known today as Linden Community Center. This now includes a $100,000 building, two acres of playground and constituted as a Bureau in the City of Dayton. Not only is there now a beautiful community center, but also a nine-hole golf course situated three miles from the Center has been added. This has materially increased our scope of activities.

Following the flood in 1913, the old stock yards at the corner of Mound Street and the Pennsylvania Railroad were demolished. There was a considerable area here. Somehow Mr. Banks conceived the idea of a community playground and asked Mr. Schantz, who owned the land, whether he could go ahead and clean up the space so that it might be used by the community. Mr. Schantz agreed. Several young men, Mrs. Banks, and two young girls donned overalls and worked like field hands clearing that land of rubbish and woods.

The City of Dayton had a large rocking horse or 'giant dip' out at Bomberger Park. The rocking horse was moved to the cleared playground. A volleyball was secured. There was a young boy named Thomas who knew electricity well. He climbed up a pole belonging to Dayton Power and Light company and hooked up the wires of his old motion picture machine. Thus we "borrowed" current for awhile. Whenever a movie house would throw away a film Thomas would patch it up and the children enjoyed the thrills of a movie on the playground.

In 1914, Mr. Schantz had an opportunity to sell the playground land which had been cleaned up. He said that if 'Ed' would let him out of 'his' bargain he would send his teams and men to clean up the land at the corner or Norwood Avenue and Pease Street, the present site of the Community Center. Again, the same 'crew' donned their overalls and worked together to build the new playground.

The Greater Dayton Association became interested and petitioned the City that the playground be affiliated with the general Park and Playground Department. On the same day, Mr. Schantz contributed $1,500.00 to the playground. Iva White and Nell Young were put on a salary by the city at $10.00 a week and Mr. Banks was appointed as a Social Service Director.

In 1917, Mr. Banks went to France, leaving Mrs. Banks in charge of the Center, which shortly became affiliated with the War Chest as the Federation for Social Service among colored people. The National Recreation Association, which had always been interested, became actively engaged in helping the Center. In 1918, J. M. Pollard of the Association was appointed the first Executive Secretary and remained in this capacity until 1923. Through those years the Center was supported through the following sources: The City of Dayton, the Community Chest, the National Recreation Association and from private subscriptions.

The work was becoming more and more important and the little house located on the lot was becoming smaller and smaller – more and more inadequate. Finally in 1923, the National Recreation Association was forced to curtail its generous contribution. Linden Center was made part of the Recreation Department of the City of Dayton and in March, 1926, Robert H. Mallory of Dayton was made Executive Secretary at the suggestion of the Board of Directors, all colored.

Mr. Mallory at once made plans for a more permanent establishment. He interested many civic groups, with the result that in November, 1928, the City Commissioners passed a resolution whereby a Tax Levy of two-tenths of a mill, amounting to $140,000, was put before the voters. This money was to purchase land and erect a new building at Pease Street and Norwood Avenue. The levy passed. Linden Center was thus assured of a permanent lodging and its position as an affiliate of the Dayton Community Chest and as a Bureau of the City of Dayton was made secure.

On May 5, 1930, the excavating was started for the new building and on June 22, 1930, the cornerstone was laid. The new building was sufficiently completed for the Christmas program of that year, and was formally dedicated in March, 1931.

In 1928 the City owned several hundred acres along the Miami River south of the City. A prominent citizen donated $1,000 for its improvement. Here a summer camp for boys and girls was established. Hundreds of children used this spot for their summer vacation periods. A minimum fee of three dollars a week was charged to these youngsters. Further expenses were taken care of by donations.

Two years later the camp was converted into a recreation and picnic grounds; across the road a nine-hole golf course, namely, Miami View, was built. This was indeed a task, because of the deplorable condition of the land and buildings. With the aid of the FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Administration) and City Supervision, a water system was installed. At that time golf equipment was practically nil, hand mowers and scythes were used to cut fairways and greens. Later the purchase of an old truck somewhat lightened the toil entailed in perfecting the appearance of the land. Landscaping developed the corn fields and woods with beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers.

Linden Center, in the past ten years particularly, has endeavored to promote a threefold program. Such a program includes cultural development and character building, a varied athletic program and service to the community in the form of lending assistance in the adjustment of social problems for those persons needing aid.

Unemployment, poor housing, and an increase in delinquency have been contributing factors in the need for recreational training under proper supervision during the leisure hours. Unemployment problems have been brought to the attention of the director and in numerous cases suitable employment had been found. During the present crisis in the nation's history, Linden Center is cooperating to the fullest extent with the Dayton Defense Council. An industrial league has been formed. Through this league men from eight industries are engaged in basketball. Game rooms for boys and girls are open always. Provisions are made for them to enjoy table tennis, checkers, chess and quiet games.

Primarily, Linden Center is not a case-working agency; however, it serves as a medium or clearing house for persons in need of assistance in solving their problems, such as housing, relief, health, and affairs pertaining to veterans. Surveys and studies have been made on delinquency, housing, and community problems on the West Side. Out of this has grown the Community Health Council, an organization composed of representatives from public and private agencies, P.T.A. organizations and the like. The organization has pledged itself fully to the services of the Defense Council.

The cultural program serves as an outlet for youth and adults to develop in leadership, initiative, education, and habit-forming ideals. Clubs give the individual the opportunity to demonstrate his ability for leadership, adjust himself to new situations more readily, create hobby interests and get along with people more easily. Classes in dancing, music, dramatics, sewing, clay modeling, and handcraft afford both education and recreation during the leisure hours.
Aside from historical facts and generalities, in this annual report I should like to mention some of the high spots in the year's work. Linden Center Choir received many favorable comments for its splendid performances at the Paul Robeson Concert held at Memorial Hall on January 29th. Mr. Robeson took the leading role in "Ballad for Americans," with the choir furnishing the background in chorus parts. "It was a pleasure and privilege to work with such a fine group," said Mr. Robeson. This was a real treat for the choir, because Mr. Robeson has traveled extensively in this country and abroad. Mr. Charles Higgins, director of the choir, was applauded and praised to the highest for his fine interpretation of "Ballad for Americans." Since this performance the choir has appeared before several large industrial groups and business organizations, including the Rotary Club, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and participated in several radio broadcasts.

The month of March marked the tenth anniversary of the occupancy of the building. The anniversary celebration was conducted on March 20th and 21st. The Anniversary Celebration

was of the highest type of culture and education. Programs consisted of dancing exhibitions, Girl Scout play, style show, one-act play, handcraft exhibits, and choral selections. The style show, directed by Theodore Pearil, was one of the highlighted attractions. The transformation of the general appearance of the women enhanced by the beautiful garments made in the class seemed almost incredible. The handcraft display, under the direction of Mrs. Lida Belle Williams was recognized as the most varied display ever held at the Center. Skill in craftsmanship was demonstrated in excellent fashion. Each of these instructors supplement the staff through the facilities of the Works Progress Administration.

As usual, Linden Community Center has extended its facilities to the general public for the celebration of National Negro Health Week. Sunday, March 30th, marked the opening meeting. Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, instructor of medicine at Howard University, and director of the Rural Health Project in the state of Mississippi, delivered a most informative address on 'Opportunities in the Field of Health.'

The Community Health Council secured the services of Mr. James Robinson, PhD. D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Wilberforce University. Dr. Robinson presented an informal lecture on general health, beautification, general clean-up and "fix-up" of homes and yards for promoting good health. A neighborhood group in the immediate vicinity of the Center was organized for the purpose of carrying out these ideas and suggestions, and also to work for a closer relationship between City officials and the people themselves. To all those who have contributed in any way to the success of our program, may we express our sincerest gratitude, and leave with our friends this thought – that we, as a public agency, will make every effort to uphold the traditions and ideals in the 'American Way of Living.'"

Another important leadership figure in the history of the Linden Recreation and Community Center is Wayne L Hopkins, a military veteran, who served as Executive Secretary from 1925 to 1926. Wayne was born on March 28, 1896 in Gallipolis, Ohio to Moses and Rose Emma (Whittington) Hopkins. He lived his childhood and attended public schools there. Later he attended The Ohio State University from 1913-17 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Upon graduation he began a military career.

During World War I he entered the Officer's Training School at Des Moines, Iowa in 1917. His class graduated on October 15, 1917 as the 17th Provisional Training Regiment. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry and was assigned to the 83rd Division at Camp Sherman, Ohio. He saw active duty in France with the 367th Infantry, was wounded in combat, and returned to the United States in 1919 and was honorably discharged in April 1919.

Wayne taught night school in Columbus, Ohio at the Y.M.C.A. From 1919-1920. He enrolled in post graduate studies at The Ohio State University from 1920-22 and received a Master of Arts Degree. He married Helen Beatrice Burkes on June 29, 1921. After completing post graduate studies he was an English instructor from 1922-25 at the Bluefield Colored Institute, formed as

a high grade school and teacher preparation academy. This school was Bluefield's first institution of higher learning, now known as Bluefield State College, in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Upon returning to Dayton, Wayne was active in many civic and fraternal organizations including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Prince Hall Masons (32 degree), The National Speaker's Bureau, and he served on the Executive committee of Dayton's branch of the N.A.A.C.P., and the American Legion. He was instrumental in securing the charter and served as Adjunct of Charles Bloce Post, No. 157, American Legion. He also served as Assistant Secretary of Personnel for the Centenary of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1919.

Wayne was a devoted Boy Scout leader and helped to promote the development of a national program for Boy Scouts of America. The Order of the Arrow was founded during the summer of 1915 at Treasure Island, the Philadelphia Council Scout Camp by Dr. E. Urner Goodman and Carroll A. Edson, camp director and assistant respectively. These two men, working with their staff at Treasure Island, originated the ideas that became the basis for the national brotherhood of honor campers of the Boy Scouts of America. On June 2, 1934, at the National Council Annual Meeting in Buffalo, New York, the Order of the Arrow program was approved by the National Council. In May 1948, the Executive Board, upon recommendations of its Committee for Camping, officially integrated the Order of the Arrow into the Scouting movement. In the 1974 re-organization of the Boy Scouts of America, the Order of the Arrow Committee became a subcommittee of the National Boy Scout Committee.

The growth of the Order of the Arrow through the years has never been based on an aggressive promotional plan. Growth came because councils believed in the ideals expressed by the Order and voluntarily requested the lodges be formed. The soundness of providing a single workable honor camper's brotherhood, rather than many, is evident. Over one million Boy Scouts, Explorers, and Scouters have been inducted into the Order during the past 80 years. There are now over 200,000 active members. This coverage of the nation makes possible a unified approach. It provides for transfer of membership, standard books and supplies, national training plans, and a coordinated scheme for building strength in local units through regional and national service. All of this adds color, enthusiasm, and quality to the camping program of Scouting.

Wayne Hopkins was active in the Dayton area as an Executive of the local district of the Boy Scouts of America. The Miami Lodge #495 is named after the great Miami Indian nation. The origin of name Miami comes from their Ojibwe name, Oumami (Oumamik, Owmaweg, Omaumeg) "people of the peninsula" altered by the French and English into our familiar form of Miami (Maumee). The Order of the Arrow was initiated in the Miami Valley Council in the fall of 1952. A group of Scouts and volunteers petitioned the Council Scout Executive, Wayne Hopkins (a Vigil Honor member), for permission to charter and start a lodge.

The first ceremony and induction of members was held at Cricket Holler in October of 1952. At

the time 121 new members were inducted in a ceremony by Arrowmen of Owasippe Lodge #7 of the Chicago Area Council. A loan from the council permitted the lodge to purchase materials for Indian outfits for the second Ordeal. Ordeal and Brotherhood ceremonies were held annually at Cricket Holler through 1958. With the opening of Woodland Trails Scout Reservation in 1959, Miami Lodge embarked on a plan of holding events at both camps, a tradition that continues today.

Wayne L. Hopkins relocated to Philadelphia PA where he served as a Trustee for the historic Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital and School for Nurses. The Douglass Hospital was established in 1895 by and for African-Americans physicians to practice who were excluded by Jim Crow laws from practicing at other local hospitals. A nursing school was established as a part of the hospital which opened its doors for service on October 31, 1895. This institution was later renamed in 1948 upon merging with another black hospital, the Mercy Hospital, in 1955 to become the Mercy-Douglass Hospital. Wayne died in June 1970 in Philadelphia, PA.

The final major role player in the development of the Linden Center was Sergeant Garfield W. Jones. Garfield was a contemporary of Rev. E. T. Banks and Robert H. Mallory, and provided charitable and community support to the Linden Center. An Army veteran of World War I, he was wounded at the Argonne Forest battle, and therefore he returned to Dayton, where he recuperated and went on to operate the family funeral parlor at 438 West Fifth Street that he and his brother had established in 1909. He was a member of Ancient Square Lodge No. 40, Lee Carpenter Post No. 328 of the American Legion, and a member of Zion Baptist Church. He served as chairman of Troop 30, Boys Scouts of America. The Dayton Forum publication quoted that Robert H. Mallory attributed much of his success to Garfield Jones.

Black women also played an important role in the Linden Center development. Mrs. George "Bertie" Ellis, known as mom to thousands of young people, served at the "colored" YWCA for ten years as membership and employment secretary and as acting Executive Director of that organization. She worked on the bond issue that helped build Linden Center and was director of women's and girls activities for eleven years. She was the first president of Dayton's League of Colored Women's Voters, organized in 1921. Mrs. Ellis also served on the Dayton Urban League Board, and with other community groups.

The Linden Community and Recreation Center was more than just an ordinary community recreation center. It was a forum for leadership development and institution building as well. After World War I and during the Great Depression, the center proudly served as an administrative site for the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA), a New Deal project which provided all types of welfare assistance. It is also recognized as a local Community Chest Agency site, a forerunner of today's United Way non-profit organization.

It was strategically located in the epicenter of the African-American community, near the major African-American "Fifth Street" commercial district at that time. It's neighbors were institutions

such as the West Dayton YWCA, the oldest continuously existing Black YWCA in the United States, and the Fifth Street YMCA, the second oldest YMCA organized for Blacks in the United States, and also some of the nation's earliest Urban League and NAACP chapters. Linden Center was also a prominent ethnically diverse city-wide gathering place. It had a special mission in that it served primarily the least, the lost, and the last of the African American community while at the same time serving as a cultural springboard for an emerging middle class. However, the Center's programs did not discriminate in offering assistance based on only race, but encompassed the educational and cultural, social, political, and economic interests of the diverse citizens of Dayton and Montgomery County.

Many living citizens who visited this place for welfare, cultural, and recreational activity would testify that this place impacted their lives for the better. Its iconic and historic status and importance to Dayton should be duly recognized because the personal sacrifices made, and the lives changed are too numerous to ignore.

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

The National Map US Topo

DAYTON NORTH QUADRANGLE
OHIO
7.5-MINUTE SERIES

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 16S
10 000-foot ticks: Ohio Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)

Imagery.....NAIP, June 2004
Roads.....©2006-2010 Tele Atlas
Names.....GNIS, 2008
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2004
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2004

MN 5° 46' 103 MILS GN 1° 48' 32 MILS
UTM GRID AND 2010 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

U.S. National Grid
100,000-m Square ID
GK
Grid Zone Designation
16S

SCALE 1:24 000

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

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988

This map was produced to conform with version 0.5.10 of the draft USGS Standards for 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Maps.
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.5.11

OHIO

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

West Milton	Tipp City	New Carlisle
Trotwood	Dayton North	Fairborn
Miamisburg	Dayton South	Bellbrook

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Interstate Route	State Route
US Route	Local Road
Ramp	4WD

Interstate Route US Route State Route

DAYTON NORTH, OH
2010

LINDEN
LINDEN CENTER
334 NORWOOD
LINDEN CENTER
334 NORWOOD AVE

LINDEN CENTER
334 NORWOOD AVE

MENS
LOCKER RM

LINDEN CENTER
334 NORWOOD

LINDEN
Safe Place

LINDEN CENTER

334 NORWOOD

1939

LINDEN CENTER YOUTH BASKETBALL
SPONSORED BY ADVANCE ASSEMBLY AUTOMATION

8 Ft DEEP
WALK

FIRE