

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Charles Young Park and Community Center
other names/site number Municipal Community Center (Colored); FA-NE-753
Related Multiple Property NA

2. Location

street & number 540 East Third Street

NA
NA

 not for publication
city or town Lexington vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Fayette code 067 zip code 40508

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this 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 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 local Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title Craig Potts/SHPO Date _____

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		district
1		site
		structure
		object



3 0 **Total**

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape/City Park

Other—Community Center

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape/City Park

Other—Community Center

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals—
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone veneer

walls: Brick, Stone

roof: Asphalt Shingles

other: _____

Narrative Description

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Summary Paragraph

Charles Young Park and Community Center (FA-NE-753) is a relatively rectangular piece of property containing approximately 2.6 acres that is bounded on all four sides by public streets. The park was acquired by the city in 1930, and the park's two structures erected by the mid-1930s. A one-story brick veneer community center is located on the upper level area of the site. A one-story ell is centered on the rear of the building containing a gymnasium. A one-story brick restroom building is located away from the community center, adjacent to Lewis Street. While most of the remaining site consists of open green space, there is a paved multi-use ball court and playground area below the parking area, on the lower portion of the site. The community center building retains most of its architectural integrity with only minor changes over the past eighty years. The area proposed for listing is 2.6 acres, with two contributing buildings and one contributing site.

Charles Young Park: Contributing site

Charles Young Park was the second parcel of land purchased by the City of Lexington to serve the recreational needs of the African-American community. The park is located in the area known as the East End. The property covers one entire city block, bounded by East Third Street (on the northeast), Lewis Street (on the southeast) and Shropshire Avenue (on the northwest and southwest, formerly known as Ann Street). The land consists of a large, level area along East Third Street, where the community center building is located) that falls away to the southwest to form a lower more level play area. A paved, multiuse ball court and playground are located on the lower area of the site and is surrounded by green space.

Several mature deciduous and evergreen trees are scattered across the park, primarily along the perimeter. These trees represent the only landscaping feature in the park leaving large areas of open green space.

Charles Young Community Center: Contributing Building Exterior

The Charles Young Center is a one-story brick veneered side-gable building on a raised cut-stone foundation that is situated on the north end of the open park area. A one-story brick veneer ell containing a gymnasium and stage is centered on the rear elevation of the building.

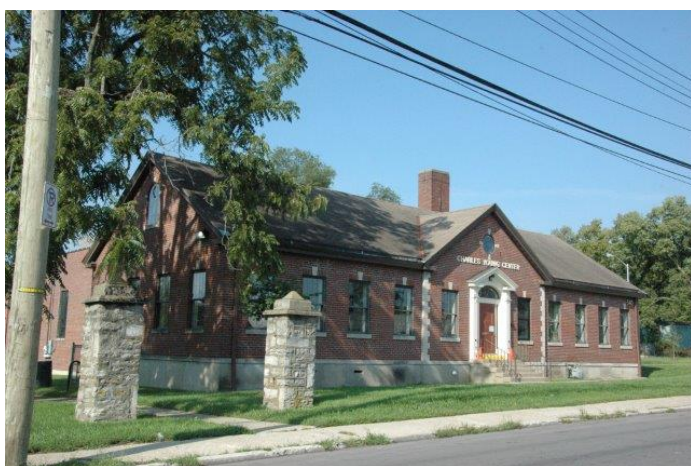


Photo 1: View to west



Photo 2: View to south

The front elevation faces East Third Street. It is eleven bays wide and topped with a side-gable roof. The center three bays, consisting of a single leaf door flanked by two windows, are contained in a bay that projects slightly

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forward of the plane of the front elevation and is topped with a cross-gable roof with returns. The two edges of this projecting bay are defined by cut-stone quoins. A small uncovered concrete stoop, accessed by full-width steps, leads to the main entrance of the building. Originally, a pair of doors topped with an elliptical fanlight provided entrance to the building. The paired doors were removed and replaced with a single-leaf door flanked by narrow sidelights. The wooden door surround consists of a slightly projecting pediment with crown-molding and returns; the pediment is visually supported by engaged pilasters. Centered in the cross-gable above the door is a round window surrounded by a soldier course of brick. Cut-stone keystones are located at the four compass points of this circle. The two flanking windows (as are the remaining windows of the front elevation) are large sash windows with cut stone sills, flat-arch brick headers and a cut-stone keystone. The remaining windows of the front elevation are of this design as well.

The entire side-gable portion of the building is built on a slightly raised, poured concrete foundation that is faced with cut-stone panels and a cut-stone water table. Originally, there were a series of windows contained in this raised foundation, to provide natural light into the basement, but at some point these were covered over and abandoned. While the basement walls, both exterior and interior, and the first floor slab are of poured concrete construction, the first floor is constructed of concrete block walls with a brick veneer. The brick is laid in a common bond pattern that extends into all three gables. The two side gables each contain a small round-headed sash window that provides natural light into the attic space.

The centered rear ell contains the gymnasium and elevated stage. Because of the slope of the land, this portion of the building is built one-half story down from the main floor. The walls of this rear ell are of structural glazed tile with a brick veneer that is also laid in a common bond. The relatively flat roof is concealed by a brick parapet that is topped with glazed tile coping. The two side-walls contain a series of oversized rectangular windows to provide natural light into the gymnasium. The rear wall of the ell contains two door openings that flank the elevated stage. The original doors have been removed and a single door with a single side-light is located in these openings. A small paved parking area is located adjacent to the gymnasium.

Interior

The first floor plan consists of a large entry hall flanked on either side by offices. A cross corridor leads to two large classroom/meeting spaces on the east and west ends of the main floor. Along this cross corridor are located restrooms and storage spaces. Directly in line with the entry hall is a poured concrete stair that provides access to the gymnasium and the basement. An enclosed wheelchair lift, installed in 1981, also provides access to all three levels of the building.



Photo 9: gym



Photo 7: Crosshall



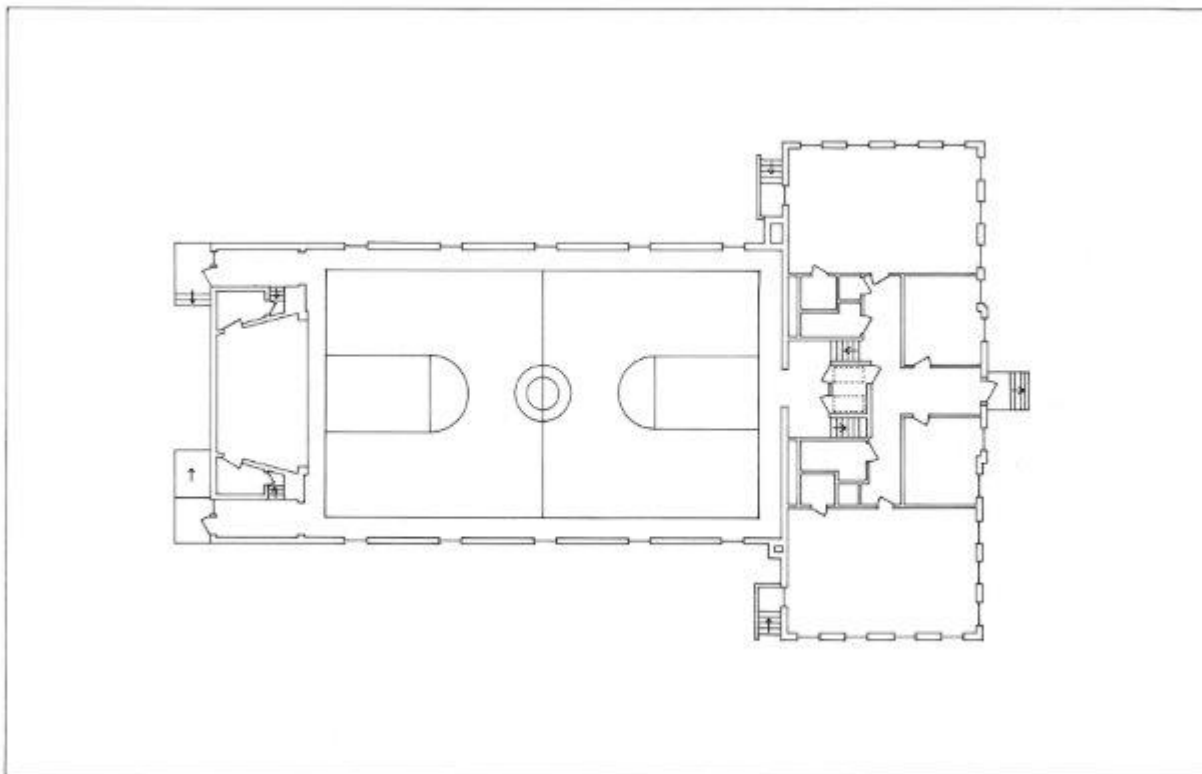
Photo 6: Cross hall and wheelchair lift

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Half a floor down from the main level is the gymnasium space. This space contains a full-sized basketball court with narrow walk spaces around all four sides of the court. An elevated stage, flanked by floor level corridors leading to the exterior doors, is located at the end of this wing, at the point furthest from East Third Street.

The basement level is laid out similarly to the main level. In addition to the classroom, restroom and storage areas are a small kitchen and the mechanical/boiler room. Exterior doors contained in the mechanical room and the opposite classroom lead to open stairwells that lead to grade level.



First Floor plan

Restrooms: Contributing Building

The second building on the site is a small brick building located along Lewis Street that was constructed after the purchase of the land and before the construction of the community center. Its original function was to provide public restrooms for the park, continues to this day. This rectangular masonry building has personnel doors on three elevations. Two window openings located high on the wall of the southeast and northwest elevations have been filled in, two with masonry and the others with panels. The entire structure is topped with a metal hip roof with broad eaves. A one story concrete block addition was constructed on the southwest elevation after 1972 for storage. The addition is narrower and shorter than the original building and is topped with a simple shed roof that connects to the eave of the hip roof. A pair of doors on the southwest elevation of the addition provides access.

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Photo 14: Restroom: view to west



Photo 15: view to north

Changes to the Property since the Period of Significance

While there have been some changes and modifications made to the building over the last seventy-five years, its form, design and function have been retained. The community center has experienced minor renovations throughout its history. The biggest changes occurred in the 1980s when exterior doors were replaced with metal units and the wheelchair lift was installed and handrails were installed. In addition, the windows were replaced with units of similar design that were sized to fit the original openings. The park in its entirety retains a high degree of integrity as an open, recreational space as an urban setting. The two contributing structures on the site, though slightly altered, also retain a high degree of integrity in their design, massing, materials and function,

Changes to the park proper, beyond the construction of the community center five years after it was established, include construction of a paved multi-use play court and sand covered playground. When the streets in the area were reconfigured after 2000, the southwest corner of the block was redefined to its current appearance. The restroom building had a concrete block addition placed on the southwest elevation after 1972 for additional storage and four windows were in-filled.



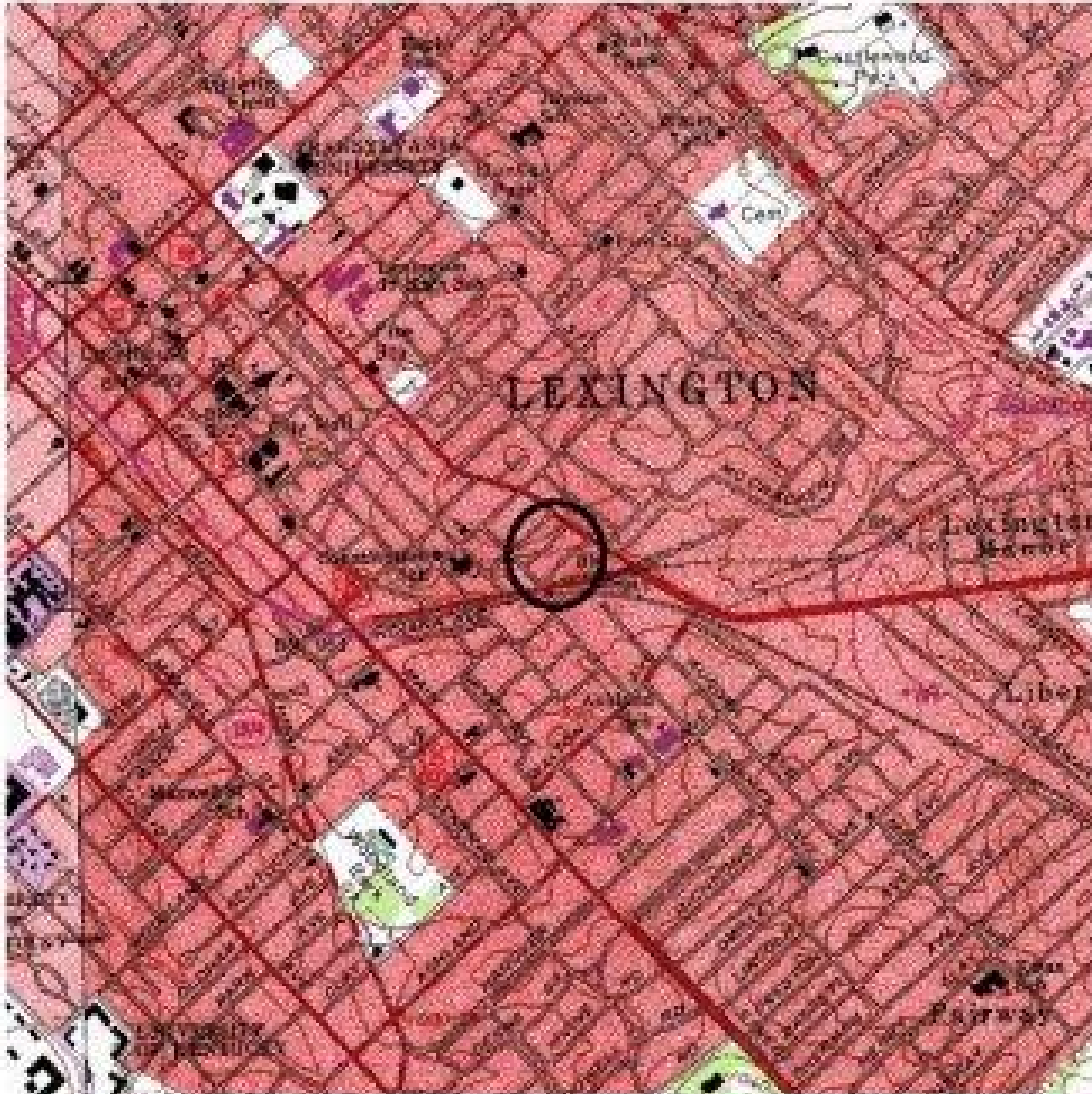
Photo 16: View of site to northwest

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Charles Young Community Center
540 East Third Street
Lexington, KY 40503

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



USGS Map Name: Lexington East KY
Zone 16
NAD83
N18.04287° ; W84.48453°

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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.)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage--Black

Period of Significance

1930-1964

Significant Dates

1930; 1935

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Moore, John V. (architect)

Smith-Haggard Lumber Company (builder)

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance begins in 1930, when the property was purchased and the public park was established. The significance of the park increased when its community center was constructed. The park and community center continue to the present to be a significant green space within the community as well as an activity center for its residents..

Criteria Considerations: NA

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Charles Young Park and Community Center (FA-NE-753) meets National Register Criterion A. It is locally significant as an important part of the neighborhood known as Lexington's East End. The park's significance is evaluated within the historic context "African American Neighborhoods in Lexington, Kentucky, 1865-1965." The laws and social customs that defined the "Jim Crow" era, which began when African Americans acquired universal citizenship in 1865, forced blacks to occupy separate activity spheres from whites until the middle 1960s. In Kentucky towns, African-Americans erected a community that stood alongside the community of whites, in which most of the same activities occurred: schooling, worship, commerce, as well as various forms of entertainment and recreation. The Charles Young Park provides an important physical and spatial indication of the existence of the East End community, and the importance that a public place holds for any community—for recreation and civic gathering. The establishment of the park in 1930 signals some acknowledgement of the town's black community by the Lexington community at large. Further recognition of the East End neighborhood came 5 years later, when the city applied for a Public Works Administration (PWA) grant to build the park's community center. From its inception, the facility played an important role in the lives of the neighborhood's youth, where they could gather and socialize. There is a strong integrity between the park's significance and its physical condition today.

Historic Context: African American Neighborhoods in Lexington, Kentucky, 1865-1965

The Charles Young Park and Community Center are located in the part of Lexington commonly referred to as the East End. The approximate boundaries of this area are Midland Avenue to Elm Tree Lane and East Short Street to East Seventh Street.

Lexington, like many cities following the Civil War, saw a major change in the African - American population. Between 1860 and 1870 the city of Lexington's African- American population jumped from 3,080 to 7,171, reflecting an increase of 133 percent, while the white population for the area during that same time period increased only 27 percent. Many African-Americans who had previously lived in rural Fayette and adjacent counties gravitated to town of Lexington during this period, partially demonstrated by Fayette County's 29 percent drop in African American population during the same period.

Lexington's residential neighborhoods' growth reflected this pattern and substantially changed its housing patterns. This was initially reflected in the establishment, starting in the latter 1860s and increasing in the 1870s, of pockets of housing nestled in or near the core of town that were almost, if not entirely, lived in by African-Americans. These pockets of housing were mostly located on the outer edges of Lexington where large tracts of inexpensive land were located. Often these areas were scattered throughout the community, within the interior of previously existing city blocks with narrow streets or alley accesses, or subdivided off of what had been larger existing parcels. The largest of these was Goodloetown, developed y Judge D.S. Goodloe in the 1860s. Located north of Main Street between Dewees Street and Midland Avenue it was just southwest of the area where the Charles Young Park and Community Center would come to be built in the 1930s. By 1880, it was

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well developed and provided a community for 290 African-American families. Another was Kinkeadtown which by 1870 had 17 families. It was located just a bit further west of Goodloetown while others were scattered around the Lexington.

By the latter 19th century, the growth of housing and neighborhoods in Lexington lived in by African Americans had increased considerably, with a sizable concentration of that growth being generally east of Walnut Street, (now Martin Luther King Boulevard). Other neighborhoods that included many African-Americans were the Northside neighborhood and the Georgetown Street area, starting close to Main Street, among others.

In the latter nineteenth and early twentieth century, the east end of town especially reflected pockets of people of different ethnic origins, including many white immigrants of Irish, Italian, German and French descent, in addition to African-Americans, with little, if any, integration between the groups. As time passed, more of the area came to be pre-dominantly lived in by African-Americans and by the 1930s the area east of the core of town, now known as the East End, was predominantly African-American.

The commercial, professional social center of Lexington's African-American community during this time period developed along Deweese Street at the western edge of the East End. Some of these include the First African Baptist Church, business ventures like Alma's Variety Shop and the Mammoth Life Insurance Agency were located here. In 1917, Dr. John K. Polk and Anna Chandler opened an infirmary on Deweese Street to serve the medical needs of the community.

Deweese Street was also the home to many businesses including barber shops and restaurants. Entertainment was important to the community as evidenced clubs along the street. This culminated with the construction of the Lyric Theater in 1948 in the heart of the neighborhood at the corner of Deweese Street (now Elm Tree Lane) and East Third Street. In addition to showing movies, it brought in many of the nation's top African-American stage acts and bands for live performances. This continued until its closing in 1964.

A "neighbor" two blocks north of the site of the community center in the East End area that had a considerable impact on the history, character and life in the East End was the presence of Lexington's oldest commercial race course, the Kentucky Association track. Established in 1826, the track was in operation for over 100 years at the northeast edge of what, over time, became this large neighborhood. Data in the Lexington City Directories reflect the reality that the proximity of the track attracted many who worked there to live nearby, including jockeys, stable hands, trainers, etc., many of whom in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century were African-American. The streetcar line went through the neighborhood to the track, which closed in the 1930s. In 1936, public housing was constructed on its site. Built around two separate streets, one section was for African-Americans while the other was for whites.

Until the mid-twentieth century, Lexington schools, churches and businesses reflected the reality of segregation. The occupancy patterns reflected in the neighborhoods did the same well into the twentieth century. City parks, such as Woodland Park which was established in the 1880s, were predominantly white. In 1916, the first city park created to serve African-Americans was dedicated. This was Douglas Park located on Georgetown Street northwest of downtown. It would be another fourteen years before the East End neighborhoods, which had come to be predominantly African-American enclaves, would be served by the creation of Charles Young Park and Community Center.

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The index map of the 1896 edition of the Sanborn Insurance Map for Lexington shows the construction in the East End area as being well underway; that development pattern remains intact today. The 1907 edition of the Sanborn Map for Lexington provides even greater view of the East End, giving us a better understanding of the development of this neighborhood.

This area is defined by dense development of primarily residential structures, with some commercial buildings scattered throughout. The biggest exception to this dense development pattern is the block defined by East Third Street, Ann Street (now Shropshire Avenue), Goodloe Street and Lewis Street. The 1907 Sanborn Map shows this entire block as undeveloped. A one-story frame ancillary building is shown in the middle of this block. It is unknown why this block was not developed, but it may have served as an informal park area for the residents of the East End. The predominant architectural forms present were shotgun houses and T-plan cottages, usually one story tall, built on narrow lots. While some brick structures are found in this area, the dominant building material was wood

Kentucky's laws mandating racial segregation extended to the use of public parks. In 1912, the City Council passed an ordinance that called for the purchase of Duncan Park for use by the white community as well a different parcel of land, to be developed for use by the African-American community. In 1913, a \$25,000 municipal park bond was issued to purchase what would become the first African-American park in Lexington. However, it was not until the fall of 1914 that serious negotiations began for a large parcel on Georgetown Street to serve this purpose. The deal was closed in the spring of 1915 that called for the city to rent the land through the remainder of the year and take title to it in 1916. The park site was formally dedicated as Fredrick Douglas Park in July, 1916. This park, located in the northwest edge of Lexington on Georgetown Street, served as the sole public facility available to the African-American community for the next fourteen years.

Architectural Context: The Colonial Revival Style and Public Architecture

Architectural styling expresses a particular time and gives a sense of place. These expressions sometime reflect regional tastes and sensibilities, while other styles are embraced through the entire nation. With a simpler architectural vocabulary than the architectural movements that immediately preceded it in the nineteenth century, the Colonial Revival style was embraced by the American public and came to be part of many communities in the first half of the early twentieth century. Its popularity spanned a longer period than was common for most major architectural styles in the United States.

From the mid-nineteenth century, building designers experimented with asymmetrical massing and composition. Their work fit within a larger artistic movement that is often referred to as Romantic, which also affected literature, music and the other arts during this era. These aesthetic branches embraced an approach to design that was informed by aspects of human experience that went beyond logic—the emotional, the transcendent, the awesome—which writers of the day often referred to as the “sublime.” Architectural designs in the United States throughout the Victorian era (Queen Victoria reigned from 1837-1901) continued to develop more forms of complex composition in massing and surface treatment.

In 1876, in the middle of the Victorian era, Americans looked back with pride upon the founding of the United States a century before. Architects and builders also looked back, considering the simplicity of the designs of earlier times. The use of simple, elegant forms and ornamentation were reintroduced, and the Colonial Revival era began.

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As with any design tradition, the Colonial Revival architectural style experienced ebbs and flows over the next eighty years. Events in the 1920 triggered a resurgence of the style's popularity. In 1927 efforts began in the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. Spearheaded by Dr. William Goodwin and funded by John D. Rockefeller, the plan was to return this Virginia village to its pre- and post-Revolutionary grandeur. The removal of later "intrusions" and the reconstruction of missing buildings caught the public's imagination.

This interest and excitement translated broadly into the building world as well. Irregular floor plans were replaced with more symmetrical designs. Entrance doors became more prominent by projecting that bay slightly or accenting them with projecting porches. Gabled roofs with simple returns and full pediments were utilized. Corners were accentuated with engaged pilasters or quoins. This architectural vocabulary was used on both residential and public buildings.

Soon after the efforts to restore Colonial Williamsburg commenced, the Great Depression began. To address the economic needs of the nation and the general public, the Federal government initiated several programs with an eye to boosting the economic and employment environments. One such program, introduced in 1933, was the Public Works Administration (PWA). This agency's purpose was to stimulate the economy by implementing public work constructions projects. During the existence of this PWA, over \$3 billion was invested across the nation. These projects were intended to not only put people to work and stimulate private industry, but also to improve civic infrastructure, by installing sanitary sewers, building efficient water systems and the paving of roadways. Funding was also provided for the construction of public buildings. These projects varied in magnitude from monumental projects to smaller, local projects.

The availability of Federal funds made possible the construction of community centers, such as the Charles Young Park, which had a major impact on local economies. In the case of the Charles Young Park, a local architect was employed to develop the plans for the building. A local general contractor was hired to construct it and local suppliers provided the materials necessary for the completion of the project.

John V. Moore, project architect, recognized and embraced the popularity of Colonial Revival architecture and incorporated it into his final design. The front elevation is symmetrical with a center entrance flanked by large, multi-pane windows. The entrance was enhanced by placing it in a slightly projecting bay accented by stone quoins at the corners and surmounted by a cross-gable roof with returns. A pedimented door surround features a segmented fanlight. The symmetry of the plan is also evident on the remaining three elevations through the use of window and door placement as well as centering the rear gymnasium ell.

The Colonial Revival vocabulary was used in a number of community buildings in Lexington during the first half of the twentieth century. Examples can be found in government buildings, education buildings and recreational facilities. The following is a list of some examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Lexington:

- Carnegie Library – High style design clad in cut and carved stone. Built 1903 – 1905.
- Union Station – This brick railway station, opened in 1907, featured a two-story symmetrical plan with the main entrance being located in a monumental projecting bay. The key ornamental element was a large round-headed transom centered above the entrance canopy. Demolished 1960.
- Pence Hall, University of Kentucky – Brick classroom building with cut-stone details. Built 1909.

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- Booker T. Washington School (now Black & Williams Neighborhood Center) – Brick and stone structure on raised basement with symmetrical plan. Built 1915.
- Henry Clay High School (now Fayette Board of Education Offices) –Education building with a well-refined symmetrical design which is accented with a centrally located cupola. Built 1924.
- Alumni Gym, University of Kentucky – This structure, built in 1924, features a main entrance in a projecting bay with large round headed windows in the gymnasium.
- Municipal Building – Built to house the local government offices, it employed a symmetrical plan with a central entrance defined by large, cut-stone columns. This building was intended to be an anchor of a complex of governmental and civic structures that would have extended to the Federal Courthouse and Post Office on Barr Street. Built c. 1930, demolished 2004.
- George Washington Carver Elementary School (now Carver Community Center) – This 1934 brick building uses a broken pediment to define the street entrance, large round-headed steel windows in the gymnasium and a symmetrical design for the south elevation.
- “The Quad”, University of Kentucky – This complex of four individual classroom buildings was constructed over a period of three decades to create a sizable “enclosed” courtyard with walkways connecting the structures. All four buildings incorporate the Colonial Revival vocabulary. They include Bradley Hall, built 1921; Kinkead Hall, built 1930; Breckinridge Hall, built 1930; and Bowman Hall, built 1949.

History of the Charles Young Park and Community Center

In early-July, 1930, a delegation of representatives of the African-American community, led by H.W. Chandler, met with Mayor O’Brian and the city commissioners, to request that land be bought to be used as Lexington’s second African-American park. It was noted by the mayor that approximately \$18,000 was available in the “Negro park fund” that had been established by a bond issue in 1913. The delegation requested that this money be used to purchase land for a new park. The ensuing discussion identified available land on East Sixth Street as well as the undeveloped block on East Third Street, identified as the Old Goodloe Property.

After negotiations with the property owner, W. C. Goodloe, the East Third Street property was purchased for the sum of \$18,845. While a newspaper article on July 25, 1930, announced the purchase and noted its intended use as a park, the Board of Commissioners did not take formal action until August 8, 1930. The deed of transfer was recorded on August 14, 1930.

Within a few years of the purchase of the property, it was decided that an indoor community center would be beneficial to the residents of the East End. To that end, the services of John V. Moore, a prominent Lexington architect, were secured to develop plans and specifications for the building. With the assistance of funds from the Federal Public Works Administration (PWA), the project moved forward. The resulting design was a brick one-story Colonial Revival structure having a side-gable plan with a one-story ell centered on the rear elevation.

In July, 1934, the Board of Commissioners accepted the bid of Smith-Haggard Lumber Company, of Lexington, for the “construction of a Colored Community Center, PWA Project No. 4573.” The bid price submitted was \$37, 616.45.

While the date of the actual groundbreaking is not known, construction began soon after acceptance of the bid. Continuing over the next several months, construction was completed in February, 1935 with final payments

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being approved by the Board of Commissioners in March, 1935. With the addition of approved extras, the final construction price for the Charles Young Center was \$39,276.35.

In early March, 1935, a three day dedication celebration was held. This celebration included speeches, dramatic performances and musical programs. The key dedication speech was delivered by E. T. Attwell, director of the "bureau of colored work, of the national Recreation Association." Attendance at these activities ranged from 800 to over 1200 men, women and children.

Within two years of completion of the community center, the residential nature of the area expanded. Under the direction of the United States Housing Authority, a multi-family residential project was constructed on the former race track property. Known as Bluegrass-Aspendale, this housing project consisted of forty-eight residential building that contained 290 individual units. The twenty-three buildings located on Aspendale Drive were designated for African-American families and the other section was designated for whites.

Soon after the park was established, it was named in honor of Kentuckian Charles Young, an African-American of national prominence. Within a year of its construction, the community center had also taken on this name. Born into slavery in Mays Lick, Kentucky, in 1864, the family achieved their freedom when his father escaped to Ohio and joined the United States Colored Troops. Raised in Huntington, Ohio, he entered West Point as a cadet graduating in 1889, the third African-American to do so. He spent much of his military career leading the African American 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments west of the Mississippi River. In addition to leading troops in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War, he also led expeditions against Pancho Villa in Mexico. In 1917, he received a medical discharge from the United States Army, though by special order he continued on active duty in the Ohio National Guard. He was promoted to Colonel, the highest rank achieved by an African-American at that time. To prove his fitness for active duty in the Federal military, he undertook a sixteen day horseback journey from Wilberforce, Ohio to Washington D.C. This resulted in his being returned to full active duty in the fall of 1918. Colonel Young died in Lagos, Nigeria in January, 1922. During his storied military career, he served as the commander of troops, teacher of military science and tactics, Assistant Superintendent of the General Grant and Sequoia National Forest, attaché to Haiti, attaché to the Philippines and attaché to Liberia. He was an inspirational professional for many African-Americans in Kentucky and throughout the nation.

Initially under the direction of Mrs. Hattie H. Rowe, the community center was to be made available to the African-American community of Lexington for "...club meetings, basketball, volleyball and other indoor games, handicraft, cooking classes, sewing classes, manual training, community pageants and plays, community sings and similar community gatherings" (*Lexington Leader* March 3, 1935, page 9, columns 5-6).

The design of the Charles Young Center lent itself to many uses within the community. In addition to providing office space for the director of African-American recreational opportunities for Lexington, classrooms and meeting spaces were available to meet the needs of the community. The full basement under the front portion of the building provided additional meeting space as well as a kitchen for the preparation of meals. The rear portion of the building contained a full size gymnasium with an elevated stage at one end.

Over the next twenty years, the Charles Young Center provided space for a wide range of classes for the youth and adults of the East End. In addition, it also provided a venue for dances, music performances, plays and sporting events. The space was also used to teach youth boxing over the years.

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From its completion in 1935 through the present day, the mission of the Charles Young Center and Park, to serve the residents of the East End, has not changed. Established during the “separate but equal” period during the first half of the twentieth century, the purpose for which it was constructed did not change once the Lexington park system was integrated in the mid-1950s. The Charles Young Community Center was substantially renovated in 2012 and its programs re-invigorated with an active community Board steering its operations.

The Charles Young Park was established in response to the recreational needs of the growing African-American community on the east side of Lexington. This response was further enhanced when five years later the community center was constructed. While the park proper has experienced some changes through time, it retains its integrity as an open, green space in the heart of a major urban area. In spite of the changes made to them, the community center and the ancillary building retain a high degree of integrity in their design, massing and original fabric. The mission and purpose set forth with the purchase and establishment of the park has continued uninterrupted and in the same facilities from 1930 to the present. Though the Charles Young Center is not as high styled as some of these other buildings, it is an excellent example of a public building in the Colonial Revival style that retains a high degree of integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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- Kennedy, Rachel and Cynthia Johnson. The New Deal Builds: A Historic Context of the New Deal in East Kentucky, 1933 to 1943. Kentucky Heritage Council. 2005
- Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Historic Preservation. Lexington-Fayette County Government Owned Properties H-1 Designation Report. Unpublished. 2000
- O’Malley, Nancy. Kinkeadtown: Archaeological Investigation of an African American Neighborhood in Lexington, Kentucky. 1996
- Wiffin, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. The M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 1969.
- Wright, John D., Jr. Lexington Heart of the Bluegrass. Lexington-Fayette County Historical Commission, Lexington, Kentucky. 1982

BROCHURES

--- Isaac Scott Hathaway Museum: Highlighting Kentucky African Americans, *Charles Young* (February, 2013)

CITY DIRECTORIES

---R.L. Polk & Company Lexington City Directory – 1937, R.L. Polk & Co., 364 ½ South Fourth Street, Columbus, Ohio

MAPS

- Bird’s Eye View of Lexington Kentucky – 1888, C.J. Pauli, Milwaukee
- Insurance Map of Lexington, Kentucky – Sept. 1896, Sanborn-Perris, 115 Broadway, New York
- Insurance Maps of Lexington, Kentucky – 1934, Sanborn Map Company, New York
- Insurance Maps of Lexington Including Greendale, Kentucky – 1934 (updated 1950), Sanborn Map Company, New York

Charles Young Park and Community Center
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---Insurance Maps of Lexington, Kentucky – 1958 (updated 1972), Sanborn Map Company, New York.

NEWSPAPERS

- "Mayor Will Put 'Duncan Park' Up To People", *Lexington Leader*, August 8, 1912 (pg 1, col 7)
- "Councilmen Pass Park Ordinance", *Lexington Leader*, September 11, 1912 (pg 3, col 3-4)
- "Negroes Will Have A Park", *Lexington Leader*, March 12, 1914 (pg 16, col 4)
- "Colored Park Site Chosen Soon", *Lexington Leader*, March 17, 1914 (pg 2, col 5)
- "Colored Park Site Is In View", *Lexington Leader*, November 8, 1914 (pg 6, col 2)
- "Martin Property Is Purchased For Park", *Lexington Herald*, March 10, 1915 (pg 8, col 1)
- "Dedicated Fred Douglas Park", *Lexington Herald*, July 15, 1916 (pg 8, col 4)
- "Another Park For Negroes Requested", *Lexington Leader*, July 2, 1930 (pg 11, col 1)
- "East Third Street Plot Too Be Park For Colored", *Lexington Leader*, July 25, 1930 (pg 17, col 3-4)
- "Three Day Celebration Arranged For Opening Of Colored Center", *Lexington Leader*, February 24, 1935 (pg 11, col 4-6)
- New Community Center In Charles Young Park To Be Dedicated Today", *Lexington Leader*, March 3, 1935 (pg 9, col 5-6)
- "New Community Center Opened", *Lexington Leader*, March 4, 1935 (pg 12, col 7)
- 1,200 See Play At New Center", *Lexington Leader*, March 5, 1935 (pg 8, col 8)
- "800 Attend Recital At Municipal Center", *Lexington Leader*, March 6, 1935 (pg 3, col 3)
- "Just Another Example", *Lexington Leader*, January 12, 1936 (supplement pg 63)

ORDINANCES

City of Lexington, Ordinance No. 4159 – Authorizing and Directing the Mayor, for and on Behalf of the City of Lexington, to purchase from W.C. Goodloe the Property on East Third Street in Said City for the Sum of Eighteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty-Five (\$18,845) Dollars, August 8, 1930

City of Lexington, Ordinance No. 297 – An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the City Manager for and on Behalf and in the Name of the City, to Accept the Bid of Smith-Haggard Lumber Company, a Corporation, for the Construction of the Colored Community Center, July 2, 1934

City of Lexington, Ordinance No. 437 – An Ordinance Accepting Work Done by Smith-Haggard Lumber Company, a Corporation, in the Construction of Colored Community Center, P.W.A. Project No. 4573, Contract O., for the City of Lexington, Kentucky, and Approving Final Estimate of Jno. V. Moore, Architect, Covering This Contract, and Directing the Payment of \$400.00 to the Said Contractor, March 25, 1935

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Charles Young Park and Community Center
Name of Property

Fayette County, Kentucky
County and State

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: Charles Young Park and Community Center

City or Vicinity: Lexington

County: Fayette

State: Kentucky

Photographer: Randy Shipp

Date Photographed: August 25, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 16: Exterior - Northeast and southeast elevations. (View to west)
- 2 of 16: Exterior - Northeast and northeast elevations. (View to south)
- 3 of 16: Exterior - Main entrance and architectural details, northeast elevation. (View to southwest)
- 4 of 16: Exterior - Southeast elevation. (View to north)
- 5 of 16: Interior – First Floor - Main entrance and details. (View to northeast)
- 6 of 16: Interior – First Floor - Cross hall and wheelchair lift. (View to southwest)
- 7 of 16: Interior – First Floor - Cross hall. (View to northwest)
- 8 of 16: Interior – First Floor – Typical classroom. (View to east)
- 9 of 16: Interior – First Floor – Gymnasium and elevated stage. (View to southwest)
- 10 of 16: Interior – First Floor – Gymnasium. (View to north)
- 11 of 16: Interior – Basement – Classroom, kitchen and exit door. (View to southwest)
- 12 of 16: Interior – Basement – Detail of poured concrete foundation/basement wall. (View to south)
- 13 of 16: Interior – Basement – Classroom and cross hall. (View to northwest)
- 14 of 16: Exterior – Ancillary Building – Southeast and northeast elevations. (View to west)
- 15 of 16: Exterior – Ancillary Building – Southwest and southeast elevations. (View to north)
- 16 of 16: Exterior – View of lower play area of park looking toward community center. (View to northwest)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lexington-Fayette County Government

street & number 200 East Main Street

telephone 859-258-3265

city or town Lexington

state KY

zip code 40507