NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: William Byrd Park

Other names/site number: VDHR #127-6067; New Reservoir Park; Reservoir Park; Poplar Vale; Glen Ellen; Virginia War Memorial Carillon; Christopher Columbus Statue

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

2. Location

Street & number: 600 South Boulevard

City or town: Richmond State: VA County: Independent City

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A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** _X_**B** _X_**C** ___**D**

Julie V. Langan 12-15-15

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

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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:) _____

Joe Edson Pat. Beall 2-2-16

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	x
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	2	buildings
1	0	sites
14	4	structures
18	2	objects
39	8	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
SOCIAL: Clubhouse
FUNERARY: Cemetery
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Sports Facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/Marker
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Work of Art
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Horticulture Facility
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Waterworks
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Extractive Facility
LANDSCAPE: Park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
SOCIAL: Clubhouse
FUNERARY: Cemetery
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Sports Facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/Marker
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Work of Art
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Waterworks
LANDSCAPE: Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
LATE VICTORIAN

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: EARTH; BRICK; STONE: Granite; CONCRETE

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
William Byrd Park, originally known as New Reservoir Park, is a municipal park located on the north side of the James River about three miles west of downtown Richmond, Virginia. The park is generally bounded on the north by the Downtown Expressway (SR-195) and Lakeview Avenue, on the east by S. Robinson Street and Hampton Street, on the south by Pump House Road and Maymont Park, and on the west by Rugby Road and Blanton Avenue. The main vehicular access into the park is South Boulevard from the north, which winds through the park becoming Blanton Avenue, then Park Drive before crossing the James River on the Boulevard Bridge. The park, comprising approximately 275 acres, includes areas for both active and passive recreational use, as well as distinctive landscape features, architectural resources, memorial objects, and public utility structures. The history of land use within the park extends from colonial frontier and antebellum estates, to late-nineteenth and twentieth-century pleasure grounds, municipal waterworks, and city tree nursery, to the city's most heavily used park in the twenty-first century. The most notable natural defining feature is the park's topography, which incorporates relatively flat areas, as well as steep wooded ravines, gently rolling hills, mature tree cover, and associated undergrowth. The Virginia War Memorial Carillon (#127-0387), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, sits on one of the highest points of elevation in the city. Notable manmade defining features include the reservoir, the manmade lakes, former quarry sites, designed landscapes, the internal circulation patterns, playing fields, and buildings. Byrd Park retains a high level of all aspects of its historical integrity. In addition to the original park improvements, such as the reservoir and lakes, the park's feeling and association are particularly intact. Although later additions, such as the Virginia War Memorial Carillon, and changes in amenities, such as the creation of athletic fields, occurred over the years, these elements enhance the park's setting and reinforce its status within the city

park system. The park contains 39 contributing resources: 6 buildings, 1 site, 14 structures, and 18 objects. There are also 8 non-contributing resources: 2 buildings, 4 structures, and 2 objects.

Narrative Description

In 1874, the City of Richmond acquired about 60 acres at the western edge of its boundaries in order to establish a new and larger reservoir to supplement the city's water supply for its growing post-Civil War population. Then-City Engineer Wilfred E. Cutshaw also envisioned the reservoir property and adjacent available lands as an ideal location for a new park. Cutshaw's vision for the area resulted in the acquisition of 300 acres that he transformed into William Byrd Park. The park's design reflected tenets of the late-nineteenth-century American Parks Movement, which was largely founded on the pioneering urban park projects of the design team of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. and Calvert Vaux. Characteristics of these designs included winding pathways and picturesque landscapes as well as water features and parks that connected to other greenspaces through parkways and tree-lined boulevards. Throughout the years, user needs and demands, as well as trends in park use theory, have influenced the development of William Byrd Park, leading to the use of the park for organized recreational activities, commemorative purposes, and public ceremonies. No official master plan of development existed for William Byrd Park; rather, the park developed as land, labor, and financial resources became available. Cutshaw clearly had a vision for the potential of the area and the result is a unified park containing a variety of elements that today retains the overall feeling and appearance that Cutshaw set out to create over 140 years ago.

Setting and Location

William Byrd Park, originally known as New Reservoir Park, is a municipal park of approximately 275 acres located in Richmond's Near West End--an area annexed from Henrico County in 1906. South Boulevard is the main access road into the park from the north with Blanton Avenue and Hampton Street forming the west and east boundaries, respectively. The park extends from the Downtown Expressway (constructed through the north end of the park in the mid-1970s), south to Pump House Drive and Maymont Park on the south side. Handsome residential neighborhoods surround the park on the east and west sides. The urban setting of the park is offset by the nearby presence of the James River and the bucolic landscape within the park boundaries. Although residential streets and major north-south arterial roadways transect the park, the discrete areas within the park provide visitors with a retreat from the urban surroundings. The National-Register listed Virginia War Memorial Carillon (#127-0387) property is located within the boundaries of the park, and the National Register-listed properties of Maymont Park (#127-0182), which is also a city-owned park, and the New Pump-House (#127-0193) are adjacent to Byrd Park on the south side.

General Site Description

William Byrd Park, with its open spaces, wooded areas, and water features, offers areas for both passive and active recreational use. The northern and central portions of the park exhibit a relatively flat topography with large open spaces, while the southern portion encompasses rolling to steep terrain that is more heavily wooded. Paved roadways, as well as pedestrian walkways and bike trails, navigate through each of the diverse areas of the park providing visitors with a variety of experiences. The following narrative provides a brief overview of the general character of these areas.

Recreational ballfields and hard-surface tennis courts are located in the northwestern portion of the park, where the land is relatively flat and historically has been used for such pursuits such as horse (carriage) racing, baseball, football, soccer, horseshoe pitching, marbles, archery, rifle shooting, carrier pigeon flying, and shuffleboard. Amenities built to facilitate such recreational activities have historically

included regulation playing fields, grandstands, bleachers, and a field house. This 15-acre portion of the park is located west of South Boulevard and east of South Sheppard Street.

Fountain Lake, also known as Reservoir Lake and Boat Lake, is located in the northeast section of the park. Excavation of this area provided fill for the earthen construction of the reservoir; Chief Engineer Cutshaw filled the resulting cavity with water to create the park's first lake. The site is generally bounded by the Downtown Expressway on the north, South Robinson Street on the east, South Boulevard on the west, and Grant Street on the south. Paddle Boat Lane connects the south end of Boulevard with Boat Lake Drive, which encircles the lake. Historically the lake has been the site of refreshment concessions, concerts, and strolling along the paved, tree-lined walkway surrounding the lake's circumference. In 1925, a group of citizens donated to the City a lighted fountain to be placed at the center of the lake, giving the lake its present name. A triangular-shaped, sloping, grassy plot located at the southwest corner of the lake is often referred to as the "sun lot" due to its extensive summertime use by sunbathers.

The central section of the park is defined by the reservoir on the north and the Carillon complex and Dogwood Dell (as the wooded ravine behind the bell tower is known) on the south. This section holds some of the highest elevations in the park--one of the reasons the site was chosen for the new reservoir. Both the reservoir and the Carillon are located more than 225 feet above mean sea level. As the City added land to its reservoir park holdings, Cutshaw developed the parcel south of the reservoir as a municipal tree nursery. Two mid-nineteenth century houses were located in the area and one was used as the nurseryman's residence. The tree nursery remained at this location until about 1920 when the operations were transferred to Joseph Bryan Park on Richmond's Northside. Today some of the remaining nursery trees, often arranged in linear rows, can be seen in this area. The Dogwood Dell, one of the popular natural areas within the park, encompasses the sloping ravine south of the Carillon and over the years has been enhanced by tree planting, the construction of spallwork walkways and bridges (undertaken between 1934 and 1939 through work relief organizations) and more recently by the construction of trails that are used by mountain bikers and walkers. The 1929-1930 development of a "sunken garden" on the west side of the dell, across from Bute Lane, reclaimed and beautified the site of a former gravel quarry that fronted onto Pump House Road. The banks of the quarry were sloped and planted with ivy, and the area was planted with shrubs left over from the old Byrd Park Nursery. Small cedar trees were replanted from the woods in the Pump House loop area. Roads and stone walkways through the garden were built with old granite curbing and discarded street cobble stones.[1]

The eastern section of the park, separated from the western section of the park by two blocks of private residential development (now known as William Byrd Terrace), was the former Poplar Vale estate owned by the Sheilds (also noted as spelled "Shields") and Robinson families. The estate is believed to have taken its name from the deep, wooded swale that extended through the center of the property.[2] The Sheilds house, situated east of the present intersection of Brandon Lane and Westover Road, was used as the park superintendent's house until it was razed in 1924. At present, the park operations building is located near this site. Cutshaw re-graded the site where a spring-fed farm pond stood and built a dam and spillway to separate two manmade lakes. The upper lake became known as Swan Lake and the lower lake as Sheilds Lake. Wide, grassy lawns slope down to the lake edges and a large stand of woods, known as Sheilds Grove, extending from just past Colorado Street on the south to Ashland Street (now Lakeview Avenue) on the north stretches along the park's eastern boundary. The grove was described as "one of the most attractive and naturally beautiful parts of this park," and was retained to maintain the sylvan character of the property.[3] In 1925, following Sallie May Dooley's donation of Maymont to the City, several old growth trees in Sheilds Grove were cut down in an effort to improve the access to Maymont by widening Virginia Avenue. Newspapers reported on the clearing and noted that many local residents

expressed indignation at the cutting of trees in the grove, some of which were estimated to be 100 years old.[4] The following year, three roadways were cut, graded, and graveled through the adjacent neighborhood. The new roads--Powhatan, Walker and Amelia Streets--connected to Lake Drive from the east.

Evolution of the Landscape

Until the late nineteenth century, the character of the area now encompassed by William Byrd Park was largely rural. Country homes, some of which were attached to productive farms and some of which were used only seasonally, stood on large-acreage parcels. The surrounding area did not begin to develop into a suburban neighborhood until the early twentieth century. An 1867 map of the City of Richmond depicts the largely undeveloped nature of the area, showing small clusters of buildings, few roadways, and large expanses of field and woods. The map provides a good representation of the area just prior to the City's initial land purchase. The undeveloped nature of the land and the relatively low prices asked by sellers provided Chief Engineer Cutshaw with the perfect opportunity to establish the new reservoir and park.

The development of the park and its amenities encouraged the residential development of the surrounding area. In 1874, as noted, this part of Henrico County remained largely undeveloped with only a few dwellings sited on large-acreage parcels. In 1887, the City Railway Company provided public transportation to the park via a steam line that extended from Main Street to Beverly Street and erected a small passenger station on the park grounds.[5] By 1910, access by public transportation and the presence of additional entertainment parks had introduced even more people to the New Reservoir Park area and residential development near the park increased. In the 1910s, advertisements for nearby building lots and apartments, such as the Park View Apartments (corner of S. Davis and Maplewood avenues), boasted of the exclusive nature of the area and its lakefront views. Developments such as William Byrd Terrace (1912), William Byrd Court (1921), and William Byrd Parkway (1923) were new residential subdivisions that adjoined the park and highlighted the proximity to the park, the lake views, and mature trees as major selling points.

In addition to manmade alterations and construction, natural disasters and severe weather have had an impact on the appearance of the park over the years. Annual reports from city departments detail effects of ice storms, hurricanes, and tornadoes. In 1881, a heavy rainstorm damaged the turf around the reservoir. On July 13, 1951, a tornado tore through the park damaging trees and buildings. The same type of damage was caused on October 15, 1954 when Hurricane Hazel came through the area. Winds from the hurricane destroyed a service building in Byrd Park and repairs were needed for numerous walks, curbs, gutters and floodlights. Most recently, hurricanes Isabelle (2003) and Irene (2011) have swept through the park. Isabelle resulted in the loss of over 200 trees in the park, most located in the former nursery and the Carillon/Dogwood Dell areas. Replanting efforts have been undertaken to re-establish the wooded areas. A commemorative marker (#127-6067-0027) to one of these efforts, led by the Luck Stone Corporation of Richmond, is located west of the Roundhouse.

In the mid-1970s, the park's acreage was reduced by 12 acres when the Downtown Expressway (SR-195) was constructed through the north end of the park. The construction generally followed the former route of Beverly Street and required the appropriation of parts of the ballfields and horseshoe pits. The new roadway, which ran below the grade of the existing streets, required the construction of bridges at South Sheppard Street and South Boulevard, as well as reinforcement of the wall enclosing Fountain Lake.

Present Appearance

At present, the park is generally divided into six general areas that reflect the varied uses of the park and provide a convenient way to identify the amenities in the park. These areas are depicted on a labeled site plan included with this nomination form. The Tennis Courts and Ballfields (1) are located at the northwest corner of the park, and include the stucco-clad Athletic Field House, bleachers, the Sam Woods Memorial marker, and the American Legion Memorial Flagpole. Boat Lake or Fountain Lake (2) is located in the northeast corner of the park and encompasses the concessions pavilion (The Landing at Fountain Lake), and the surrounding walkways and roads. The Reservoir and Tree Nursery (3) are located at the southern terminus of Boulevard. This area includes the Christopher Columbus statue, the 1939 pump station, the Trafford Pump Station and its associated power supply, the recently constructed electric station, and the former tree nursery area that is now used as the Vita Course exercise route. The Roundhouse or Byrd Park Club House (4) is located east of the Reservoir. This area encompasses the Women's Christian Temperance Union Fountain, the Luck Stone Corporation marker, and the privately owned Sheilds-Robinson Family Cemetery. Swan and Sheilds lakes (5) make up the eastern side of the park. In addition to the lakes, the Amelia Street Bridge, dam, and spillway, the natural spring located west of Sheilds Lake, the park operations building, and its associated storage building and equipment yard, and the Sheilds Shelter and cooking hearths are located in this area. Lastly, the Carillon area (6) is the largest section of the park and includes the Virginia War Memorial Carillon site, the Dogwood Dell amphitheater, the Carillon spring, the Dogwood Dell bridge and walkways, the Dogwood Dell plaque (1939), the Carillon Shelter and associated stone hearths, the restroom building, the former stone quarry site, Barker Field Dog Park, and the Tot Lot (playground). This area also includes the paved and unpaved walking and biking trails, as well as wood and stone bridges, cobblestone walkways and terraces, concrete and stone steps, metal fencing, temporary storage sheds, and paved and unpaved parking areas.

Each of the above areas includes a variety of landscape elements including mature trees and shrubs, planting beds, natural areas, streams, landscaped medians, and open grassy areas. In some areas, large stones and wooden posts demarcate the edges of roadways and parking areas, but these elements are recent additions to the park that are utilitarian in nature and are not significant contributors to the park's character. Signage, likewise, has been considered a utilitarian element and has not been documented as part of the park design. Modern lighting fixtures, picnic tables, park benches, trash cans, and water fountains--typical park accoutrements--can also be found throughout these areas, but due to their relative impermanent nature are not discussed in detail in this narrative. Historic lighting fixtures are located along the drives around the Carillon, the reservoir, the lakes, and along Boulevard.

Detailed Description

1874-1890: City Ownership and Park Development

In the history of William Byrd Park, the period between 1874 and 1890 was one of land acquisition, early development of the water utility operations, development of the municipal tree nursery, and park planning. In 1874, initial development of the park began on about 60 acres of land then located in Henrico County at the western edge of the city boundaries. The site was chosen for the development of the city's second reservoir, which would supplement the existing Marshall Reservoir located near Hollywood Cemetery. The property was preferred over others under consideration because of its low price and high elevation, which would aid in the movement of water.

It is clear that from the beginning Chief Engineer Cutshaw planned that the area would house not only the utilitarian reservoir, but also would be expanded for a grand city park. Although no "master plan" for Byrd Park has been located, a highly elaborate park plan produced around 1873 has been found in the records of the Office of the Chief Engineer and may have presented a fantastic depiction of what a Richmond city park could entail. The unsigned plan depicted elements that would eventually appear in

Byrd Park, including architecturally detailed buildings, winding drives, water features, a two-basin reservoir, and a canal or river edging one end of the park. When oriented with the canal to the south, the plan is quite reminiscent of the final design of Byrd Park. Highly elaborate and ambitious, the plan also included classically-inspired flower gardens, architectural follies, a towered entry gatehouse, and even a hedge maze. Although this idealized park never materialized, it provides a glimpse of the ambitions of the time.

Initial development of the City's newly acquired site included construction of the reservoir, a lake, and a racetrack. The City allocated $250,000 for the reservoir and residual funds from that account were used by the City Engineer to beautify the grounds, mostly with trees and shrubs. Between 1874 and 1888, the City acquired 300 acres for the park from 18 different parties with a total cost of $116,105.85.[6] Cutshaw's annual reports during these years indicate that municipal allocations for enhancements to the park and construction of additional amenities were small or non-existent. Often, the engineer completed work with residual funds from other projects and relied on park workers for labor.

Construction of the New Reservoir (#127-6067-0006) began immediately following land acquisition. The tall, earthen mound reservoir--the defining feature of Byrd Park--is a two-basin (east/west) reservoir measuring approximately 429.5'-wide by 834'-long with sloping sides about 25' in height. The present capacity of the reservoir is 54 million gallons. The top of the reservoir originally was accessed by wooden steps, which were replaced by sets of concrete (granolithic) steps leading up the east, west, and south side embankments to a graveled promenade at the top of the reservoir that provided a spectacular view of the surrounding landscape. Although the steps are still extant, the top of the reservoir is no longer accessible to the public. Over the years, the reservoir has been drained several times for cleaning (the first instance was in 1898) and the brick and stone has been repointed and repaired. A major repair was needed in the late 1940s, when the Department of Public Utilities discovered that the reservoir had developed a serious leak. At that time, the department spent about $100,000 to repair the floor and side walls of the structure. During the construction, new mains were installed from the Trafford Pumping Station (constructed in 1922) to each basin of the reservoir to provide better circulation and to increase the amount of water that could be drawn from the basins. Another major alteration to the reservoir occurred in 1970 when a change in new federal regulations required that the reservoir basins be covered. A large concrete cap was placed over each basin. In recent years, a tall, chain-link fence equipped with security cameras and lighting, was placed around the top of the structure. Water first flowed from the reservoir into the city's water system on January 1, 1876, and today continues as the sole source of water for the city and portions of the surrounding counties.[7]

On the west side of Boulevard (formerly Clover Street), Cutshaw built an oval racetrack, also denoted as "speedway," for horse-drawn carriages and bicycles. At the center was an open athletic field; although an infield pond was proposed at one point it remained unbuilt. The racetrack, originally constructed in 1876 and substantially reconstructed in 1902, included a viewing platform for spectators, as well as a security fence.[8] The racetrack was replaced by ballfields in 1908.

On the east side of Boulevard, Cutshaw's excavations of earth for the reservoir's berm construction left a large cavity that became Reservoir Lake (also known as Boat Lake and as Fountain Lake) (#127-6067-0020). The lake was completed by 1876 and its environs had already been improved to include a graded roadway, benches (settees), and shade trees around its perimeter. At this early stage, the lake was one of the few recreational improvements at the park that also added to the park's beauty. In its 1878 annual report, the City's Committee on Water stated that "the grounds of the New Reservoir presents with the

lake a very handsome appearance..." The 1879 report noted that "the lake with its beautiful sheet of water adds very much to the harmony of the other improvements."[9]

The presence of a T-shaped peninsula stretching out into the lake is an early feature that provided visitors the opportunity to walk "into" the lake and was later augmented with a band stand where weekly concerts were hosted. By 1908, the long arm of the peninsula was replaced with an octagonal terrace located at the west side of the lake. The City constructed a pavilion on the terrace, which it leased to private concession companies. As early as 1886, the City licensed "refreshment privileges" and steamboat launches to private concessionaires. The first refreshment stand building was completed around 1906 and later expanded to include comfort stations (restrooms) for park visitors. The building served as a gateway to the new octagonal terrace and lakeside boat landings. The frame building with its sweeping gable roof is visible in several late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century postcard views of the lake. The area around Boat Lake was the major improved space at the park for many years. Although a walkway encircled the ramparts of the reservoir and visitors were allowed to stroll along the top, the lake was the center of social activity.[10]

By 1890, the character of the northern end of Byrd Park was established with the reservoir as the monumental anchor at the southern terminus of Boulevard, Boat Lake and its pleasure walks to the east of Boulevard for strolling, boating, and musical concerts, and the race track and its infield athletic grounds located west of Boulevard for more active recreation pursuits.

During the late 1870s and 1880s, the City acquired the parcels that today make up the Carillon area and Dogwood Dell on the west, and Sheilds and Swan lakes on the east.[11] Two houses were located in the western area, which today incorporates the site of the Vita Course and the Virginia War Memorial Carillon grounds. As part of its 1874 acquisitions, the City purchased James D. Craig's five-acre parcel located south of the reservoir site. The Craig house, built around 1840, was located on the east side of Blanton Avenue in the area that Chief Engineer Cutshaw developed as a tree nursery. In 1890, Cutshaw persuaded the city to hire a fulltime nurseryman and established a municipal tree nursery on the land south of the reservoir, which likely resulted in the removal of the Craig house. Rows of seedlings were planted in the area and as they matured, the shade trees were harvested and replanted throughout the city along streets and at select municipal and institutional sites. Cutshaw's subsequent annual reports note that thousands of trees were transplanted in this way, and were also a source of income to the city as sales to other municipalities increased throughout the years. In 1890, Blanton Avenue was extended as Park Drive, passing south of the nursery, and a loop road (Pump House Road) extended around the south and west sides of Dogwood Dell. (The Boulevard Bridge across the James River was not built until 1925.) The latter road connected the 1883 Gothic-Revival Pump House (#127-0193), which Cutshaw had developed on the canal, with the improved portions of New Reservoir Park.[12]

The area now occupied by the Carillon and its landscape forecourt was the former site of the Sutton house, a two-story brick dwelling built around 1860.[13] This dwelling remained on the property after the City purchased it in 1880 from Louis F. Bossieux and it served for many years as the nurseryman's house. The two-story house featured classical details with a porch that wrapped around the north and west sides. In 1925, the house was demolished and the site was cleared in preparation for construction of the proposed War Memorial.[14]

In 1888, the City of Richmond acquired the Poplar Vale property (Robinson-Sheilds) from James Pace, who had purchased Poplar Vale from the Sheilds heirs.[15] A late-nineteenth-century photograph shows the Poplar Vale dwelling as a two-and-one-half-story, three-bay-wide brick structure with a side-facing gable

roof pierced by four tall brick chimneys. A one-story porch extends across the front (probably north side) of the house. Later small additions were constructed on the side and rear of the house. After acquisition by the City, the house was occupied by the Superintendent of New Reservoir Park until 1924, when the house was razed and the land was re-graded.[16]

Not all traces of the Robinson-Sheilds family's ownership and occupation of the land have been erased from the park. The Sheilds-Robinson Family Cemetery (#127-6067-0011), located near the present Roundhouse, holds about 30 marked graves, the earliest of which dates to 1823. A brick wall, erected in 1924, encloses the cemetery grounds. In 1929, two memorial plaques were erected on the east wall by descendants of the John and Agnes Robinson family and the John and Anna Robinson Sheilds family. The cemetery is the burial site of extended family members, including Jean Moncure Wood, the widow of General James Wood, a Revolutionary War hero and Governor of Virginia (1741–1813), who is buried at St. John's Church on Richmond's Church Hill. Wood's grave and that of Alice B. Reeve (wife of Samuel Reeve), both dating to 1823, are the earliest known burials at the site.

1900-1930: Final Acquisition and Continued Improvements

By 1890, the steam line train that ran to the park was replaced by part of Richmond's new electrified trolley line.[17] Both the Richmond Railway & Electric Company and the Union Passenger Railway (later, the Richmond Passenger and Power Company) operated lines to the park, the latter extending its tracks to the west side of the tree nursery to an adjacent area known as Blandon Park where there was a picnic area, as well as the company's overnight car barn and dance pavilion. The car barn, located south of the reservoir, burned in 1902, damaging many of the young trees in the nursery, and Blandon Park closed the same year.[18] The rail company also had constructed a casino at the corner of South Davis Avenue and Ashland Street near Boat Lake. By 1902, the West End Electrical Park was built on the casino site and offered daily entertainment, as well as carnival rides, and a large swimming pool. In 1906, concessionaire Richmond Amusement Corp. took over the park, renaming it Idlewood Park, but operations ended with the company's 1908 bankruptcy.

In 1910, Richmond's City Council approved the dismantling of the Idlewood Park buildings, and subdivided the area into building lots.[19] The City acquired the triangular parcel of land located south of Ashland Street and incorporated it into Byrd Park. The Rathskeller restaurant/saloon that stood on the site was demolished and in 1914, the William Byrd Park House and Comfort Station (also known as the Byrd Park Clubhouse and as the Roundhouse, #127-6067-0009) replaced it. Located within a thick grove of oak trees, the octagonal-shaped building also housed the caretaker's tool house and facilities on the basement level. The brick building was designed in a Rustic style that features a raised, columned porch on all sides and shaped brackets beneath the overhanging roof eave. A double-door entrance is located on the north side of the building facing Lakeview Avenue; the remaining sides hold round-topped, multiple-paned wood window sash covered by metal grills. The building has undergone some modifications over the years, including the installation of a kitchen in 1940, but has retained its overall form and character.[20]

The development of the east side of the park occurred more slowly as Cutshaw excavated a large gravel deposit in the area now occupied by Swan Lake, developed a roadway through the property (Amelia Street), regraded the existing ravine, and constructed the dams and spillway that would create the two lakes. In 1892, the mayor reported that "the work of forming a new lake with an improved drive around it, connecting with the other roads in the park, was begun late in the fall." In 1902, the engineer reported that the roadway was complete, but improvements to the area continued for over a decade.[21]

The work in the eastern part of the park involved construction of a dam between the two lake basins. Work continued on the dam and spillway until 1915, when the Chief Engineer reported that work on the structure was complete. Drawings from the Office of the Chief Engineer show the spillway as a cascading waterfall flowing into Sheilds Lake. The Amelia Street Bridge (#127-6067-0016) over the spillway was detailed with a classical balustrade, which was likely replaced by the present one during the 1930s relief work in the park. In 1916, the City completed grading, turfing, and riprapping the slopes surrounding the lakes, the construction of walkways, and planted the area slopes with grass and ornamental blooming shrubs, flowers, and trees.[22]

The seven-acre upper lake, known as Swan Lake (#127-6067-0022), and the 13-acre lower lake, known as Sheilds Lake (#127-6067-0021), would undergo several revisions to their shorelines over the years as the shape and depth of the lakes were altered and the lakes were dredged and used for a variety of purposes. Beginning in 1930, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries stocked both lakes with native fish. The practice seems to have halted during the 1950s, but at present the lakes are again being stocked and an annual children's catch and release fishing carnival is held.

A major change in lake usage occurred in 1919, when the City established Sheilds Lake as a swimming lake. Only white residents were permitted to use the pool, as Jim Crow era segregation required strict separation of whites and African Americans. A separate swimming pool for African American residents was not built until the 1930s with funds provided, in part, from the federal Public Works Administration.[23] In its first year, attendance was over 15,000, but this number quickly increased until the pool lake was used by 200,000 people or more during the three-month summer season operations. In 1924, the southern end of the lake was cordoned off with a fence dividing the deep diving area from the shallow, wading areas. New metal diving boards installed in 1930 and shoreline access was added. In 1920, a bathhouse had been constructed on the south side of Park Drive; although later demolished, its concrete slab foundation and steps are still visible. Use of the lake as a swimming pool also required the training and hiring of lifeguards, as well as bathhouse attendants. The lake would continue to serve as a swimming pool until 1955.

Another improvement made in the lake area involved the construction of a new brick stable building. In 1902, a frame stable was constructed on the small island in Swan Lake, but by 1912 it had fallen into disrepair. The building on the island was demolished in 1914 and the new, brick stable was constructed near the site of the Poplar Vale house, on the south side of Amelia Street. It now houses the Byrd Park Field Office of the City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities (#127-6067-0012). The one-and-one-half-story building is T-shaped in plan with exterior brick walls laid in a five-course American bond pattern. The building's intersecting hipped roofs are clad with slate shingles. A centrally located cupola with wooden louvered sides is covered by a slate-clad pyramidal roof. There are three hip-roofed dormers on the north side of the building. Drawings from the City's Engineer's office show that the projecting tail of the T-plan (now the south end) held stalls and feed troughs on the east side and an office or storage space on the west side that was finished with a wooden floor. The stalls and larger section of the barn (on the north) had a clay floor.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, numerous improvements and changes were made in the northwest corner of the park. The 1908 City Engineer's report stated that "two athletic fields have been made in the area surrounded by the speedway. Baseball diamonds were prepared for summer and football gridirons on same ground for the fall." The ballfields (#127-6067-0024) proved to be very popular and were patronized throughout the year by amateur teams and preparatory and district schools located in the city. In 1916, the annual report stated that the Byrd Park athletic field had been in full operation since

March of that year. Tennis courts (#127-6067-0019) are first reported in that year, as are provisions for "soccer football." "People from all parts of the city flock to this place practically the year round." By 1924, the fields included 11 tennis courts and four ball diamonds and were used by "every kind of organization team." Although comfort stations had been added beneath the water tower in 1921, a new field house (#127-6067-0004) was built in 1925 that provided expanded restrooms, locker rooms, and storage.[24]

Improvements to the city's water system continued during this period. The old Marshall Reservoir was abandoned as a source of water in 1923. This required the construction of the Trafford Pump Station (also known as the Auxiliary Pump Station and the Booster Station) (#127-6067-0008), a new high pressure pumping station that made it possible to deliver water to all parts of the city from the Byrd Park Reservoir. This building, constructed on the south side of the reservoir and on the north side of the former nursery site, is a tall, one-story, limestone building executed in a Neoclassical style, similar to, but less ornate than, the Byrd Park Plant constructed about the same time and located at the riverside near Cutshaw's Neo-Gothic Pump-House. The Trafford building, named for E.W. Trafford, the first Director of the Department of Public Utilities, features a three-part elevation consisting of a smooth ashlar basement level with windows, a rusticated middle section coursed with deep horizontal lines, and an attic frieze topped by a tall parapet.[25] The east and west sides hold recessed blind arches that are flanked by window openings. The three-bay north elevation holds centrally located double doors with a single-light transom above and architrave trim around the opening. The doorway is topped by a detailed pedimented frieze (dentils, egg-and-dart molding, and anthemions) that is supported by scrolled consoles. A centrally located cartouche is located on the parapet wall above the entrance. Multiple-pane metal windows with smooth stone lintels flank the door opening. A recessed relief panel is located above each window depicting a circular motif similar to stone tracery. An electrical substation for the pumping station has been added west of the building.

During the 1920s, several notable monuments and memorials were erected in Byrd Park, further emphasizing its centrality and importance to the city residents. The memorials are records of the past and reflect some of the larger social issues and conditions that faced the city at the time, including the rise of patriotic feelings following World War I, segregation, discrimination, and even Prohibition. In 1926, a flagpole with a memorial base was erected on the south end of the tennis court and ballfield area. The American Legion Memorial Flagpole (#127-6067-0005) consists of a metal flagpole set atop a square granite base and round plinth. Each side of the granite base holds a bronze plaque that alphabetically lists the names of soldiers from Richmond who "gave their lives" in World War I. Reflecting the segregationist norms of the time period when this memorial was erected, African-American soldiers are listed separately under the heading "Colored." The flagpole and the memorial were erected by members of the five Richmond posts of the American Legion.

On May 14, 1927, during the annual children's "Play Day" in the park, members of the local chapter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) dedicated a water fountain and memorial at the west side of the Byrd Park Club House. Composed of women who supported Prohibition (1920-1933), the chapters were urged to erect such fountains in their towns in order to "to discourage men from entering saloons to quench their thirst with alcohol." It was likely not a coincidence that the fountain was erected on the former site of the Rathskeller saloon. Mrs. R. E. Thomas presented the fountain to Mayor Fulmer Bright, who accepted the gift on behalf of the city. In 1920, the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution had prohibited the sale, production, and transport of alcoholic beverages. The law remained in place until it was repealed in 1933 by the Twenty-first Amendment. The WCTU fountain was erected towards the end of Prohibition, but reflects the city's and the citizens' role in the crusade.[26] The granite

WCTU Fountain (#127-6067-0010) features a dedication plaque at the top and a bronze drinking fountain at the center. The stone base extends to flared, leaf-like buttresses. The dedication plaque is inscribed with flowery text stating, in part, that the fountain was given in memory of the pioneers of the WCTU including its founder, Frances E. Willard.

The WCTU fountain supplemented other water fountains in the park. Early images of the north section of the park and Boulevard show a four-light lamppost at the south end of the street (now occupied by the Columbus statue) that included horse troughs and drinking fountains that were supplied with water from the reservoir. In addition, the natural springs at Sheilds Lake (#127-6067-0013) and another in the area of the Dogwood Dell behind the Carillon (#127-6067-0028) were continually frequented by members of the public who collected water for personal use. In the 1930s, both springs were augmented by the construction of spigots, spouts, and seating.

On December 9, 1927, the Italian-American community of Richmond dedicated a statue to Christopher Columbus (#127-6067-0002/127-359) at the south end of the Boulevard. Henry Caravati presented the statue to Mayor Bright in a ceremony that included much fanfare and speeches by Governor Harry Byrd and the Italian Ambassador to the United States, Nobile de Martina. The erection of the monument, however, was not without controversy. The City's Monument Committee was influenced to reject the sculpture by prevailing anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant sentiments espoused by citizens attending the hearing on the matter. But pressure from local newspapers and assurance that the bronze would not compete with statues of Confederate generals on Monument Avenue helped reverse the decision.

The six-and-a-half-foot bronze statue stands atop a six-foot granite base. The piece, privately commissioned by local Italian-American residents, was completed by Ferruccio Legnaioli, a prominent émigré sculptor living in Richmond.[27] The artist's signature is located on the lower right rear of the monument with the date 1927 located just below it. The inscription "COLUMBUS" is carved on the front of the base of the statue. Viewing the statue from the north-facing side (from Boulevard), the likeness of the explorer is standing in front of three large books positioned behind his right foot. His left arms hangs by his side and holds rolled maps, while his right arm is pulled to his chest. His hair is collar length and he wears a large cloak over a tunic. The base, produced by Alfonso Grappone's Richmond-based memorial company, tapers slightly from top to bottom and is cut into layers. A garland frieze band is located at the top of the base and is followed by three layers, the middle one having the "COLUMBUS" inscription.[28]

This was the first statue of Columbus to be erected in the American South, and it was erected and donated entirely by Virginians of Italian birth at a cost of $25,000. The idea was conceived by local barber, Frank Realmuto. It was the first statuary to be erected in Byrd Park and also the first monument in Richmond to have night illumination. The statue was rededicated on October 13, 2014 (Columbus Day). In attendance were Ann Legnaioli, daughter-in-law of the sculptor, and Anna Gragnani, a 101-year-old Richmond resident who attended the original dedication ceremony.[29]

One additional monument was erected in the park during this period. In 1925, an illuminated fountain was donated to the City by a group of citizens. Discussions about placing a spray fountain in the lake had been reported by newspapers as early as 1901.[30] It does not appear that a fountain was installed at that time and postcards from the period do not depict a fountain. In 1925, however, Jonathan Bryan, Stuart G. Christian, Herbert W. Jackson, and Henry E. Litchford donated an electric fountain (#127-6067-0020) and commemorated the gift with a dedication plaque now located on the west side of the lake near the concession stand. The fountain remains intact and is operated seasonally.

1930-1950: Virginia War Memorial and Relief Work Projects

In 1925, Byrd Park was chosen as the site for the Virginia War Memorial to commemorate the service of Virginians in World War I. The City exchanged a 3.25-acre parcel of land at the center of Byrd Park to the Commonwealth of Virginia for a building lot in downtown Richmond along Governor Street. A three-acre tract in the "loop" area at the south end of Blanton Avenue was surveyed and fee simple title was transferred from the City to the state. The City also agreed to maintain the memorial and its associated grounds.[31]

The Virginia War Memorial Carillon (#127-6067-0001/127-0387) is an eight-story, 240-foot tall bell tower designed in the Georgian Revival style. Composed of a high limestone plinth (which once housed a war museum) and a superimposed tower, the edifice dominates the skyline of western Richmond and since its construction has been the most recognizable feature of Byrd Park. The original design for the memorial, completed by Philadelphia-based architect Paul Cret and local associate architect Marcellus Wright, featured a high platform backed by a memorial screen of columns executed in Cret's signature stripped Classicism style. Although the cornerstone for the Cret-Wright memorial was laid in January 1926, construction of the memorial was halted by a group of citizens who wished to replace the design with a carillon tower. There may also have been a desire to replace the "modern" look of the memorial with something more Colonial Revival in style. In fact, many of Richmond's residents did not approve of the Byrd Park site at all, instead wanting the memorial to be placed closer to the Capitol.

Cret and Wright were asked to modify their design to include the carillon, but when they refused, Boston architects Ralph Adams Cram and Frank Ferguson, who had submitted a carillon design in the initial competition, were called upon to present a new design (completed in association with the Richmond firm Carneal, Johnston, and Wright). Cram already was well known among Richmond elites for his Gothic Revival buildings at the privately-operated University of Richmond. The Georgian Revival-style memorial was set atop a high limestone plinth accessed by double, curving stairs on the north. A wide terrace encircles the two-story limestone base of the tower, which rises from the plinth. The Flemish-bond brick tower shaft is detailed with limestone quoining and jack-arched slit casement windows. The tower rises for about 100-feet to the 44-foot-tall, open-sided bell loft, which features terra cotta balustrades with ball finials and brick balconies that served as observation platforms. The loft is framed by paired Corinthian pilasters that support a full entablature and giant urns with volute scrolls sit atop the four corners of the entablature. Above the bell loft, the tower becomes octagonal in shape and features a two-part cap detailed with Ionic pilasters, arched openings, and tall finials. The top of the tower is covered by a lead-clad domed roof that is topped by an aluminum-cast ball and an aircraft warning light.[32] The Carillon, one of five operating carillons in the Commonwealth, presently holds 53 bells (playing 53 notes) that were cast by John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough, Leicestershire, England. The carillon originally held 66 bells, but the 13 highest of these were duplicate bells intended to augment the high notes. Because of problems with synchronizing the clapper strikes, the duplicate bells were removed around 1960. The bell loft is located on the eighth floor of the tower and originally was an open-air space. In 1980, the bell loft was enclosed with screening to prevent birds from entering the loft. The keyboard (clavier) for the bells is located on the floor below the loft.[33]

In preparing for the construction of the Carillon, the City removed the old Sutton House from the site, which had served as the nurseryman's residence. To provide access to the memorial site, the City's Department of Public Works graded and graveled two circular driveways east and west of the carillon, relocated a portion of Rugby Road near Granite, and graded and graveled two new roads through the park on the east side of Blanton Avenue. In addition to this roadwork, the "mall area" located north of the

tower was graded for landscaping. Although a proposed reflecting pool was never constructed, postcards from the period often depict the pool in place. A dedication ceremony for the Carillon was held on October 15, 1932, although some site improvements were not completed until November.[34]

The landscaping now associated with the Carillon area was completed in the late 1930s and 1940s under a variety of efforts. Some of these projects were completed as part of relief work programs and will be discussed below. On Armistice Day in 1937, the James River Garden Club donated dogwood and holly trees to line the brick walkways flanking the mall approach. The gift was given in honor of Mrs. Malvern C. Patterson, the founder and first president of the club.[35]

Following the onset of the Great Depression, numerous work relief programs were established by federal, state, and local agencies to provide work for unemployed laborers and skilled professional workmen. From 1930 to 1939, the city parks greatly benefitted from the efforts of these workers, who completed a variety of tasks, including painting, grubbing of trees, repair and construction of gutters and walkways, civil surveying, and grading of roads. The projects were completed under the guidance of various city departments and units including the Department of Public Works and the Bureau of Parks. Richmond utilized workers from a variety of federally-funded, New Deal programs including the Emergency Unemployment Relief Fund, the Works Progress Administration, the Civil Works Administration, and the Public Works Administration; locally, the City Employment Bureau provided workers for park projects.[36]

Although all parks received improvements, those at Byrd Park included significant roadwork and small construction projects. Most of the existing spallwork construction in the park, including curbs, walkways, retaining walls, and other structures, was completed during this period. Workers also cleared underbrush from the Dogwood Dell area, removed nearly 2,000 weak and dead trees from the former nursery area, and assisted with the landscape efforts at the Carillon mall. The spallwork bridge over the Dogwood Dell ravine (#127-6067-0029) and the walkways and water spouts at the Carillon spring (#127-6067-0028) were completed by relief workers, as well. In 1932, workers provided by the federal Civil Works Administration helped to drain Sheilds Lake and cleared the lake bottom of trees stumps. In 1933, they reduced the depth of Sheilds Lake and enlarged the wading area, reshaped the lakeshore, poured a concrete bottom to the swimming area, and constructed retaining walls and approach steps with granite spall that had been taken up from streets. Workers also built a new boat landing at Boat Lake in 1933 using discarded street cobblestones.[37]

At the Sheilds Grove picnic area, relief workers built the stone picnic shelter (#127-6067-0014), five stone cooking hearths, a comfort station, and 15 picnic tables, as well as installed two drinking fountains.[38] The one-story granite shelter is set on a concrete foundation and is covered by a side-facing gable roof of asphalt shingles with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. Two exterior stone chimneys are located on the north and south ends of the building. Three bays, which are separated by square stone columns are open on the east and west sides, giving access to the single interior space. The stone end walls of the shelter have punched openings on all sides that are flanked by wooden shutters. The associated cooking hearths are situated around the shelter within the wooded grove. These hearths feature a tall chimney stack with a cooking hearth and metal grill on one side. Similar shelters and hearths were constructed by relief workers in Forest Hill Park (NRHP 2002; #127-6069) and Joseph Bryan Park (NRHP 2002; #127-5677). The comfort station, formerly located south of the shelter, was demolished in the late twentieth century.

In 1939, the Columbus Pumping Station (#127-6067-0007) was constructed on the north side of the reservoir and was so named for its proximity to the Christopher Columbus statue. Funded in part with

Public Works Administration assistance, the pump station was designed to be sympathetic to the statue and included a bow-front, cascading foundation. The one-story, limestone structure, which is set into the hillside, features a flat roof with large metal exhaust vents and a rusticated façade. The building houses piping, valves, and pumps for the reservoir. The new high service pumping station was built in an effort to quickly distribute water from the reservoir to residents and to prevent the water from becoming stagnant and developing a bad taste. In addition to the pump station, the project also included construction of sidewalks from the Boulevard Bridge to Pump House Road, across to Westover Road, around Swan Lake and Sheilds Lake and the nearby spring, as well as around the athletic fields. At the latter, the ballfields also received new bleachers, backstops, and dugouts. In 2014, a new electrical building (#127-6067-0003) was constructed east of the Columbus Pump Station. At the same time, electrical and equipment upgrades were made to the Columbus Pump Station equipment and new landscaping around the station was planted.[39]

Other late 1930s and early 1940s improvements to Byrd Park included the installation of lights at the tennis courts (street lighting had been in place since 1914), and the construction of frame bleachers and additional toilet facilities at the ballfields. In 1939, landscaping improvements included the planting of nearly 500 dogwood trees throughout the park and the improvement and additional beautification of the Carillon grounds. The planting of the dogwood trees was commemorated by the installation of a bronze plaque set on a granite stone on the east side of the Carillon (#127-6067-0030). At the Carillon, work consisted of new brick walkways, grading, seeding, and planting in the mall area and the installation of the special terrazzo terrace and gold star at the front of the Carillon. The gold star was dedicated in a ceremony held by the Gold Star Mothers (those who had lost a son or daughter in military service to the country) on November 1, 1955.[40] In 2000, Woodmen of the World, Chapter 159, donated the memorial flagpoles for the Carillon terrace, as well as a new Virginia historic highway marker (#SA 53).

Since 1919, swimming had been allowed in the southern end of Sheilds Lake and proved to be a popular summertime diversion for white city residents. As part of the 1930s relief work, the lake was drained and a concrete basin was poured to lessen the depth of the pool area. A frame bathhouse was constructed on the south side of Lake Drive.

In 1942, City Health Officials closed the Sheilds Lake swimming area due to high bacteria counts. Although the pool was supplied with water from the reservoir, the water first passed through Swan Lake where it picked up high levels of bacteria from the wildlife that flocked there. City Health Officer Dr. Millard Hanson recommended that the water for the pool be piped directly from the reservoir and that a proper chlorination system be installed.

In 1945, the pool reopened with a new filtration system, new diving boards, and a chain-link fence around the pool that helped to control crowds. The City reported that the pool was "modernized to meet present day requirements," although the improvements were considered to be temporary and were expected to last only three years. During this period, the City participated in the National Swim-for-Health Week, which was locally sponsored by Thalhimers' Department Store and water-skiing "carnivals" or "follies" were held on Swan Lake and sponsored by the Miller & Rhodes Department Store. With the installation of a water purification system, the water quality received approval from health officials and record numbers of swimmers continued to crowd the pool in the late 1940s and early 1950s.[41]

Officials contended that the Sheilds Lake pool was not convenient to users (despite the high number of visitors) and cited the need for improvements, including the need for hot water showers at the bath house. Although the City devised a plan to increase the number of public swimming pools in the city to seven

(which would remain segregated: five for whites and two for African Americans), wartime restrictions and other financial setbacks delayed the implementation of the program. In 1952, new partition walls were constructed in the lake to separate treated water from untreated water, patches were made in the concrete bottom, and new walkways were constructed. With the Sheilds pool in need of over $5,000 in repairs, the City closed the pool for good in 1955. The Department of Recreation and Parks' annual report stated that the pool was closed "because of the deteriorated condition of the wooden partitions and unhealthful conditions." Both of these conditions were true and were well documented in the newspapers; in addition, a new trend in private swimming clubs had developed and many wondered whether the city should be involved in providing free swimming in competition with these private clubs. Yet, the specter of integration hung over the closure. Since the Brook Field Park pool, a separate facility built for African-American residents, had also closed (1959), residents speculated that the City would be required to allow both black and white residents to use the Byrd Park pool. Rather than integrate the facility, or provide funds for repairs at both pools, newspaper accounts reported that "City Council more or less informally indicated it was not willing to provide money for operation of a facility for Negroes when none was available for whites." By 1959, all the swimming equipment was removed from the lake, perimeter fencing was removed, and the Sheilds Lake was drained and filled with material donated by a contractor. In 1960, the lake was converted to a recreational pond and filled to a depth of three feet for ice skating.[42]

Late Twentieth Century

In the late 1950s, two projects added facilities to Byrd Park. Beginning in the late 1940s, the City's Department of Recreation held children's plays in Byrd Park for five weeks during the summer. The popularity of the plays led to the construction of a permanent theatre. In June 1957, the Dogwood Dell amphitheater (#127-6067-0017) opened with a seating capacity for 2,000. The amphitheater consists of concentric half-circles of sod-covered seating areas that are edged by stone retaining walls. Metal pipe railings are located at various locations to assist visitors down the slope. The concrete stage, located at the foot of the slope of the amphitheater, consists of a shed roof with side walls clad with T-111 siding. The large stage faces north/northwest towards the amphitheater seats and productions are supported by an orchestra pit and extensive lighting and electrical systems controlled from the booth located at the top of the amphitheater steps (built in the 1980s). In 1961, an addition was made to the theatre providing dressing rooms, toilet facilities, storage areas, and a band shell over the stage. In 1984, the Rotary Club of Richmond made a substantial donation for the refurbishment of the amphitheater and its support buildings, resulting in the complex's current appearance.[43]

Between 1958 and 1959, the Carillon picnic area was enhanced by the construction of a brick picnic shelter, seven stone cooking hearths (#127-6067-0015) that resembled the same elements in the Sheilds Grove Picnic Area, and a brick comfort station (#127-6067-0018). A new roadway built through the picnic area was constructed of clay gravel and topped with asphalt. A low, frame railing was installed along the roadway to confine the parking areas and brick walkways were constructed connecting the shelter and the comfort station.[44]

Following the pattern of development from the previous century, new amenities at Byrd Park were built to improve upon existing uses and facilities, and also incorporated new uses. In 1979, the Vita Course (#127-6067-0023), a one-mile-long exercise course, was established through the former nursery area. The mile-long trail weaves through the wooded area and also includes exercise "challenges" located along the route, some of which include mounted equipment such as pull-up bars.

In 1986, the Tot Lot (#127-6067-0025) was constructed behind the Carillon to provide an enclosed playground area for young children. In 1998, a one-acre, enclosed dog run, known as Barker Field (#127-

6067-0026), was created on the east side of Dogwood Dell following the removal of a similar park at the Virginia Museum of Art due to building renovations. Although dogs generally are not permitted in city parks, officials and local groups agreed to permit the fenced-in run in an under-utilized part of the park.[45]

Since the late nineteenth century, concessions have been sold at Fountain Lake. Since the early twentieth century, a pavilion with restrooms has stood at the lake's edge. In 2010, a new eight-sided, brick pavilion was constructed on the octagonal terrace at the lake (#127-6067-0020). The building is covered by a pyramidal roof with overhanging eaves that creates a shaded walking area lined with fluted columns. Known as "The Landing at Fountain Lake," the building's construction incorporated several environmentally sensitive components including the installation of waterless urinals, low-velocity flush toilets, signage made from recycled materials, and solar tubes in the roof to allow additional sunlight into the interior.

WILLIAM BYRD PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

The following is a list of resources located within the William Byrd Park historic boundaries. The resources are listed alphabetically by street and chronologically by address number. VDHR ID numbers for resources previously surveyed also are listed. In the following inventory all resources, both primary and secondary, have been considered either contributing or non-contributing based upon the areas of significance identified under Criteria A and C as Community Planning and Development, Entertainment/Recreation, Social History, Architecture, and Landscape Architecture and based upon the period of significance identified as 1874 to 1960. All non-contributing resources have therefore been so noted for being less than fifty years old or as having no integrity left to represent the period and areas of significance, unless otherwise noted.

Amelia Street

2501 Amelia Street 127-6067-0012 Park Operations Building
Maintenance Building

Primary Resource: Government Office (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Other, 1914
Individual Resource Status: Government Office Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource: 1990s, Shed - Vehicle (Building) **Non-contributing** **Total: 1**

Amelia Street 127-6067-0016 Amelia Street Bridge

Primary Resource: Bridge (Structure), Style: Other, 1915
Individual Resource Status: Bridge Contributing Total: 1

Amelia Street, north of 127-6067-0022 Swan Lake

Primary Resource: Lake (Structure), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1915
Individual Resource Status: Lake Contributing Total: 1

Amelia Street, south of 127-6067-0021 Sheilds Lake

Primary Resource: Lake (Structure), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1915
Individual Resource Status: Lake Contributing Total: 1

Blanton Avenue

1300 Blanton Avenue 127-0387/Other DHR Id#: 127-6067-0001 Virginia War Memorial Carillon

Primary Resource: Bell Tower/Carillon (Structure), Stories: 8, Style: Colonial Revival, 1931
Individual Resource Status: Bell Tower/Carillon Contributing Total: 1

Blanton Avenue, east of 127-6067-0023 Vita Course
Primary Resource: Athletic Field/Court (Structure), Style: No discernible style, 1979
Individual Resource Status: Athletic Field/Court **Non-contributing Total: 1**

Blanton Avenue, south of 127-6067-0028 Carillon Spring
Primary Resource: Sewer/Water Works (Structure), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1900
Individual Resource Status: Sewer/Water Works Contributing Total: 1

Blanton Avenue, south of 127-6067-0030 Dogwood Dell Marker
Primary Resource: Monument/Marker (Object), 1939
Individual Resource Status: Monument/Marker Contributing Total: 1

Blanton Avenue, south of 127-6067-0029 Dogwood Dell Bridge
Primary Resource: Bridge (Structure), Style: Other, 1939
Individual Resource Status: Bridge Contributing Total: 1

Blanton Avenue, south of 127-6067-0017 Dogwood Dell Amphitheater
Primary Resource: Amphitheater (Structure), Style: Other, 1956
Individual Resource Status: Amphitheater Contributing Total: 1

Boulevard, South

501 South Boulevard 127-6067-0020 Fountain Lake
Primary Resource: Lake (Structure), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1876
Individual Resource Status: Lake Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Fountain (Object), 1925 Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Monument/Marker (Object), 1925 Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Park/Camp Shelter (Building), 2010 **Non-Contributing Total: 1**

600 South Boulevard 127-6067-0004 Athletic Field House
Primary Resource: Restroom Facility (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, 1925
Individual Resource Status: Restroom Facility Contributing Total: 1

South Boulevard, southern terminus 127-6067-0007 Columbus Pump Station
Primary Resource: Sewer/Water Works (Structure), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1939
Individual Resource Status: Sewer/Water Works Contributing Total: 1

South Boulevard, southern terminus 127-0359/Other DHR Id#: 127-6067-0002
Christopher Columbus Statue
Primary Resource: Monument/Marker (Object), Style: Classical, 1927
Individual Resource Status: Monument/Marker Contributing Total: 1

South Boulevard, west of 127-6067-0019 Sam Woods Memorial Tennis Courts
Primary Resource: Tennis Court (Structure), Style: No discernible style, 1916
Individual Resource Status: Tennis Court Contributing Total: 1

Individual Resource Status: Monument/Marker (Object) **Non-contributing Total: 1**

Grant Street

Grant Street, north of **127-6067-0005** **American Legion Memorial Flagpole**
Primary Resource: Monument/Marker (Object), Style: Other, 1926
Individual Resource Status: Monument/Marker Contributing Total: 1

Grant Street, south of **127-6067-0006** **Byrd Park Reservoir**
Primary Resource: Reservoir (Structure), Style: Other, 1874
Individual Resource Status: Reservoir Contributing Total: 1

Grant Street, south of **127-6067-0003** **Electric Building**
Primary Resource: Energy Facility (Structure), Style: No discernible style, 2014
Individual Resource Status: Energy Facility **Non-contributing** **Total: 1**

Park Drive

Park Drive, west of **127-6067-0018** **Restroom Building**
Primary Resource: Restroom Facility (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1957
Individual Resource Status: Restroom Facility Contributing Total: 1

Park Drive, west of **127-6067-0026** **Barker Field**
Primary Resource: Playing Field (Structure), Style: No discernible style, 1998
Individual Resource Status: Playing Field **Non-contributing** **Total: 1**

Park Drive, west of **127-6067-0015** **Carillon Shelter and Hearths**
Primary Resource: Park/Camp Shelter (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, 1957
Individual Resource Status: Park/Camp Shelter Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Barbecue Pit (Object) Contributing Total: 7

Rugby Road

Rugby Road, east of **127-6067-0025** **Tot Lot**
Primary Resource: Playing Field (Structure), Style: No discernible style, 1986
Individual Resource Status: Playing Field **Non-contributing** **Total: 1**

Sheilds Lake Drive

Sheilds Lake Drive, east of **127-6067-0014** **Sheilds Shelter and Hearths**
Primary Resource: Park/Camp Shelter (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, 1937
Individual Resource Status: Park/Camp Shelter Contributing Total: 1
Individual Resource Status: Barbecue Pit (Object) Contributing Total: 5

Sheppard Street, South

South east of South Sheppard Street **127-6067-0024** **Baseball fields**
Primary Resource: Athletic Field/Court (Structure), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1908
Individual Resource Status: Athletic Field/Court Contributing Total: 1

Trafford Road

2701 Trafford Road **127-6067-0008** **Trafford Pump Station**
Primary Resource: Sewer/Water Works (Structure), Stories 1, Style: Classical Revival, 1922
Individual Resource Status: Sewer/Water Works Contributing Total: 1

Westover Road

621 Westover Road **127-6067-0009** **Roundhouse**
Primary Resource: Clubhouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, 1914
Individual Resource Status: Clubhouse Contributing Total: 1

Westover Road, east of **127-6067-0027** **Luck Stone Marker**
Primary Resource: Monument/Marker (Object), Style: No discernible style, 2004
Individual Resource Status: Monument/Marker **Non-contributing** **Total: 1**

Westover Road, east of **127-6067-0013** **Sheilds Lake Spring**
Primary Resource: Sewer/Water Works (Structure), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1900
Individual Resource Status: Sewer/Water Works Contributing Total: 1

Westover Road, southeast of **127-6067-0011** **Sheilds-Robinson Cemetery**
Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Style: No discernible style, 1823
Individual Resource Status: Cemetery Contributing Total: 1

Westover Road, east of **127-6067-0010** **WCTU Fountain**
Primary Resource: Monument/Marker (Object), Style: Classical, 1927
Individual Resource Status: Monument/Marker Contributing Total: 1

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.

[x] 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.)

[ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

[ ] B. Removed from its original location

[ ] C. A birthplace or grave

[X] D. A cemetery

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

[x] 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.)
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN (Italian-American)

Period of Significance
1874-1960

Significant Dates
1823
1874-1907
1915
1925-1932
1939
1960

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
Cutshaw, Col. Wilfred E., City Engineer

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Cram, Ralph Adams
Carneal, Johnston, Wright
City of Richmond, Department of Parks

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

William Byrd Park is locally significant under Criterion A for in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Entertainment/Recreation, Social History, and Ethnic Heritage: European (Italian American). Initial development of the park commenced in the late nineteenth century and since that time, the park has served as an important recreational, social, and ceremonial gathering place for residents of the city and the surrounding region. It is important to note that although William Byrd Park has been a public park for its entire history, African Americans were not welcomed here during the Jim Crow segregation era. In Byrd Park, the Sheilds Lake swimming pool, the athletic fields, the tennis courts, and the playground were "whites only" amenities. It was not until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that racial segregation in all types of public accommodations was finally banned. Today, the park is an amenity to the surrounding neighborhoods and enhances the character of those residential areas, which developed in large part due to the presence of the park. The park provides both active and passive engagement opportunities including tennis courts and ballfields, hiking and biking paths, picnic areas, and open spaces. William Byrd Park is historically associated with the Ethnic Heritage of local Italian-American immigrants who, in 1927, erected a statue of explorer Christopher Columbus at the southern terminus of Boulevard. The statue, cited as the first statue of the explorer to be erected in the American South, was paid for by Virginians of Italian birth and continues to be a significant site for the local Italian-American community. At present, members of the Italian American Cultural Association of Virginia maintain the flower beds around the statue. William Byrd Park is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with Col. Wilfred Emory Cutshaw, a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and Confederate veteran who served as Richmond's City Engineer from 1873 to 1907, and whose vision it was to develop the area around the city's new reservoir into a major municipal park. Finally, Byrd Park is locally significant under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The design of Byrd Park reflects the influence of the American Parks Movement, the City Beautiful Movement, and general picturesque landscaping principles that developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Although no master plan has been located for the park design, the intentional development of lakes, athletic fields, and places of informal enjoyment reflects an overall vision for its expansion and improvement. The park incorporates both designed and natural areas, as well as manmade amenities and buildings. Byrd Park meets Criteria Consideration C, since it includes the Sheilds-Robinson Cemetery, which is a relic of this area's history prior to the park's establishment. This family cemetery contains the graves of the families who lived on the property known as Poplar Vale, which became the eastern side of Byrd Park. The cemetery is privately owned and is maintained by a family trust. Byrd Park also meets Criteria Consideration F due to the presence of several significant commemorative markers, including the American Legion Memorial Flagpole and the Virginia War Memorial Carillon. William Byrd Park's period of significance begins in 1874 with the first land acquisition by the City of Richmond to 1960, when major park facility construction ceased.

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

William Byrd Park is today the largest park in the City of Richmond's parks and recreation system. Although not the earliest of the city's parks, Byrd Park's location and size have led to its status as the premiere open space in the city. The park, which was established during the period of Reconstruction, exemplifies tenets of late-nineteenth century park design movements. Its maturation during the early twentieth century resulted in the layout that is reflected today comprising areas of athletic fields, strolling

areas, picnic areas, scenic lakes, wooded ravines, and important monuments and memorials. Seizing upon the need to expand the city's water works infrastructure, Chief Engineer Wilfred E. Cutshaw envisioned a park on a grand scale. Cutshaw's park evolved through a complex process of land acquisition and incremental improvement projects. In the late nineteenth century, an increase in leisure time allowed residents to seek, and to expect, municipal open spaces as a relief from crowded urban conditions. Cutshaw was responsible for the significant strides made in Richmond's municipal facilities during the height of the Reconstruction period, including expanding its park system, and initiated its urban forestry program. Beginning in 1890, Cutshaw's municipal tree nursery, located in Byrd Park until 1920, provided a variety of shade trees for use throughout the city. Cutshaw's citywide improvements included realignment of roadways (such as the reconfiguration of Clover Street into Boulevard), street regrading and paving, the erection of monuments, and the construction of schools, parks, and such notable local buildings as Old City Hall, the 17th Street Market, and several armories for local volunteer military organizations. William Byrd Park today reflects attention to planning, architectural components, and amenities for both passive and active recreational pursuits. By fulfilling these needs and wants, Byrd Park has earned the moniker of Richmond's "Central Park."[46]

Historic Context

In 1851, Richmond's City Council determined that in order to be ranked among the notable cities of the country it would need to provide the one amenity that all of the grand cities had: open spaces and parks for its residents and visitors (although in many places, within and beyond the South, such places were typically reserved for whites). In persuading his fellow councilmen of this idea, Councilman Dimmock argued:

> In the cities and towns of the north, experience has demonstrated the necessity of these squares and especially in Southern latitudes--Florence, Genoa, Milan and Venice have each of their squares occupying large and valuable parts of each city in which as the shades of evening approach may be seen the inhabitants of all ages and conditions assembled.
>
> Boston has its Noble Mall. New York its parks. Philadelphia and Baltimore their squares and the question is submitted...Shall not Richmond, as beautiful as she is acknowledged to be by all who behold her have her squares or city grounds?[47]

Until 1851, the city's sole open space was Capitol Square, which belonged to the state but was maintained by the city since 1825 (continuing until 1856). At the July 21, 1851, meeting of the City Council, a committee of three members was appointed for the purpose of selecting four parcels in Richmond that were suitable for parks. Richmond "desired to be a large city" and Councilman Dimmock noted the benefits of parks to the municipality's residents, as well as to the city itself. By having parks, the city would promote the "health and comfort of its citizens" and would render itself more attractive." Public grounds should be provided so that all classes of the citizens of Richmond may enjoy their solitary influence."

The committee returned with its recommendations and the City purchased four parcels for parks. The committee's selection included Western Square (present-day Monroe Park), a site of 7.5 acres; Gamble's Hill (present site of the NewMarket Corporation headquarters, formerly Ethyl Corporation), a site of 8.8 acres; Northern Square (on Leigh Street between 10th and 12th streets), a lot of 8 acres, which the City subdivided and sold in 1856; and Marshall Square (present-day Libby Hill Park), a site of 12 acres.[48]

The development of Richmond's parks, however, came to an abrupt stop with the outbreak of the American Civil War. During this time, the city's open spaces, including Western Square, were used for troop training and bivouacs, and defensive trenches were constructed along the city perimeter. These activities took a toll on the city's landscape. Fortifications and military maneuvers disrupted the life on country estates and took advantage of their natural materials.[49] City streets remained largely unpaved, there were no sidewalks, and troops cut down many of the street trees for building material and firewood. During the Confederates' retreat from Richmond, on April 1865 the "Burning of Richmond" occurred after fires deliberately set by Confederate troops in militarily important areas spread out of control. Following the war, Richmond's landscape was bleak and war-torn; the devastated economic conditions that lasted into the early 1870s delayed any progress on works begun before the war.

Despite the military and economic destruction faced by Richmond during and after the war, the Richmond City Council revisited the idea of creating a "first class park" just eight years after the war's end. At an 1873 meeting, Mr. Newberry presented a resolution stating:

> Whereas the City of Richmond, in its struggle with adversity, has through the patriotism and energy of its people come off victorious, and established itself as a manufacturing and trade centre, as well as the centre of finance, education, art and society of the Southern Middle States; and whereas, to retain its present status, continue its prosperity, furnish attraction to men and capital, such inducements must be offered as are offered by our sister cities South, West, and North; therefore be it,
>
> Resolved that it is our duty to at once plan, lay out and construct a first class public park in the immediate vicinity of the city of such magnitude as to afford a drive to and from, and within its extent of several miles, and diversified with field, wood, and water scenery....[50]

A special committee was appointed to devise and perfect a scheme to establish such a park, but when the committee returned with its report, little progress had been made and, in fact, had found that there was great opposition to the idea. Members of the Board of Trade reportedly condemned the idea of pursuing the development of a park at the time as "unwise and impolitic" and certain members of the Council Committee seemed to be "hostile" to the idea they were authorized to pursue.[51]

Although the idea of a park appeared to meet with a hasty end, the committee's report fortuitously was presented at the same meeting at which Wilfred E. Cutshaw was elected as the new Chief Engineer to fulfill the unexpired term of Charles H. Dimmock, who had died in office earlier that month. No doubt, Cutshaw heard, or at least learned of, the arguments for and against a city park. For proponents of the park, his employment would catapult their idea from a dream to reality.

A Necessity Provides for a Want

One of Cutshaw's first directives as Chief Engineer was to assist the Committee on Water and the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds with selecting a location for the city's new reservoir. The existing Marshall Reservoir, constructed in 1830 and located on the west side of Hollywood Cemetery at the site of Clarke's Spring, did not provide sufficient water for all parts of the growing city. In addition, its location near the expanding cemetery and within the densely settled area of the city caused some concern about water quality.[52]

After several months, the committee reported that they had unanimously decided to recommend a site known as "the Omohundro property" containing 55.75 acres at a cost of $350 per acre. The site lay in the "western extension of the city" and about one-half-mile beyond the corporate limits. The parcel was bounded by Beverly Street on the north and Ashland Street on the south. The selection group found that this was the "best and most economical location in view of any future alteration or extension of the water works." The City acquired the Omohundro property, which had been part of the Lewis Harvie property, as well as two smaller properties adjacent on the south side for a total acreage of about 64 acres.[53] When announcing its decision on the site of the new reservoir, the Committee noted that the area would provide ample space to create a public park.

From the beginning of his tenure, Cutshaw urged the city to adopt an "all inclusive," or comprehensive, plan for the development of the city. A systematic plan, he argued, would help avoid planning errors and by "studying closely our wants, it is readily seen what are our real necessities, and providing for these, we can turn our attention to those works of art, which add so much to the pleasures and attraction of a beautiful city...the greatest good to the largest number should be the directing motive in regulating a public benefit... [and] plan of improvements."[54] In developing a park around the new reservoir, Cutshaw combined the necessity of the increase in the city's water supply with the want of having a park. The project combined engineering with landscape design and function with beauty. Such inventiveness was a hallmark of Cutshaw's tenure that left an enduring mark on the city.

Property Ownership

In the early eighteenth century, the area now encompassed by William Byrd Park was owned by William Byrd II, who had inherited vast landholdings from his father and whose Belvidere estate was located atop present-day Oregon Hill to the east. In 1733, Byrd surveyed and helped to layout the original section of Richmond and is considered the founder of the city. William Byrd III inherited his father's property, but perhaps not his business acumen since in 1768, he was forced to sell most of his holdings through a public lottery. The area comprised by today's park was part of the lottery and was divided into 100-acre parcels. Francis Watkins of Prince Edward County eventually purchased six of the Henrico County tracts—five of which bordered the James River on the south.[55] Watkins' lottery parcels make up the majority of the land now encompassed by William Byrd Park.

Interested in the land solely as an investment, Watkins sold almost of a third of his holdings (now the east side of the park) to John Robinson in 1799. The extended Robinson family occupied the land they purchased from Watkins for over 100 years. The property was bounded by Beverley Street on the north (a street absorbed by the route of the Downtown Expressway), the Ritchie property on the south (present-day Maymont), Meadow Street on the east, and the eastern bank of today's reservoir on the west. In 1820, John Robinson constructed a dwelling on the land and, in 1840, he conveyed the property known as Poplar Vale to his daughter, Anna Jane, who married John Nelson Sheilds, who was a partner in the Richmond merchant firm of Sheilds & Somerville. In 1848, Sheilds purchased 5.86 acres adjacent to the north end of his property from Dr. John B. Harvie et als., resulting in a 138-acre property.[56] In 1868, John Sheilds died and his widow partitioned the land between her children, retaining the house site as her dower lands. Anna Sheilds died in 1877 and, in 1888, the City of Richmond acquired Poplar Vale from James Pace, who had purchased several Sheilds family parcels, as well as the smaller Smith farm located south of Poplar Vale.[57]

By 1801, Watkins sold his remaining lottery acreage (a portion of the west side of the park) to Dr. William Foushee, who, in 1782, was elected as the first mayor of Richmond and was president of the

James River Navigation Company, which built the James River Kanawha Canal.[58] Ownership of the land on the west side of the park changed ownership frequently and in the late-nineteenth century a portion of it was subdivided into a 19-lot development known as "Glen Ellen." Both the Craig and Sutton houses were located in this area, with the latter remaining intact until its removal in 1925. In addition to the initial Omohundro parcel and adjacent parcels, the City acquired two lots from O.A. and Susan Crenshaw and Thomas and Sally Pollard, located south of the reservoir and adjacent to the Craig tract, totaling about 41 acres.

City Council authorized its attorney to "acquire by gift, purchase, condemnation, or otherwise" land adjacent to the original park land and during this period, parcels from Hattie L. Smith, Minnie S. Courtney, Charles Euker, and Joseph W. Blanton were obtained.[59] By 1890, the City of Richmond acquired all of the remaining land for the park from a total of 18 different parties (300 acres total). Despite creating the city's largest municipal park, Col. Cutshaw often stated that he regretted that the City was not able to acquire more property for the park.

Planning the Park

Although operation of the reservoir was officially under the purview of the Committee of Water, Cutshaw played a significant role in the planning, design, and development of the facility, likely due to his civil engineering knowledge as well as the need to coordinate the laying of water mains from the reservoir through the city's water system. As noted, Cutshaw was well aware of Council's discussion of a grand park and agreed with the beneficial effects of developing such a property. As Chief Engineer, Cutshaw's office was authorized to complete work on the streets, sewers, culverts, and other infrastructure. At the time, the Committee on Buildings and Grounds maintained the city's public spaces, such as they were. Col. Cutshaw had a larger vision for what the city's public spaces and parks should be. The engineer, who by all accounts had a strong personality and a will to match it, extended the reach of his office beyond street grading and laying pipes to include placement and design of municipal buildings, and the development of parkland.

The desire for a grand park on the scale and in the manner of New York's Central Park is evidenced by an unsigned watercolor "master plan" found in the records of the Office of the City Engineer. This plan, believed to date to around 1873 (but perhaps later), depicted hallmarks of parks movement designs and elements that would eventually appear in William Byrd Park. These elements include park buildings, winding drives, water features, a two-basin reservoir, and a canal or river edging one end of the park. When oriented with the canal to the south, the plan is quite reminiscent of the final design of Byrd Park. Highly elaborate and ambitious, the plan also included classically-inspired flower gardens, architectural follies, a towered entry gatehouse, and even a hedge maze, none of which was ever realized.

Cutshaw's vision for the reservoir park began to appear within a few years of acquisition of the initial land purchases. By 1876, the northern part of Byrd Park was established with the reservoir as the monumental anchor at the southern terminus of Boulevard, which was the former Clover Street that Cutshaw realigned and widened to provide space for a large water main down the center median.[60] The realignment of the old road created a prominent axis and grand entrance into the park. Cutshaw further enhanced the road by planting rows of linden trees along both sides of the street and in its grassy median from Broad Street to its southern terminus. A four-light lamppost at the south end of the street, near the present location of Columbus Statue, included horse troughs and drinking fountains that were supplied with water from the reservoir. The road project is another example of Cutshaw's ability to combine the necessary with the beautiful.

Improvements at the park grew to include pleasure grounds for strolling on the east side of the reservoir; Boat Lake on the east side of Boulevard, also for strolling, boating, and musical concerts; and the racetrack and its infield athletic grounds located west of Boulevard for more active recreation pursuits. By 1888, the City had acquired the land south of the reservoir, as well as the Sheilds property to the east. The tree nursery soon was planted on the former parcel, while it would be several years before the development of the Sheilds farm became a reality. With his usual foresight, Cutshaw continued to urge the City to acquire more land for development of the park; his projects, though completed as labor and resources became available, resulted in a park that appeared to develop from a single, unified vision.

On October 4, 1906, City Council passed a resolution renaming the park to William Byrd Park, "so named by the city in grateful remembrance of its distinguished and honored founder." The same year, the city annexed the area of the park from Henrico County.[61] About this time, the park entered a new period in its development and use.

Purposes and Uses of the Park

As Tyler Potterfield has noted, from its founding until Cutshaw's death in 1907, "the municipal parks accommodated the polite and comparatively passive pursuits of picnics, dances, walking, boating, carriage driving, cycling and riding."[62] Parks generally were places where white city residents—adults and children alike—could enjoy such outdoor recreational pursuits in a social setting. In 1908, the carriage track was replaced by athletic fields for baseball, football, and soccer. By 1911, tennis courts were established in the same area. The roadway around the lakes was completed by 1915, as planned by Cutshaw, providing additional areas to stroll, but also accommodating automobiles. During the 1910s, Richmond's parks, and Byrd Park in particular, reflected the growing national trend that combined "pleasure grounds" with more active and organized recreational facilities, which included municipal playgrounds.

In 1918, Cutshaw's successor, Charles Bolling, extolled the virtues of Byrd Park and highlighted its amenities in his annual report. "William Byrd Park, in the western end of the city, is a great resort for our people of every class. Its groves, lakes and play grounds furnish inducements to those seeking rest and recreation, and in our long open season the lakes provide boating and fishing, and, for brief periods in the winter, skating. The roads through the parks and bordering the lakes are much used."[63]

The early period of the park's design focused on romantic, naturalistic landscapes that provided relief from the dense urbanized areas of the city. Parks also were believed to possess a civilizing influence on a city's population, providing a place for entertainment, but in a controlled environment. During the early twentieth century, this idea gave rise to the view of recreation in parks as a means to alleviate such societal evils as juvenile delinquency and even alcoholism.[64]

During the 1920s, Byrd Park began to take on the role of a commemorative site. Various monuments and memorials were erected there during this period, which further emphasized the centrality and importance of the park in the lives of city residents. The memorials are also records of historic eras and reflect some of the larger social issues and conditions that faced the city at the time, including the rise of patriotic feelings patriotism following World War I, segregation, discrimination, and even Prohibition. Later memorials, including the Dogwood Dell plaque (1939) (#127-6067-0030) and the Luck Stone Marker (2004) (#127-6067-0027), are more celebratory in nature and simply commemorate large-scale landscape planting efforts undertaken in the park. During the 1920s, the park also became a location for free outdoor entertainment when the city began showing movies on an outdoor screen—a practice that still continues

today as part of the "Movies in the Park" summer series. The number of such organized events would grow in the coming years.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, parks provided places of work for many unemployed laborers, not only in Richmond but across the country. Richmond's city parks benefitted greatly from the labor and funds provided through a variety of local, state, and federal relief programs. Most work involved improvements to the park's inadequate or failing infrastructure, including the construction or reconstruction of bridges, walkways, roadways, dams, and lakes, as well as enhancements such as new picnic shelters with cooking hearths, comfort stations, and new pump stations.

During the 1930s and 1940s, there was an increased focus on organized recreational and cultural programs in Richmond's parks. At Byrd Park, these events, prepared with assistance from some of the recreational relief workers, ranged from art shows to children's festivals, annual play day celebrations and holiday events for Halloween, July 4th, and Flag Day. A local tradition, the annual Nativity Pageant, was moved from the Capitol to the Carillon in 1946 and has continued to be presented there by the city ever since. A sunrise Easter service also is held there annually. Carillon concerts, broadcast over a local radio station, were held during the summer months and on patriotic holidays.

In 1940, the department of parks tried a "new innovation," which was to open the park houses to various clubs and organizations. The buildings had formerly been used exclusively by park keepers for tool storage, office space, and facilities for the park work force. At Byrd Park, the change in use led to the addition of a kitchen in the Park House (Round House), new toilet facilities, and installation of a central heating system. The initial 37 participating groups organized as the Byrd Park Club House Association and elected officers. Groups held meetings, ceremonies, and other events in the club house. The city's annual reports during the 1940s noted that because of such activities "an increase use of our public park system is being made by more and more of the populace."

Col. Wilfred Emory Cutshaw

Wilfred E. Cutshaw became the City of Richmond's Chief Engineer on June 23, 1873, replacing Charles H. Dimmock, who had died in office early in the year. Born in 1838 in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, Cutshaw attended the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1858 with training in civil and military engineering. He taught at the Hampton Military Institute until 1861, when he resigned his position and entered the Confederate Army, where he served as a first lieutenant in the regular army and was assigned to a battalion in the brigade of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. Cutshaw was wounded in his right knee at the Battle of Winchester (1862) and was taken prisoner of war. He was paroled, was deemed unfit for service due to his injury, and returned to VMI as an instructor. Despite his injury, Cutshaw re-entered army service and in 1865, he became a lieutenant colonel with the command of a battalion of artillery. He was wounded at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House (May 1864) and again at the Battle of Sayler's Creek (April 1865). The latter injury resulted in his left leg being amputated above the knee.[65]

When Cutshaw applied for the position of Chief Engineer, he received a recommendation from Robert E. Lee that attested to the former soldier's "fidelity and efficiency" in the late war. Cutshaw remained in the position of Chief Engineer from 1873 until his death in 1907. His 34-year career spanned a period from the post-bellum ruins of war and economic depression, to a period of the relative prosperity by the turn of the century. Because of the breadth of responsibility invested in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Col. Cutshaw was able to influence a vast array of projects affecting the image of the city. Among such projects were the "layout of the city's roads, the arrangement of many of its foremost public spaces, the

ambiance of the tree-shaded streets, and to a large extent, the architectural program of many important buildings." More than 100 years after his death, Cutshaw's influence on the development of the City of Richmond, its streets, infrastructure, and parks is clearly evident.[66]

Among Cutshaw's staff were at least two highly skilled engineers: Fontaine Jones and Charles Bolling. Jones' name appears on several of the renderings and measured drawings for the park, including those for the unbuilt racetrack pond (1906), a topographic map of Sheilds Grove and lake (1912), a color presentation rendering of Sheilds Lake (1913), and a drawing of the proposed median between South Davis Avenue and Park Road (S. Robinson Street)(1913). Jones also produced drawings from the Chief Engineer's Office for everything from bridges and roads to cemetery plots and sewer systems. Prior to his position with the City of Richmond, Jones was a civil engineer for the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railway. In the late 1920s, he became assistant engineer in the Richmond Department of Utilities, Gas and Water Distribution Bureau. Bolling had served as the Superintendent of the Water Works prior to becoming an assistant on Cutshaw's staff and confidence in his abilities is evidenced by his being named as Chief Engineer after Cutshaw's death.

When Cutshaw assumed the position of Chief Engineer, the office was responsible for the supervision of the streets, culverts, public building, and all public improvements. The war itself as well as the city's financial situation following the conflict, coupled with the enormous needs of its citizenry, delayed work on such infrastructure elements. However, Cutshaw's strong will and resourcefulness resulted in establishing the city's network of parks, improving its water supply, and modernizing its street system. Cutshaw urged the city to adopt comprehensive planning to coordinate its growth—an event that did not occur until the city's first master plan in the 1960s.

Cutshaw continued to encourage acquisition of land for parks, which he considered to be a fundamental way of bettering the city. In the 1906 annual report on parks and squares in the city, it is notable that the vast majority of those properties were acquired during Cutshaw's 34-year tenure and that he either implemented or planned for improvements to all of these spaces. Cutshaw's foresight and vision were traits that his colleagues and successors often venerated. His idealism seemed never to wane as his projects were brought slowly to fruition. Acquisition of the 300 acres in Byrd Park, which Cutshaw often declared to be "too little," took 14 years; the planting of linden trees from the reservoir to Broad Street took 12 years to complete; completion of the lakes and roadways around them in the east section of the park took nearly 40 years. Much of what Cutshaw planned and envisioned did evolve into significant elements of the city, including Monument Avenue, and the completion of monumental buildings along Boulevard (the Monument Avenue Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1997). The park system, as noted, grew significantly under Cutshaw, providing the basis for the system today.

Cutshaw's obituary hailed the engineer's impact on the city:

> Colonel Cutshaw took hold of the rebuilding and reconstruction of the city after it had been ravaged by war. In that work he had to encounter a world of difficulties and tribulations. He planned the erection of the City Hall, the finest structure in Richmond; he made the lines and grades for the streets and avenues, the most beautiful in the South; he laid out the parks and boulevards. His greatest ambition was to turn every available foot of space into recreational resorts for the public, and especially the children.

> A few months ago he joined a merry-making party at Byrd Park. Out beyond the Idlewood pavilion he looked toward the south. "One mistake we made when we bought this property," he said, "was in not taking in more ground."[67]

Following his death, the Richmond City Council considered several different proposals aimed at honoring Cutshaw. They considered renaming Byrd Park to Cutshaw Park or renaming Boulevard to Cutshaw Avenue, which was heartily opposed by Boulevard residents. In the end, a small triangular park at Meadow and Park streets was named "Cutshaw Place" and the road between Thompson and Roseneath streets was named Cutshaw Avenue. A plaque attesting to Cutshaw's impact on the city was also erected on the wall at City Hall (now Old City Hall; designated a National Historic Landmark in 1971).[68]

Influences on the Park's Design

The design of Byrd Park clearly owes much to the late-nineteenth-century American Parks Movement, as well as to the City Beautiful Movement. It is obvious from Cutshaw's reports and plans that the engineer was familiar with the tenets of these movements and park development in other parts of the country. The engineer's annual reports indicate that he reviewed the parks and infrastructure operations and spending of other American cities of comparable population to Richmond and presented this information to Council as support for his proposals.[69] He was active in professional organizations such as the American Society of Civil Engineers and in 1879, Cutshaw requested several weeks' leave from the City Council in order to make a grand tour of Europe, which he stated was for "professional improvement."[70] Although an engineer by training, Cutshaw's contributions to landscape design in the city parks are well documented and have earned him an entry in the Cultural Landscape Foundation's "Pioneers" database.[71]

The American Parks Movement, which has its origins in the mid-nineteenth-century designs of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and architect Calvert Vaux, developed as a reaction to urban industrialization and aimed to provide healthy environments and suitable locations for urban residents to pursue pleasurable social activities as well as recreational ones. Olmsted and Vaux's design for New York City's Central Park consisted of a "greensward" with meandering pathways, wooded areas, and architectural enhancements (notably, a reservoir was added to the north end of the park in the 1860s). This and the subsequent Prospect Park (Brooklyn Park) were seminal works that proved to be influential across the country.[72]

Although aspiring to be "democratic" in nature, most elements of Richmond's public parks were initially racially segregated and remained so until the third quarter of the twentieth century. Athletic fields, playgrounds, and swimming pools were designated for use by "white" or "colored" patrons and were identified this way in department Annual Reports. In Byrd Park, the Sheilds swimming pool, the ball fields, the tennis courts, and the playground were "whites only" amenities. No city ordinance or laws appear to have officially segregated the entire park, however, in practice, this may have been the case.[73] The Civil Rights Act of 1964 finally banned racial segregation in all forms of public accommodations, whether privately or publicly owned.

Many of the elements in Byrd Park also reflect ideas that were prominent in the City Beautiful Movement, which had its origins in the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago. The movement, which was reformist at heart, sought to introduce civic beauty to American cities through architectural and landscape projects and inclusive planning practices. The exposition grounds, adorned with broad avenues, monumental-sized Neoclassical buildings designed in a Neoclassical style and at a monumental scale, and large water features, served as an inspiration for city planners and those interested

in the beautification of their municipal landscapes. The movement also was associated with social reform, which promoted planning as a way to achieve social order and to improve the lives of city residents, especially those living in poverty. Cutshaw's drew from the theories of the City Beautiful Movement in several ways: the redesign of Clover Street into the wide Boulevard with its median, terminating on the backdrop of the monumental structure of the reservoir; broad vistas across the park; and the promotion of "the beautiful" (in this case, the natural landscape) at the center of civic life

Cutshaw expressed his enthusiasm and vision for the Reservoir Park in his 1879 annual report. "When the Avenue, with its growth of Lindens, shall have been extended to Broad street, and the roads and lakes around the Reservoir laid out and extended to the river, the attractions of these grounds as a driving park will be fully appreciated by the public, and indicate wherein we have the opportunity of making this favorite resort one of the finest parks of the country." In addition, Cutshaw planned a "parkway" that would extend along the riverside and would link all the parks in the city, making "one of the best drives of the city with an extended view of the lower river." Due to finances and subsequent developments, the roadway was never realized.[75]

Another significant element of Byrd Park's design was the creation of a 30-acre municipal tree nursery within the park in 1890. A lifelong proponent of trees, Cutshaw planted the relatively flat area located south of the reservoir with seeds and saplings that were grown and harvested for use throughout the city. Just 14 years after its founding, the engineer reported that about 68,000 trees had been raised in the nursery since its establishment and that over 31,000 had been taken and replanted in the city parks and on its street. In addition, over 2,700 trees had been donated to other properties. "These trees embrace almost every variety of shade tree known in this region of the country, and have been planted and propagated from seedlings, and the small wood's growth, to trees now about 15 years or more in age. The original growth, including some full-grown trees found upon the grounds, have, as far as possible, been preserved and cared for. There are now approximately 50,000 trees in all at Reservoir Park, including those of original growth."[76]

Cutshaw's pride in the nursery and his eagerness to educate citizens about the trees led to his 1904 publication *Trees of the City*. The engineer often lamented that the city's street trees were poorly spaced or were planted in an unsuitable site. More than once, he is reported to have cut down stands of existing trees in order to replace them with a more suitable species planted at appropriate distances. In *Trees of the City*, Cutshaw produced a list of the species of trees growing in Richmond's parks and where they could be found. Many of the trees listed in the Reservoir Park were noted as "original growth." Cutshaw compiled the pamphlet in part due to his desire that Richmond residents recognize the importance and the purposes of the nursery. Rather than placing labels on trees, as had been suggested to him, Cutshaw urged residents to take his list and observe the trees in the parks where "under the guidance and explanations of the park-keepers...and especially in the tree nurseries under a most skillful nurseryman" they could see the trees from seeds to full-grown examples.[77]

The nursery succeeded in providing shade trees for the streets, parks, and other areas in the city, and also provided income for the city treasury. After only a few years in operation, Cutshaw's nursery reported sales to other Virginia cities and private organizations. The first such report came in 1899, when Cutshaw stated that 527 trees were sold from the nursery; in 1900, the cities of Baltimore, Maryland, and Norfolk, Lynchburg, and Staunton, Virginia, purchased products from the nursery. The report also noted that 100 trees and 25 hedge plants were donated to Riverview Cemetery (purchased and operated by the city in 1887). In subsequent years, Cutshaw reported donations of plants to other City-run and local non-profit institutions including the Masonic Home, the Male Orphan Asylum, Home for Incurables, Mount Calvary

Cemetery, the Soldiers' Home, St. John's Burying Ground, Capitol Square, City Almshouse, Marshall Street School, and Sacred Heart School.[78]

Although perhaps not the first such operation in the country, initial research indicates that the Richmond nursery is certainly one of the early municipal nurseries in the United States.[79] Farsighted in its benefits, Cutshaw no doubt came to the idea through necessity—the City of Richmond was in dire need of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of street trees and there were no funds to purchase them. Cutshaw, once again, combined elements of necessity with beauty to produce the lush grove of shade trees. Following Cutshaw's death in 1907, Chief Engineer Bolling praised the "wise foresight" in planning and planting the tree nursery which "year by year [is] being more appreciated." In 1920, the nursery operations were moved to the North Side of Richmond to Joseph Bryan Park, where it remained until the 1990s.[80] Richmond residents of today may find it difficult to imagine the city without its street tree canopy and its lushly wooded parks. Those characteristics, now revered, are due in large part to the efforts of Col. Cutshaw.

William Byrd Park reflects the national trend in which city parks changed over time in response to differing social and environmental conditions in the urban environment. Along the way, park uses and amenities have changed in small ways to respond to the demands of residents. Established in the late nineteenth century as a pleasure ground, as well as an addition to the city's water works infrastructure, Byrd Park fulfilled the expectations of city residents who desired an escape from cramped urban living conditions. By the early twentieth century, and in the wake of industrialization, residents were clamoring for opportunities for uplifting physical activity and uplifting cultural activities for children and adults including plays, art shows, cultural festivals and concerts. In the late twentieth century, parks took on an additional public role as important public gathering places for demonstrations, community vigils, and political events.

Over the past 140 years, Byrd Park has fulfilled all of these roles for its citizens. Among some of the notable events that occurred in the park during the late twentieth century and into the twenty-first century were the city's first PRIDE festival held June 23, 1979, which was Virginia's first Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, that included a parade from Richmond's North Side and ended with a picnic at Byrd Park; and the October 25, 2012, campaign rally held by U.S. President Barack Obama just days before his re-election to a second term—an unusual open-air event held by a sitting president. The park continues to be the site of more locally oriented events, including the RVA Streets Alive event held by Sports Backers, which closed streets and encouraged outdoor physical activities; numerous 5K races in support of medical research, memorial causes, and benevolent groups; and Arts in the Park, a signature art show event held annually on the Carillon grounds and established in 1972 by the Carillon Civic Association.[82]

The Friends of William Byrd Park, which sponsored this nomination, is made up of citizen volunteers whose goal is to preserve and protect, restore and improve, and encourage responsible use of the park. The organization acts in an advisory capacity to the City of Richmond's Department of Recreation and Parks in its administration of the park. The Friends of William Byrd Park are dedicated to keeping Byrd Park an attractive destination for people from all around the Richmond metropolitan area.

Acknowledgements
The Friends of William Byrd Park sponsored this nomination. Particular thanks are due to the work of Sarah Weisiger, Dennis Danvers, and Martha Erwin, who completed the preliminary research for the project. Numerous members of the Friends of William Byrd Park, including Rob Welch, Steven

Schwartz, and Mary Lee Allen, scoured the City of Richmond's Annual Reports spanning almost 100 years to cull out references to improvements at Byrd Park. The Friends provided additional sources of information, including a timeline of the park's development compiled by Pat Harris. In addition, the late T. Tyler Potterfield, Preservation Planner for the City of Richmond, compiled a Historic Landscapes Report (2012) that catalogued historical visual documentations (i.e., maps, drawings, postcards, and photographs) that pertained to the park. This resource was a valuable tool in establishing dates of improvements to the park. Likewise, Elizabeth O'Leary's research on the development of the Carillon Neighborhood, which abuts the park on the west side, also informed the nomination's discussion of the pre-park uses and developments of the land in this area. Others who provided invaluable service in the completion of this nomination include James Sties, president of Friends of William Byrd Park; John Zeugner, EnRichmond Foundation; Laurence Miller, retired Deputy Director of Richmond's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities; Rosemary Green, Deputy Director, and Janice Bailey, Engineer, City of Richmond, Department of Utilities; and Rodney Edwards, Trades Supervisor, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities.

ENDNOTES

Section 7

1. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Parks and Recreation, 1930, 134.
2. T. Tyler Potterfield, *Nonesuch Place: A History of the Richmond Landscape* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009), 103.
3. City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1909, 8.
4. "Damage to Trees Arouses Citizens," *Richmond News Leader*, January 21, 1926, page 4. The article quoted Humphrey Calder, then chief of the Bureau of Parks, as stating that the project necessitated the removal of "two white oaks and a chestnut oak and some smaller trees."
5. Carlton Norris McKenney, *Rails in Richmond* (Glendale, CA: Interurban Press, 1986) 16, 113; Elizabeth L. O'Leary, *The Carillon Neighborhood: A History* (Richmond, VA: Carillon Civic Association, 2013), 7.
6. Potterfield, 110. Although Chief Engineer Cutshaw and his successor Charles Bolling encouraged the city to purchase the 17 acres located at the center of the park owned by the S.M. Pollard Estate (13.37 acres) and Maj. James Dooley (3.97 acres), no acquisition was made. In 1912, the William Byrd Realty Company purchased both tracts and platted the subdivision known as William Byrd Terrace, thus creating the residential "hole" at the center of the park.
7. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Utilities, 1948-1954, 7; Janice Bailey, City of Richmond, Department of Public Utilities, Personal Communication, Telephone Interview, May 13, 2015.
8. City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1902, 9.
9. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Committee on Water, 1878, 242; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Committee on Water 1879, 4.
10. City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1887, 9; City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1889, 14. The first year, concessions activities brought in a few hundred dollars, but much larger sums were soon realized.
11. The 1865 map clearly depicts the Sutton house at the southern end of present-day Blanton Avenue. This roadway, with its characteristic bend near the Craig house, developed from an historic property line (Elizabeth L. O'Leary, personal communication). Today the road retains the same trajectory, although at one point Cutshaw sought to straighten the bend from the road. The map also depicts the Sheilds house, the natural swale, farm pond, and heavily wooded grove in what would become the east side of the park.

12. Because the "New Pump House," also known as the "Byrd Park Pump House," was developed as a separate property and was not technically a part of the development of Byrd Park, it is not included in the present boundaries for the William Byrd Park historic district. The Pump House, however, was a part of the New Reservoir operations and pumped water from the James River to the reservoir basins. The public dance pavilion located on the second floor of the Pump-House was a popular entertainment venue for city residents. A complete account of the development and architectural character of the Pump House can be found in Justin W. Gunther's ""New Pump-House" National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 2002.
13. O'Leary, 5, n27.
14. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Parks, Playgrounds and Cemeteries, 1925, 106.
15. Henrico County Deed Book 43:460; City of Richmond Deed Book 99:492; James K. Sanford, ed., *Richmond: Her Triumphs, Tragedies and Growth* (Richmond, VA: Metropolitan Richmond Chamber of Commerce, 1975), 56; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Mayor's Message, 1888, 8.
16. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Parks, Playgrounds and Cemeteries, 1924, 142.
17. Richmond was the first city in the United States to develop a commercially successful streetcar system, which operated from 1888 to 1949. One of the lines running to the park was known as the "Church Hill and New Reservoir Park" line. The transportation system is credited with having created many of Richmond's "streetcar suburbs," including the areas around Byrd Park, Forest Hill, and Brookland Park. McKenney's *Rails in Richmond* provides a comprehensive history of the trolley system.
18. McKenney, 114; "Shed and Cars Burn," *Richmond Dispatch*, June 27, 1902.
19. McKenney, 114; "The Rathskeller for Reservoir Park," *The Times,* February 2, 1902; "Big Amusement Park," *Richmond Dispatch*, April 16, 1902. The presence of the amusement park also resulted in Beverly Street being renamed Idlewood. The park was often referred to as the "Coney Island" of Richmond. See Michael Ayers Trotti, "When Coney Island Arrived in Richmond," *Virginia Cavalcade* Vol. 51, No. 4 (Autumn) 2002:168-179. Blandon Park was a private development that hosted many reunions, picnics, concerts, and shooting tournaments.
20. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Administrative Board, Parks, 1914, 13.
21. The gravel excavated from the Swan Lake site was a white gravel that Cutshaw used in paving city streets. F.S. Bussard, who owned a farm near the park, recalled that the engineer referred to the material as his "gold mine." Nell November, "I Remember When...," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, July 31, 1949; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Message of the Mayor, 1892, 5; City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer 1902, 9.
22. City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1915, 10; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Administrative Board, 1916, 14.
23. Because Richmond remained a segregated city, African-American residents were not allowed to use the Sheilds Lake swimming pool or any other Byrd Park amenity. A municipal swimming pool and bathhouse for black residents was not constructed until 1939. Located at Brook Field Park at the intersection of Sledd Street and Old Chamberlayne Avenue, this park facility was the highlight of the Department of Public Works' playground extension work that year. The 17-acre tract was improved using $53,000 in federal Public Works Administration funding. The site is now the location of the Main Branch of the U.S. Post Office. Laurence Miller, Personal Communication, April 16, 2015; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Director of Public Works, 1938, 14.
24. City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1908, 14; City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1916, 16; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Director of Public Works, 1925, 137-138. Constructed in 1911, the old 200-foot-high "standpipe" in Byrd Park was removed in 1926, when the construction of the Trafford booster station was completed and replaced the gravity-fed system with

hydraulic turbines and pumps driven by electric. The old standpipe was moved to the University of Richmond, where it was used to boost the water pressure in the Westhampton area. "Old Standpipe in Byrd Park Down," *Richmond News Leader*, May 24, 1926, 4; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Utilities, 1926, 34.

25. Department of Public Utilities of the City of Richmond, Virginia, *Story of the Water Works and Annual Report [FY 1930],* (Richmond, VA: The William Byrd Press, Inc., 1931), 76-77.

26. "Bright Accepts W.C.T.U. Fount for City," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, May 15, 1927; Grant Martin, "Byrd Park's Temperance Fountain," *RVANews*, accessed online at http://rvanews.com/entertainment/byrd-parks-temperance-fountain-a-wet-monument-to-a-dry-cause/122485; Walter S. Griggs, Jr., *Hidden History of Richmond* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2012), 56-58.

27. Legnaioili emigrated from Florence to New York City in 1902. He worked with the architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White and assisted the firm with their work at the University of Virginia. Grappone was a well-known stone mason who had worked on the construction of Elijah Myers' Richmond City Hall. AP Grappone & Sons continues to operate in Richmond. Harry Kollatz, Jr., "Columbus Discovered," in *Richmond Magazine*, October 13, 2014. Accessed online at http://richmondmagazine.com/news/the-hat/columbus-discovered/.

28. "Christopher Columbus Monument, Byrd Park," Architectural Survey Form, #127-0359, Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

29. Markus Schmidt, "Richmond's Italian Community Honors Columbus," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, online edition, October 13, 2014, accessed at http://www.richmond.com/news/local/city-of-richmond/article_fce6418d-2ec6-55ac-9813-153275bf0c59.html.

30. "Electric Fountain Novelty Projected for the Lake at Reservoir Park" *The Richmond Dispatch*, March 17, 1901.

31. The Ford lot, where the old State Library Building stands, was exchanged several times between the state and the city. The lot came back to the city in the 1925 exchange, and it moved the offices of the Department of Public Works (known as the Aluminum Building) to the site. In 1938, the state reacquired the lot. David F. LaPrade, Chief of Research, Department of Public Works, "Report on Municipal Improvements," Unpublished manuscript, Library of Virginia, Richmond, 1949:103.

32. "Virginia War Memorial Carillon," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA, 1984. Items from the war museum were moved to the State War Memorial Museum in Newport News in the early 1960s.

33. A carillon has at least two octaves of bells and is played from a keyboard. Other carillons in Virginia include the Netherlands Carillon, Arlington (1954); the Luray Singing Tower, Luray (1937); and the Jesse Ball DuPont Chapel, Hollins University, Hollins (1959); and Christ Episcopal Church, Charlottesville. The World Carillon Federation, accessed online at http://www.carillon.org/eng/fs_carillon.htm; Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, "Directory," accessed online http://www.gcna.org/documents/tower-directory.pdf. City of Richmond, Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities, "Carillon: A Brief History," accessed online http://www.richmondgov.com/parks/Carillon.aspx. Larry Robinson, Byrd Park Carillonneur since 1960, Personal Communication, Telephone Interview, June 25, 2015; Interview at Carillon, June 29, 2015.

34. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Director of Public Works, 1932, 67-68. Site improvements completed after the Carillon dedication included the grading of the mall north of the Carillon, the grading and graveling of the circular driveways to the east and west, and the installation of granite curbing along the north end of the mall.

35. "James River Garden Club Dedicates Memorial Planting to Mrs. Patterson," *Richmond News Leader*, November 11, 1937, 8.

36. City Annual Reports note that so many relief projects were undertaken during this period that it was impossible to list them all. Several projects that were noted in the reports include CWA I-114,

miscellaneous improvements and additions to parks and street improvements (1933); CWA I-293, clearing, grubbing, gutters and filling Sheilds Lake (1933); CWA I-203 (Bureau of Park): trimming, feeding, removal of trees (1933-34); WPA No. 650: Byrd Park Improvements (funding provided by City and federal agency) including unfinished coping around Swam Lake (work done in conjunction with regular park workforce), seeded and fertilized grassy areas, trees removed (1935); WPA 65-31-650: concrete sidewalks, spall gutter, concrete for bathing lake, curbs, sewer, brick walk, acres cleared and grubbing, coping repaired and laid, excavation, trees removed, tennis courts.

37. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Works, 1932, 112; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Works, 1933, 112; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Works, 1934, 114;1935, 91-92, 110.

38. Works Progress Administration, Official Project 465-31-2-82.

39. "Work on Pumping Station Under Way at Byrd Park," *Richmond News Leader*, January 13, 1939; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Utilities, 1938, 26; Greeley and Hansen, Columbus Pump Station Upgrades, February 2012.

40. Works Progress Administration Official Project (OP) 65-31-1072 (April 19, 1939-November 3, 1939) and OP 665-31-2-127 (January 19, 1939-July 18, 1939); City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Public Works, 1939, 13, 166. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Recreation and Parks, 1956, 26.

41. "Mayor's Plans Include More Pools for City," *Richmond News Leader*, November 8, 1944; "New Shields Lake, Reshaped, Accommodates 4,000 Bathers," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, May 13, 1945; "Shields Lake Construction Work Ends," *Richmond News Leader* [June 1945]; "Shields Lake, All Tests Satisfactory, Will Open to Public at 3 Tomorrow," *Richmond News Leader*, June 15, 1945; "News Records Set in Number of Bathers and Spectators at Shields Lake, Negro Pools," *Richmond News Leader*, June 18, 1845.

42. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Recreation and Parks, 1955, 11; "Shields Lake to Undergo Additional Repairs," [*Richmond News Leader*], [June 17, 1952]; "Shields Lake Conversion Set," *Richmond News Leader,* May 12, 1960.

43. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Recreation and Parks, 1957, 19; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Department of Recreation and Parks, 1961, 19; Larry Miller, Personal Communication, June 22, 2015.

44. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Division of Special Services and Events, Department of Recreation and Parks, 1958-59, 19.

45. Mark Holmberg, "Byrd Park Dog Run Being Planned," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, September 14, 1997.

Section 8

46. See Galen Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1982) for a comprehensive discussion on the changing uses of American parks from 1850 to the late twentieth century. Laurence Miller, personal communication.

47. As quoted in Agnes B. Cain, History of the Richmond Department of Recreation and Parks: A Professional Paper. Virginia Commonwealth University, Recreation 699, Dr. Charles E. Hartsoe, Fall, 1985, 1. Copy on file, Virginia Commonwealth University, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library.

48. LaPrade 1949:119. Land acquisition for some of the parcels occurred over several years.

49. Potterfield, 105. Several of the large estates in the area of present-day Byrd Park were owned by the city's slave traders, including Silas Omohundro and P.M. Tabb. O'Leary, 2-3, n27. There is one account of occupying Federal troops ransacking the house at Poplar Vale for valuables and provisions. Edward L.

Ryan, "Poplar Vale," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography,* Vol. XLVIII, No. 3 (July) 1940:206.
50. City Archives, No. 18, Richmond City Council Meeting Minutes, June 9, 1873, 116-117.
51. City Archives, No. 18, Richmond City Council Meeting Minutes, June 23, 1873, 127-129. The report of the Special Committee stated that some of the committee members "had mistaken the force and scope" of the resolution that they were assigned to pursue. While Mr. Newberry saw the committee's role as one of action, other members apparently thought their role was to discuss the possibility of a park.
52. City Archives, No. 18, Richmond City Council Meeting Minutes, June 23, 1873, 133.
53. City Archives, No. 18, Richmond City Council Meeting Minutes, February 9, 1874, 255. Henrico County Deed Book 93:260-261, Omohundro transaction (55.75 acres); Henrico County Deed Book 93:256-257, Craig transaction (5 acres); Henrico County Deed Book 93:258-259, Crenshaw and Pollard transaction (3.4 acres).
54. City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1874, 18; Selden Richardson, "Architect of the City": Wilfred Emory Cutshaw (1838-1907) and Municipal Architecture in Richmond," M.A. thesis, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1997, 8-9.
55. Ryan, 203.
56. Ryan, 202-205.
57. Henrico County Deed Book 43:460; City of Richmond Deed Book 99:492; James K. Sanford, ed., *Richmond: Her Triumphs, Tragedies and Growth* (Richmond, VA: Metropolitan Richmond Chamber of Commerce, 1975), 56; City of Richmond, Annual Report, Mayor's Message, 1888, 8.
58. Foushee also owned the nearly 100-acre property south of the Robinson land that later became the Maymont estate under the ownership of Major James Dooley.
59. Letter, William S. Simpson, Jr., Senior Librarian, Literature and History Department, Richmond Public Library to Mrs. Elizabeth J. Milhous, September 29, 1982. Copy on file Main Library, Richmond Public Library, Byrd Park Vertical File.
60. Clover Street originally was 55' wide. Around 1874, it was widened to 92' from the reservoir to Cary Street and in 1875, it was widened between Main and Cary to 104'. The object of the widening was to lay a large distributing main from the reservoir to Main Street, and then east along Main to Harrison. LaPrade 1949:109.
61. *The Charter and the General Ordinances of the City of Richmond* (Richmond, VA: Capitol Printing Company, 1910). The areas including Maymont and the Carillon neighborhood were not annexed by the city until 1914. See City of Richmond, Department of Public Works, "Map Showing Territorial Growth of Richmond, Department of Public Works, 1923," *Online Exhibitions*, accessed online June 25, 2015, http://www.virginiamemory.com/online-exhibitions/items/show/14.
62. Potterfield, 117.
63. City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1918, 11.
64. Sean Kheraj, "Review of Young, Terence, *Building San Francisco's Parks, 1850-1930*," H-HistGeog, H-Net Reviews. February 2009. Accessed online at http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=23980. The wholesome recreation offered by Byrd Park contrasted with Idlewood Amusement Park and its associated Rathskeller, which were viewed by reformers as places with a low moral environment, Trotti, 174, 178.
65. "Col. W.E. Cutshaw," *Confederate Veteran*, 83-84; "Col. Cutshaw, Long Sick, Passes Away," *The Times Dispatch*, December 20, 1907, 1, 3; Richardson, 1-2.
66. Richardson, 1-4.
67. "Col. Cutshaw, Long Sick, Passes Away," *The Times Dispatch*, December 20, 1907, 1.
68. "Give Boulevard Name of One-Time Engineer," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, March 25, 1919; "Boulevard Argument is Sent on to Council," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, April 5, 1919;
69. City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1874, 198; Richardson, 8-9.

70. Richardson, 24.
71. The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Pioneers," accessed online https://tclf.org/pioneer/wilfred-e-cutshaw.
72. The American Park Movement drew on European park precedents, as well as the work of earlier American designers such as Andrew Jackson Downing and his theory of "naturalistic constructivism" that advocating blending human artifice with the natural landscape. The development of the parks also had a positive effect on the adjacent properties and often gave rise to middle and upper-class neighborhoods. See Norman T. Newton, "Olmsted and Vaux: Central Park and Prospect Park," *Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971), 267-289.
73. Personal Communication, Laurence Miller, retired Deputy Director of Richmond's Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, 29 October 2015; Rodney Edwards, Trades Supervisor II, City of Richmond, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, 30 October 2015. In 1944, there was a newspaper account of a an African-American Boy Scout Troop being told by park police that they could not drink from the water fountain in Chimborazo Park and that the park was for "whites only." In response, J. Malcom Pace, chief of the City's Bureau of Parks and Recreation, stated that there was "no law or ordinance prohibiting the attendance of Negroes in the city parks." "Negro Park Ban Denied by Pace," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 30, 1944.
74. See Richard Guy Wilson, "Architecture, Landscape, and City Planning," in *The American Renaissance, 1876-1917* (New York: The Brooklyn Museum, 1979):74-109 and Newton, "The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893," 353-371 and "The City Beautiful Movement and City Planning," 413-426.
75. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Chief Engineer, 1879, 11, 23. The parkway would have connected the major parks of Libby Hill, Chimborazo, Gamble's Hill/Riverside Park, and Byrd Park.
76. W.E. Cutshaw, *Trees of the City* (Richmond, VA: O.E. Flanhart, 1904).
77. Cutshaw, *Trees of the City.* Tree species included in the list range from aspen poplars to Irish yews. Location notes for Reservoir Park note trees "mixed in forest," "original growth," and "in nursery rows." It also notes the American Linden trees planted along the Boulevard from the Reservoir to Broad Street as "grouped in three continuous rows."
78. City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1899 p. 9; City of Richmond, Annual Report, City Engineer, 1900, 9.
79. Washington, D.C. had a municipal nursery perhaps as early as the 1870s (*Municipal Engineering*, Vol. 15 (1898): 287), and other large cities, such as San Francisco, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City, also appear to have developed nurseries around the end of the nineteenth century. By the first decades of the twentieth century, many more municipalities would plant nurseries as an efficient and economical way of supplying trees and shrubs to the city. Robert Miller, Professor of Forestry Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Personal Communication.
80. City of Richmond, Annual Report, Chief Engineer, 1908, 17; Laurence Miller, personal communication.
81. Sean Kheraj, "City and Suburban Parks" in *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History* (Volume I). Kathleen A. Brosnan, ed. (New York: Facts On File, 2010). Accessed online at http://www.fofweb.com/activelink2.asp?ItemID=WE52&iPin=EAEH0124&SingleRecord=True.
82. Beth Marschak and Alex Lorch, *Images of America: Lesbian and Gay Richmond*, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2008), 65-66; O'Leary, 28-29, 46-47.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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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:
_x__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #127-6067

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 275

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.329556 Longitude: -77.288098
2. Latitude: 37.328686 Longitude: -77.285046
3. Latitude: 37.327451 Longitude: -77.285322
4. Latitude: 37.326522 Longitude: -77.282829
5. Latitude: 37.322443 Longitude: -77.284020
6. Latitude: 37.323128 Longitude: -77.287304
7. Latitude: 37.326402 Longitude: -77.285518
8. Latitude: 37.326571 Longitude: -77.286395
9. Latitude: 37.321448 Longitude: -77.289596
10. Latitude: 37.324112 Longitude: -77.292094
11. Latitude: 37.325730 Longitude: -77.289462

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The historic boundary is drawn to encompass all that property currently held by the City of Richmond, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities and designated by the City of Richmond as William Byrd Park, which is identified in the City of Richmond Tax Records as parcels W0000879041; W0000879045; W0000879047; W0000879049; W0000879048; W0000879051; W0000879052; W0000879046; W0000879065; W0000879055; W0000879054; W0000879053; W0000879058; W0000879062; W0000879056; W0000879059; W0000879060; W0000879061; W0000879063; W0000879064; W0000879072; W0000879071; W0000879070; W0000879073; W0000879068; W0000879067; W0000879066; W0000879001; and the northern 20 acres of W0000879005, which includes the section of the park commonly referred to as Sheilds Grove; and W0000879003 and W0000879002 held by the City of Richmond, Department of Public Utilities; and W0000879004 held by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Conservation & Economic Development.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The above-noted parcels comprise the area generally understood to be included in the City of Richmond's William Byrd Park. The area can be generally described as roughly bounded on the north by State Route 195 (Downtown Expressway) and Lakeview Avenue; on the east by South Robinson Street and Hampton Street; on the south by Maymont Park and Pump House Drive; and on the west by Blanton Avenue, Rugby Road, and Pump House Drive. The historic boundary encompasses the entirety of the acreage historically and currently associated with the park, all known historic resources, and the park's historic setting.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian
organization: Prepared for The Friends of William Byrd Park
street & number: 4711 Devonshire Road
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23225
e-mail: dmcclane1@verizon.net
telephone: 804/233-3890
date: August 28, 2015

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
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log
Name of Property: William Byrd Park
City or Vicinity: Richmond
County: N/A State: VA

Photographer: Debra A. McClane
Date Photographed: February and May 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_001
View: Roundhouse/Clubhouse, view looking south

Photo 2 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_002
View: Swan Lake, view looking south

Photo 3 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_003
View: Swan Lake, view looking northeast

Photo 4 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_004
View: Amelia Street Bridge and Spillway, view looking northeast

Photo 5 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_005
View: Sheilds Lake, view to southwest

Photo 6 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_006
View: Sheilds Lake walkway, view looking northeast

Photo 7 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_007
View: Park Maintenance Building and stone pillars, view looking southwest

Photo 8 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_008
View: Sheilds Shelter, view looking southeast

Photo 9 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_009
View: Sheilds Lake Spring, view looking northeast

Photo 10 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_010
View: Sheilds-Robinson Cemetery, view looking west

Photo 11 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_011
View: Athletic Field House, view looking northeast

Photo 12 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_012
View: Christopher Columbus Statue with Columbus Pump Station and Reservoir behind, view looking south

Photo 13 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_013

View: Fountain Lake (Boat Lake), view looking northwest

Photo 14 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_014
View: South embankment of reservoir and Trafford Road, view looking east

Photo 15 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_015
View: Vita Course in area of former municipal tree nursery, view looking east

Photo 16 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_016
View: Virginia War Memorial Carillon, view looking south-southwest

Photo 17 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_017
View: Dogwood Dell Amphitheater, view looking south

Photo 18 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_018
View: Carillon Spring, view looking northwest

Photo 19 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_019
View: Dogwood Dell Bridge and Walkway, view looking southwest

Photo 20 of 20 VA_CityofRichmond_WilliamByrdParkHistoricDistrict_020
View: Carillon Shelter, view looking northwest

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 100 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. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Detail of William Byrd III Lottery Map for Area Now Encompassed by William Byrd Park.
2. Detail of 1867 Map Showing Area Now Encompassed by William Byrd Park.
3. Plat Showing Parcels Purchased in 1874 by the City of Richmond from the Silas Omohundro Estate for the New Reservoir.
4. Plat of Partition of John Sheilds Property, 1877.
5. Unbuilt Master Plan, Possibly for New Reservoir Park, circa 1873.
6. Map Showing Improvements in New Reservoir Park (William Byrd Park), 1889.
7. Photographs Showing Sheilds Home (Poplar Vale) and the Sutton Home.
8. Two Scenes Showing Character in Northern Section of William Byrd Park.
9. Images of the Top of the Byrd Park Reservoir.
10. Photograph of the Newly Constructed Byrd Park Comfort Station/Clubhouse, Located on The Former Site of the Privately Operated Rathskeller.
11. Photograph of the Newly Construction Athletic Field House in the Northern Section of William Byrd Park.

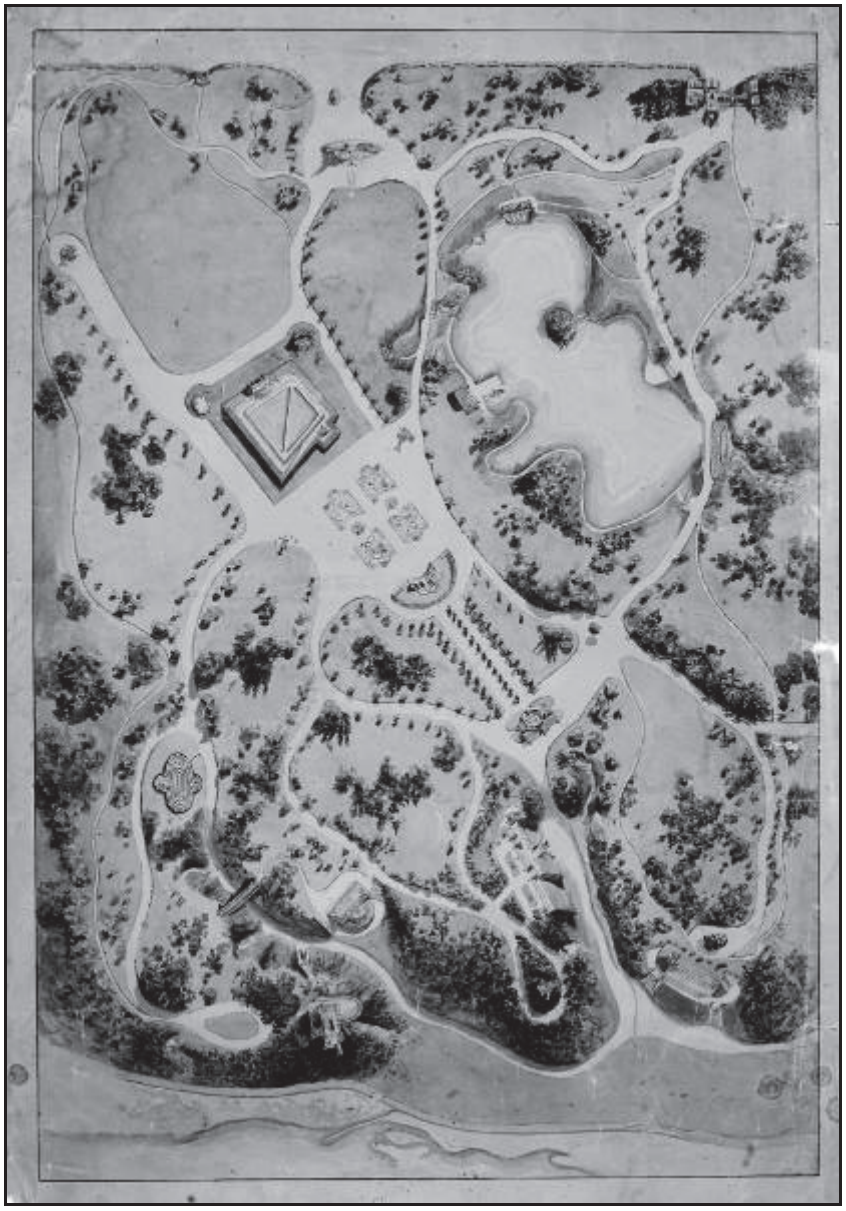
12. Scenes at Sheilds Lake Swimming Pool.
13. Photographs of Some of the Recreational Activities Provided in William Byrd Park Over the Years.
14. Proposed Layout for the Approaches to the Virginia War Memorial Carillon.
15. Images of Some of the Work Completed in William Byrd Park by Relief Workers During the 1930s.
16. Photograph of the Dogwood Dell Amphitheater upon completion in 1957.
17. Wilfred Emory Cutshaw, circa 1890.
18. Bird's Eye View of William Byrd Park looking North, 1934.
19. View Looking West Along North Side of Fountain Lake During Construction of Downtown Expressway (SR-195).

1. Detail of William Byrd III Lottery Map showing lots awarded to Francis Watkins, making up the majority of land in William Byrd Park today. Detail of Micajah Bates, *Plan of the City of Richmond*, 1835. Source: Valentine Richmond History Center.

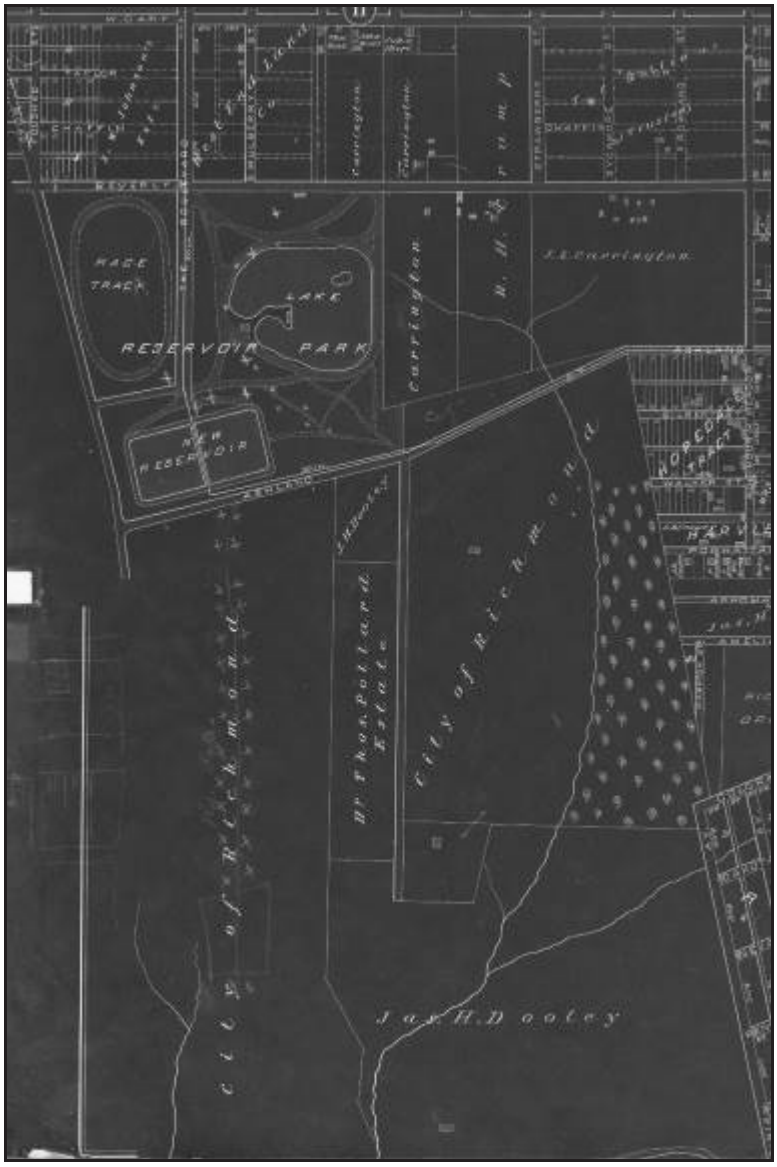
2. Detail of 1867 Map Showing Area Now Encompassed by William Byrd Park. At the time, the land still was predominantly rural in character. The development at the lower right was Camp Jackson, which was a large Confederate hospital complex that was later used by Union forces for Confederate prisoners of war during the American Civil War. Note locations of Sheilds (Poplar Vale), Sutton, and Craig properties. Sheilds Grove is clearly depicted on the map, as is the ice pond that existed on the property at this time. Source: Peter S. Michie, *Richmond, Virginia 1865*. City of Richmond, Virginia.

3. Plat Showing Parcels Purchased in 1874 by City of Richmond from the Silas Omohundro Estate for the New Reservoir. These were among the first parcels purchased by the city for this purpose. The Craig property noted on the south side of the Omohundro parcels was also purchased. Source: Library of Virginia, Henrico County Deed Book 93, page 261.

4. Plat of Partition of John Sheilds Property, 1877. Note depiction of house, ice pond, and ice houses on property. Ashland Street at the top of the plat is present-day Lakeview Road. Source: Library of Virginia, Henrico County Deed Book 99, page 492.



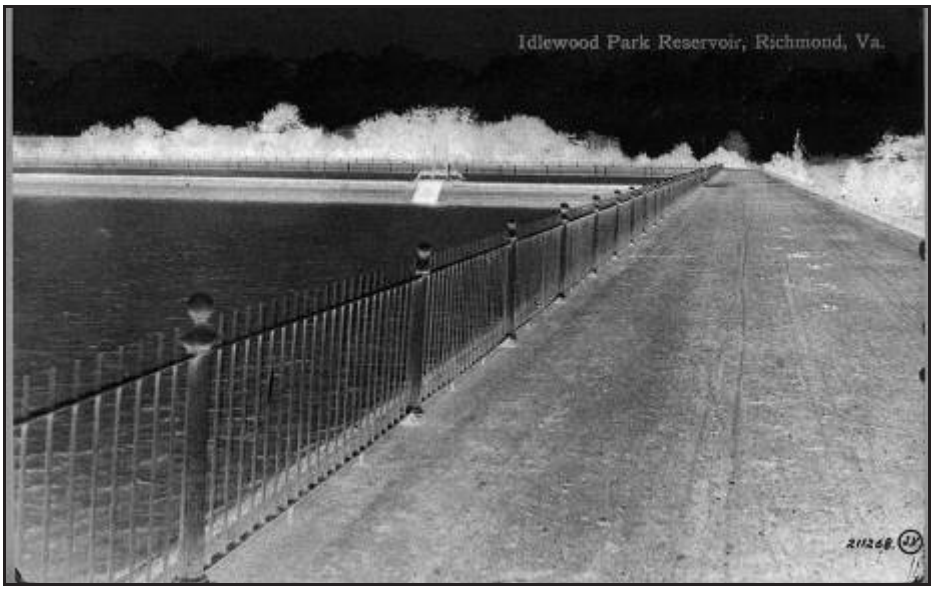
5. Unbuilt Master Plan, Possibly for New Reservoir Park, circa 1873. This unrealized proposal included several elements that would eventually be among the improvements found in the new city park, including a two-basin reservoir, tree-lined boulevards, architecturally distinct buildings, and a naturalistic, but man-made lake with a wooded island. Source: Library of Virginia, City of Richmond (VA), Office of the City Engineer Records, Accession Number 34886a-b.

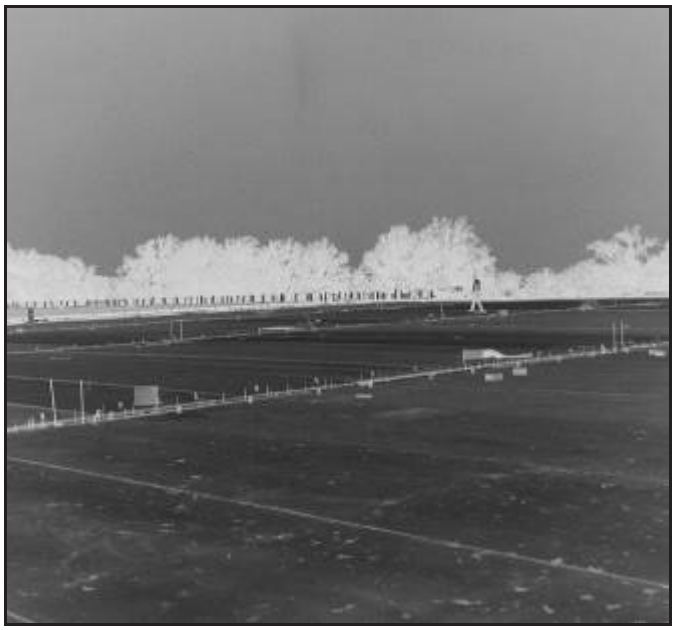


6. Map Showing Improvements in New Reservoir Park (William Byrd Park), 1889. Note development in northern part of park (racetrack, lake, and reservoir), acquisition of Sheilds Property, including Sheilds Grove, and area on west side of park. Notations on map indicate that thought was given to extend Boulevard south of the reservoir and to line the route with trees. Source: G.W. Baist, *Atlas of the City of Richmond, Virginia and Vicinity,* 1889. City of Richmond, Department of Planning and Development Review.

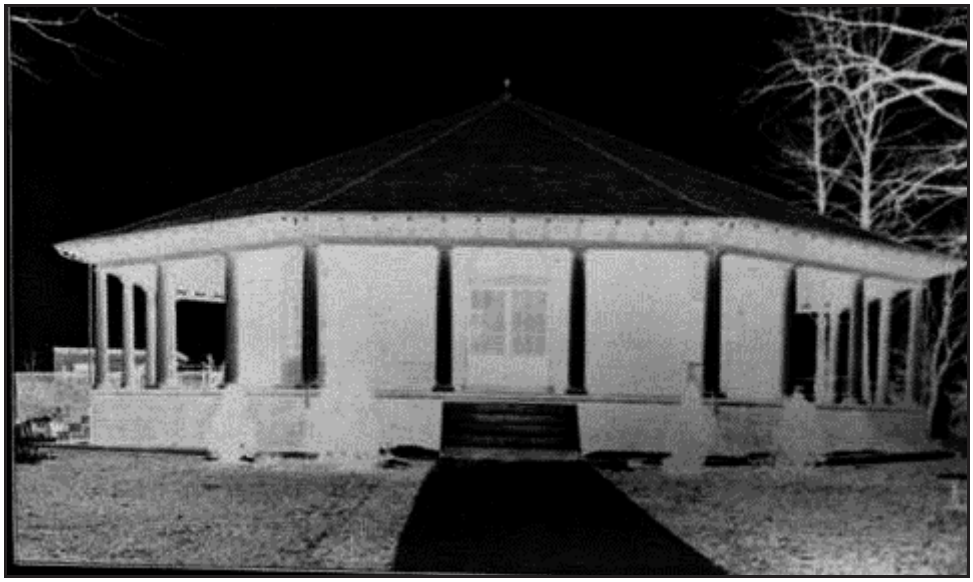
7. Photographs Showing Images of the Sheilds House, Poplar Vale (top, ca. 1890), and the Sutton House (bottom, ca. 1925). These houses were extant on property purchased by the city for the park. Poplar Vale was the home of the park superintendent and the Sutton house was the residence of the municipal nurseryman. Both were demolished by 1925. Source: Valentine Richmond Historic Center, Cook Collection, Negatives 51.1.48 and 46.38.561.

8. Two Scenes Showing Character in Northern Section of William Byrd Park. Top image shows area around Boat Lake circa 1897. Tree-lined roads, walkways, and settees are some of the improvements seen here. Bottom image shows tree-lined Boulevard, lamp and fountain at southern terminus, and the water tower located in the center of the racetrack, circa 1920. Sources: Top, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University; Bottom, Valentine Richmond History Center, Cook Collection, Negative No. 4738.

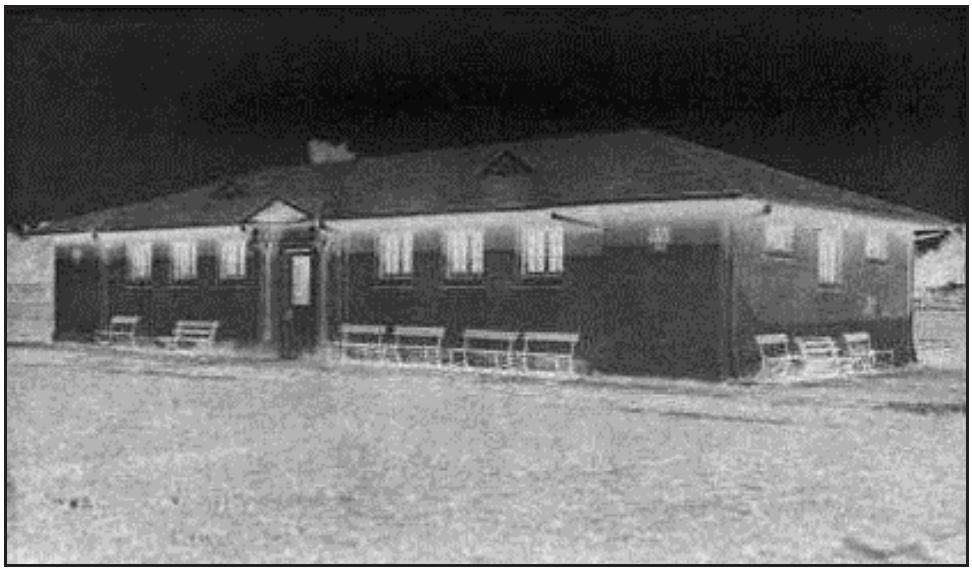




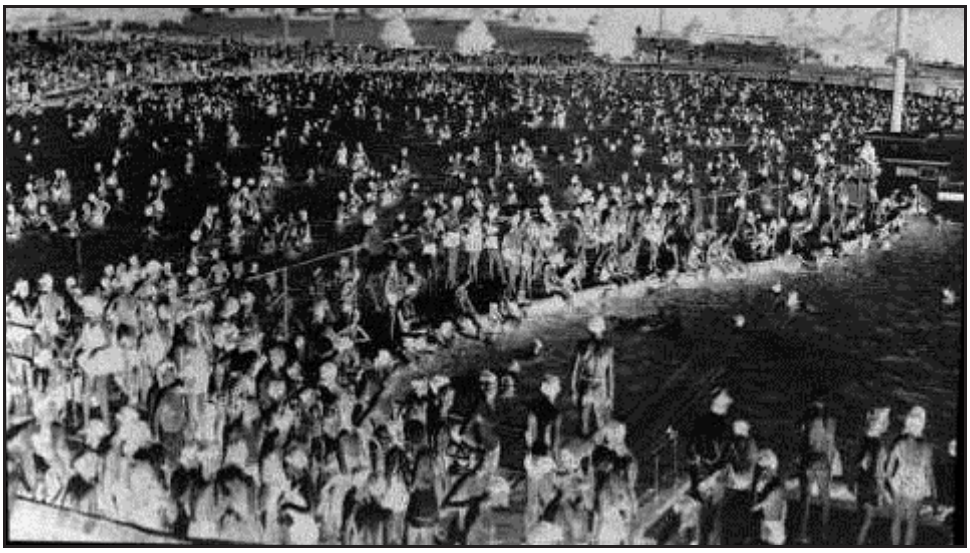
9. Images of the Top of the Byrd Park Reservoir. Top image shows promenade around top of reservoir, circa 1910. The caption on this postcard confuses the New Reservoir Park with the nearby Idlewood Amusement Park. The lower image shows the construction of the concrete covers for the reservoir water basins, circa 1971. Sources: Top, Special Collections and Archives, James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University. Bottom, Janice Bailey, City of Richmond, Department of Public Utilities.



10. Photograph of the Newly Constructed Byrd Park Comfort Station/Clubhouse, Located on the Former Site of the Privately Operated Rathskeller. Source: City of Richmond, Department of Public Works, 1914.

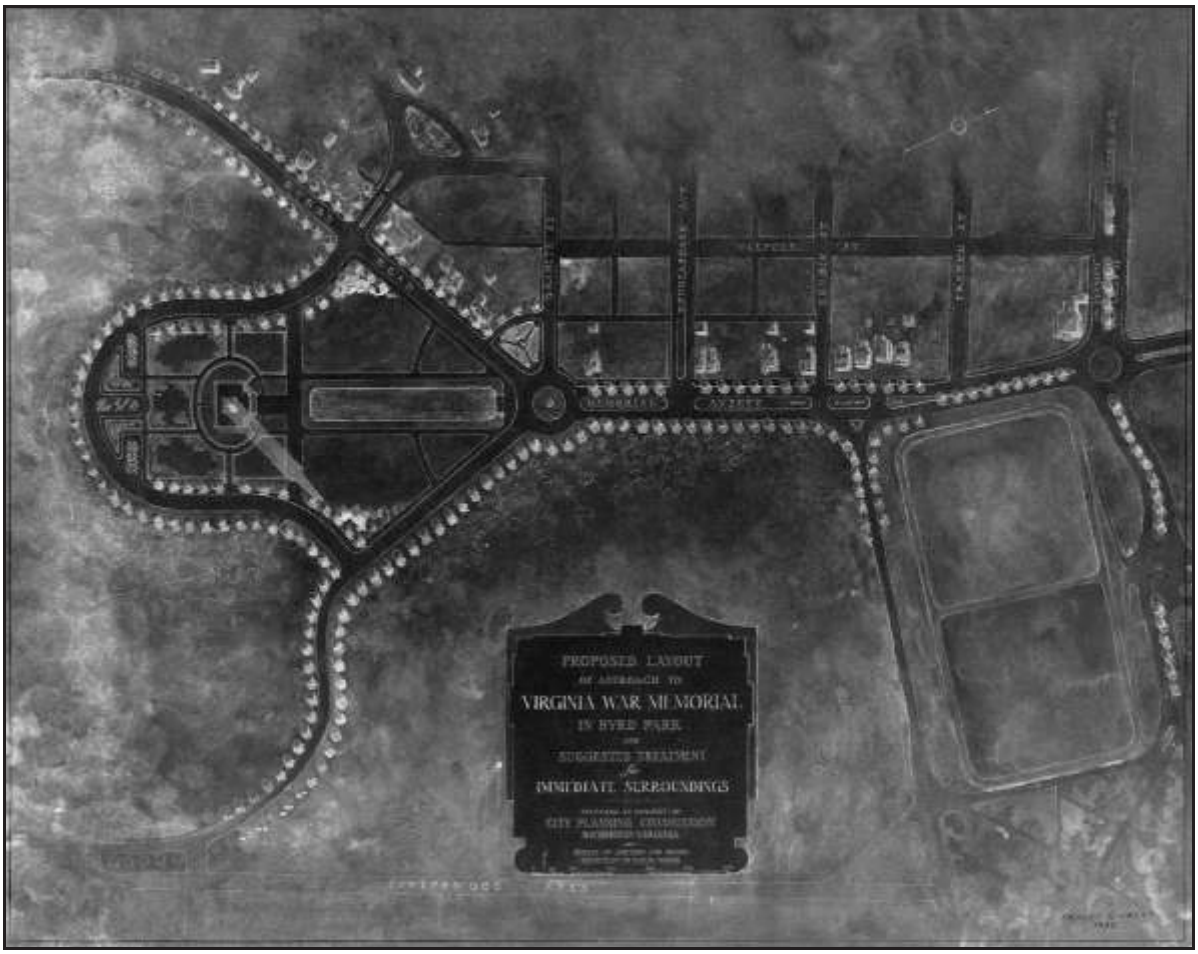


11. Photograph of the Newly Constructed Athletic Field House in the Northern Section of William Byrd Park. Source: City of Richmond, Department of Public Works, Annual Report, 1925.

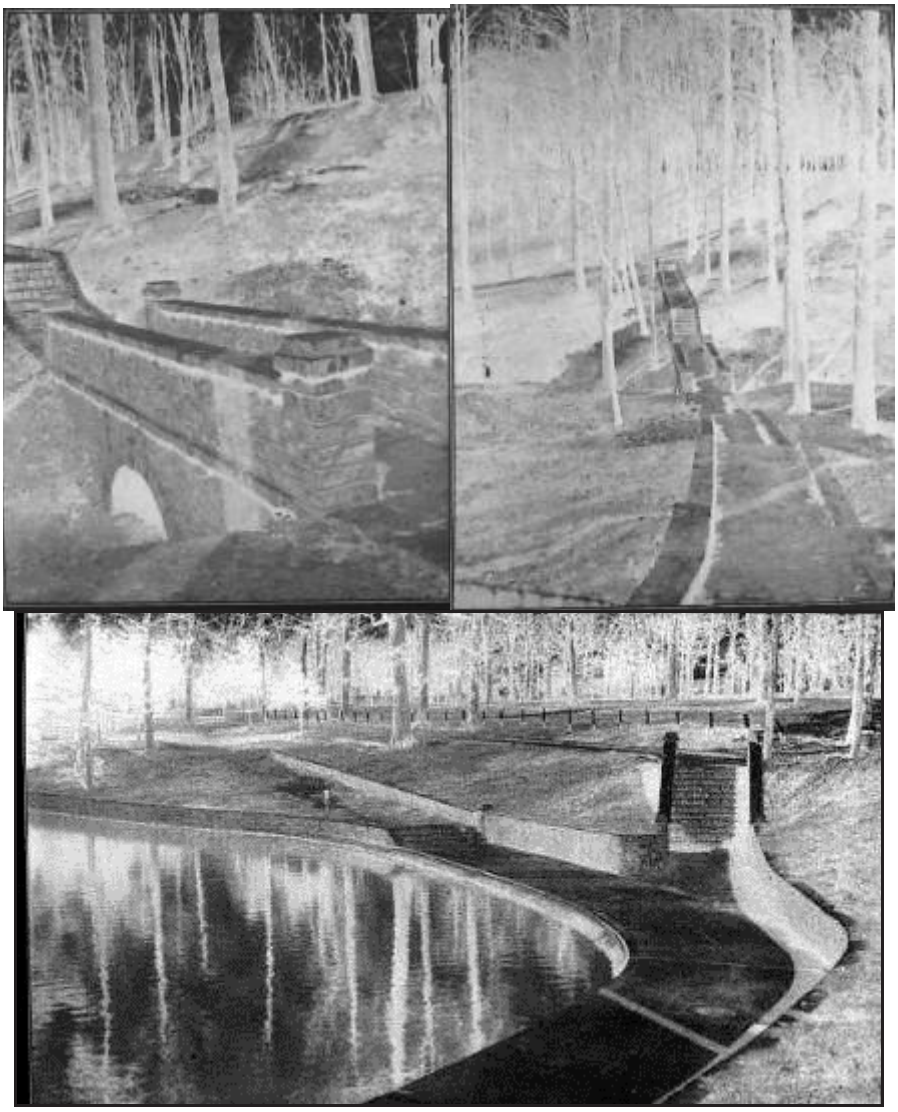


12. Scenes at Sheilds Lake Swimming Pool. In 1919, Richmond's white residents were allowed to swim in Sheilds Lake. During the 1930s relief work, a concrete bottom was poured into the lake, a shallow, wading area created, and additional amenities were added for visitors. The pool drew over 200,000 visitors annually. The pool closed in 1955 due to the need for extensive repairs and resistance to racially integrating the facility. Sources: City of Richmond, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, Scrapbooks and Annual Report.

13. Photographs of Some of the Recreational Activities Provided in William Byrd Park Over the Years (clockwise from top left): sledding on the reservoir embankments, marbles championships, fishing in Swan Lake, baseball on athletic fields (note South Sheppard Street houses in background). Source: City of Richmond, Department of Parks. Recreation and Community Facilities, Scrapbooks (maintained by private individual, but currently in possession of department).



14. Proposed Layout for the Approaches to the Virginia War Memorial Carillon, Ernest Gilbert, City of Richmond Department of Public Works, 1932. This rendering depicts the proposed reflecting pool in front of the Carillon, as well as some of the newly constructed houses in the adjacent William Byrd Parkway development. The pool was never realized and the Carillon Mall was later planted with dogwoods and holly trees. Source: Library of Virginia, City of Richmond, Office of the City Engineer, Accession No. 334886.



15. Images of Some of the Work Completed in William Byrd Park by Relief Workers during the 1930s. Top images show walkways, steps, and bridge at Dogwood Dell. Bottom image shows steps and walkways around the southern end of the Sheilds Lake. Source: City of Richmond, Department of Public Works, Annual Reports.

16. Photograph of the Dogwood Dell Amphitheater upon Completion in 1957. Note that the back-of-the-house facilities were not yet completed. Source: City of Richmond, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities, Annual Report.

17. Wilfred Emory Cutshaw, ca. 1890. Cutshaw was trained as a civil engineer at the Virginia Military Institute, Class of 1858. Source: VMI Archives, Photo #0000695.

18. Bird's Eye View of William Byrd Park Looking North, 1934. Visible in this image are the New Pump-House at the bottom of the picture, the Carillon at the center, the reservoir, ball fields, and Boat Lake at the top. The edge of Swan Lake is visible to the right. The Carillon Neighborhood is located at the left of the image and the initial development of William Byrd Terrace is located at the right. Source: Elizabeth L. O'Leary, Historian, Carillon Civic Association.

19. View Looking West along North Side of Fountain Lake During Construction of Downtown Expressway (SR-195). Source: Valentine Richmond History Center.

Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources

V-CRIS

Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

LOCATION MAP

LATTITUDE/LONGITUDE COORDINATES

1. Latitude: 37.329556
   Longitude: -77.288098
2. Latitude: 37.328686
   Longitude: -77.285046
3. Latitude: 37.327451
   Longitude: -77.285322
4. Latitude: 37.326522
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   Longitude: -77.289596
10. Latitude: 37.324112
    Longitude: -77.292094
11. Latitude: 37.325730
    Longitude: -77.289462

N

Feet

0 500 1000 1500 2000

1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

Title: William Byrd Park, Richmond, VA **Date: 6/1/2015**

DISCLAIMER:Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions.The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites:Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

William Byrd Park Map

RICHMOND, VA

DHR No. 127-6067

SKETCH MAP

Legend

- Non-contributing
- Contributing (C)
- Vita Course
- Dogwood Dell Trail
- Lakes
- Roads
- Parking

Cartographers: Minyao Li and Lauren Tolson
University of Richmond
Map Production Date: December 6th , 2014

Data Source: City of Richmond, VA
Geographic Information Systems

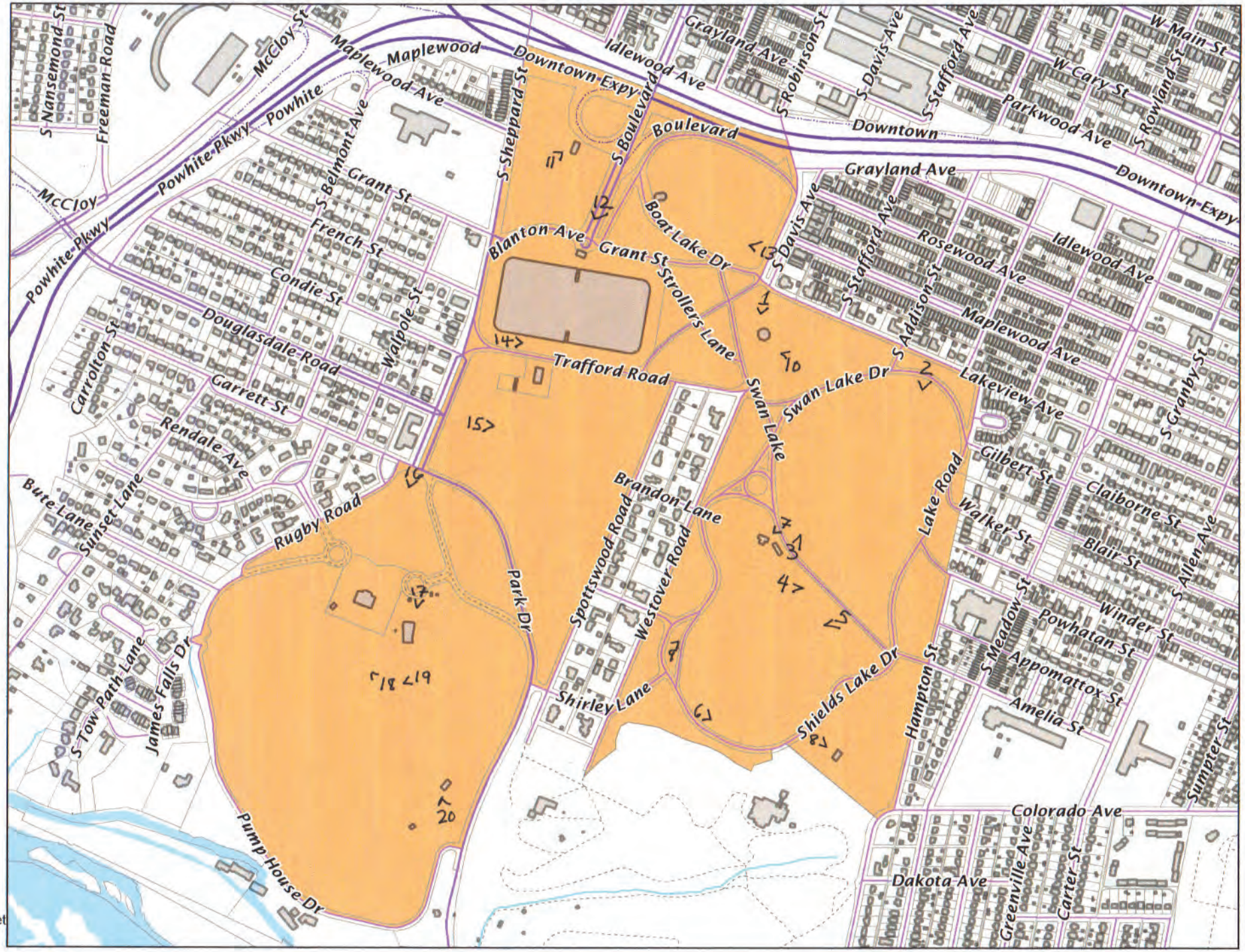
Coordinate System: NAD 1983
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Datum: North American 1983

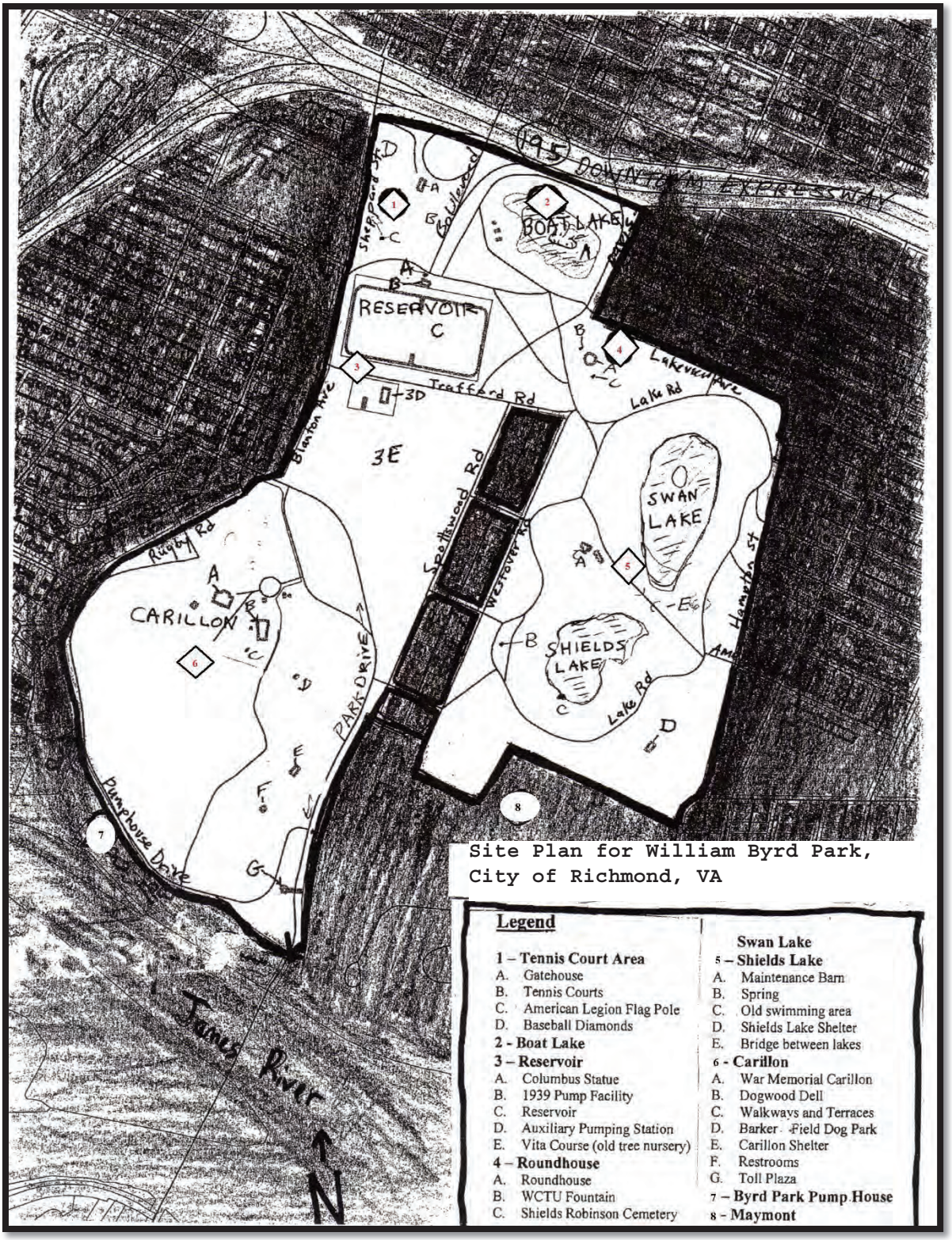
N ↑

127-6067 William Byrd Park Historic District
Richmond, VA

Photo Locations

2015





Source: Friends of William Byrd Park/Minyao Li and Lauren Tolson with assistance from John Zeugner and James (Turk) Sties