

56-890

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Lincoln Park
other names/site number Beaver Park
Name of related MPDF N/A

2. Location

street & number Lincoln Park not for publication
city or town Albany vicinity
state New York code NY county Albany code 001 zip code 12202

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

Michael P. Lynch Deputy SHPO 2/24/2017
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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:)

Devin O'Keefe 2-20-18
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	2	structures
1	1	objects
8	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1 (James Hall Office)

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION /

Park, Sports Facility

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION /

Park, Sports Facility

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/

Colonial Revival - Bathhouse

MODERN MOVEMENT/

Modern – Public School 24

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: brick

roof:

other:

Narrative Description

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

Location and Site

Lincoln Park is located in the southeastern quadrant of the city of Albany. The site is generally sited at the top at a steep hill rising from the Hudson River. North of and parallel to the park at about the same elevation are a series of large-scale and important civic features: the massive Empire State Plaza, a 1970s modern government complex; the late nineteenth century Second Empire style New York State Capital; the 1928 Alfred E. Smith State Office Building; and the early twentieth century Neoclassical New York State Education Department Building. South of the park and closer to the river, are several surviving eighteenth-century mansions belonging to Albany's early and important families: Schuyler Mansion and Cherry Hill. Two nineteenth-century historic districts also wrap around the park, the Mansion Historic District to the south and the Hudson Park Historic District to the northwest. Although the park is relatively close to city and state government buildings, it is generally sited amid residential neighborhoods and it is heavily used as a neighborhood park.

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The nomination boundary was drawn to encompass the land acquired for a public park by the city of Albany 1890 and is bounded on the northeast by Park Avenue, on the southeast by Eagle Street, on the southwest by Morton Avenue, and on the northwest by Delaware Avenue (for the sake of clarity, directions in the remainder of the nomination will be simplified to cardinal notations—under which Morton Avenue runs west to east).

The park was developed in the valley of the former Beaver Kill Creek, which has since been diverted underground. The parcel is roughly rectangular in shape; however, the land within the rectangle encompasses a range of topography. The curved section along the northern edge generally follows the former course of the Beaver Kill. Most of the western section comprises a gentle slope towards to the northeast. Much of this land was owned by renowned geologist and paleontologist James Hall in the mid-19th century, prior to the creation of the public park. His office, located in this section, was designed by architects Calvert Vaux and Andrew Jackson Downing and completed in 1852; it is a National Historic Landmark. This section also contains Public School 24 (1954-55), now the Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology. Although unrelated to the park, the school is an individually eligible resource and thus contributes to the district. There is also a small athletic complex, including tennis courts, handball courts, a basketball court, a playground, and a water playground, in this quadrant of the park. The northwest corner is the most rugged section of the park, containing a natural ravine through which the Beaver Kill once ran.

The eastern section of the park forms what its designer described as “a deep bowl, or what is practically a natural amphitheater with steeply sloping sides.”¹ From the corner of Morton Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, the ground drops steeply to the northeast, reaching its low point at the bottom of the bowl, which has been used as athletic fields since the adoption of the park’s design—executed by landscape architect Charles Downing Lay in close collaboration with architect Arnold W. Brunner -- in 1913. The actual bowl is elongated and composed of two intersecting ovals. Northwest of the bowl, at the top of the embankment overlooking the athletic fields, is the Lincoln Park bath house, built in two phases between 1929 and 1933. Behind the bath house and enclosed by a non-original chain-link fence is the large pool, completed around the same time in 1931 (and in nearly same location as the pool designated in Lay’s 1913 plan). The park is divided into two sections by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (formerly Swan Street), which follows a serpentine north-south line through the center of the park.

Narrative Description

Site

Lincoln Park is a large urban park surrounded by a several different neighborhoods of different characters. Portions are bordered by historic, low-rise residential areas, including the Center Square/Hudson-Park Historic District (NR 1980), the Mansion Historic District (NR 1982), and the South End-Groesbeckville Historic District (NR 1984). The park is also within a block of the New York Executive Mansion (NR 1971) and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (NR 1976). The Empire State Plaza, a large complex of state government buildings begun in 1965, backs onto the part of northern edge of the park. A couple of schools, the William S. Hackett Middle School and the Bishop Maginn High School, also face the

¹Arnold William Brunner and Charles Downing Lay, *Studies for Albany* (Albany: Bartlett-Orr Press, 1914), 51.

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park. A number of high-rise apartment and institutional buildings are located adjacent or near the park and can be visible from within the park.

The land for the park was acquired by the city in 1890 and early development began slowly. Although it was developed over time and in a slightly simpler manner, the Lincoln Park landscape generally follows the design proposed by Charles Downing Lay in 1913. Lay explained that his intent was to enhance the natural elements of the site while placing within them recreational components such as a swimming pool and athletic fields. Thus, the general components of the park, while not sited in the exact sites Lay specified, are nevertheless in the same quadrants and have the same relationships to the park's natural features. For example, the pool and athletic fields are within the elongated bowl-shaped land south of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard that Lay specified for their locations. These two features are surrounded by simple, tree-lined walks and drives. The natural contours of the surrounding land create a frame and are also planted with trees to enhance the naturalistic atmosphere. Today's plantings are less formal than suggested by Lay, and there are fewer paths; however, the intent is similar. Mature trees and scattered benches line the bordering sidewalks, which are a few feet higher, providing an urban edge. As per Lay's intent, this is a fairly simple landscape design that relied more on enhancing the natural character of the site than major earthmoving and redesign.

North of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, the land had already experienced some development, as it was the site of the James Hall Estate and James Hall's Office survived on the site. The land was higher and flatter, with a view over the lower portion of the site. Here, as per Lay's specification, tree-lined sidewalks form the edges, while the land within is characterized by gently curving drives, walks, and lawns. There are tennis courts at the top (west), along Delaware Ave (south of where Lay sited them). The addition of a school in the 1950s has changed the character of this portion of the park; however, the northwest corner, a steeply sloping wooded area, survives as on Lay's plan. Lay's plan for the area around the Hall Office shows a formal garden incorporating a classical bandstand supported by Ionic columns in a grove of trees. These elements were never built. Instead, that area features a comfort station from the 1930s, the office itself (NHL), and contemporary playground equipment .

Other small-scale elements have been added to the park over the years, including a historic bell moved from city hall in the 1920s, a stature of Martin Luther King Jr. from the 1990s, a contemporary octagonal gazebo, scattered equipment sheds and electrical boxes, playground equipment and scattered benches. There are also electric streetlights, most contemporary and some reproductions of historic lights.

Overall, Lincoln Park is characterized by a simple, but effective naturalistic landscape design for a neighborhood city park that reflects its early twentieth century origins as well as the evolution of that design over the years it took to develop the park. It retains a high level of integrity.

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Resource list

Lincoln Park Plan: Park Plan, Road Network and Landscaping (1913; 1 contributing site, 1 non-contributing structure)

The plan, including the layout, road system and landscaping, is the major organizing feature of the park. The master plan for Lincoln Park was designed in 1913 by landscape architect Charles Downing Lay, likely incorporating some existing features in the already-open western section. The general layout consists of several larger drives suitable for automobile traffic—now paved with asphalt with granite curbing—and smaller pedestrian paths, currently paved with concrete. Both are predominantly curvilinear and winding in the tradition of the Picturesque landscape movement. In the eastern section, the main park drive leads from the main entrance on Eagle Street and encircles the enlarged oval that contains the athletic fields and a triangular-shaped parcel containing the swimming pool and bathhouse. These two roads form a continuous path to Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, the central, north-south passageway through the center of the park. In the western section, the primary drive enters the park at Delaware Avenue and Leonard Place, extending southeast, where it also meets Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (in almost exactly the location called for by Lay). Another drive enters the park just north of the tennis courts; this has been largely reconfigured from Lay's plans, which called for an entrance at the southwest corner of the park and a drive curving north and then east. The paths, however, still mostly follow Lay's design, although some appear to have been straightened. The only stairs in the pedestrian network are at the southwest corner of the athletic fields—rather remarkable given the steep terrain of the site (a historic stair leading from the bathhouse to the athletic fields has recently been replaced with a contemporary stairway and accessible ramp, non-contributing structure).

The landscaping largely consists of open grass fields with trees along the drives and paths. These plantings are of varied age and, while they do not conform to the formal allées envisioned in Lay's master plan, they do provide for tree-lined sidewalks at the park's edges and somewhat shaded paths and drives. There are also sections of tree cover in the park itself. The ravine and the embankment north of the pool are the most heavily wooded, reflecting the steeper terrain in these sections.

Bathhouse (1930-33; 1 contributing building)

The Colonial Revival bathhouse, built in two phases between 1930 and 1933, is a long, axially arranged building with long elevations facing the park drive on the southeast and the pool on the northwest. The two-story, six-bay-wide center section features a peaked roof running along the building axis; this is flanked by side pavilions comprising one-story arcaded porches and setback two-story wings with slightly shorter peaked gable roofs. Located in the center of the primary roof is a square, wood-framed clock tower with domed roof and spire. The exterior walls are brick laid in common bond with limestone and terra-cotta trim. A continuous beltcourse wraps the entire building between the first and second stories, forming a cornice for the pavilion porches. The building retains historic wood windows—most six-over-six, although the second story of the central section has round-arched upper sash with radiating muntins and round center panes.

The facade faces the park drive. It features two entrances in the second and fifth bays of the center section (which historically corresponded to separate entrances for women on the left and men on the right), with single-paned doors set

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within enframements with glazed transoms and blind sidelights. A small limestone plaque on the second story is inscribed with the architect's name: "Thomas L. Gleason Architect." The flanking porches have an arcaded screen supported by intricate terra-cotta clad spiral columns. Centered under each porch are secondary entrances with double doors and glazed transoms. The ceilings above the porches are composed of large concrete beams, which support second-story decks accessed through additional sets of paired doors with glazed transoms.

The pool-side elevation is generally similar to the facade. The exits from the locker rooms are grouped closer toward the center, and the flanking second-story decks feature tall flag poles. Alterations to this elevation include the bricking in of the windows in the second and fifth bays of the center section's first story, conversion of entrance openings in the first and six bays to window openings (enlarged upwards with ventilation louvres), and the installation of a metal railing around the right second-story deck. The side elevations feature two sets of paired windows on each floor, with the arcaded porch screens wrapping around from the park drive and pool side elevations a single bay each. The northeast side elevation has a tall brick chimney running up the center its full height.

The interior plan is generally symmetrical about the short axis of the building and reflects the historic separation of locker room facilities for women and men. On the first story, the two entrances in the center section of the facade lead to a shallow vestibule running nearly the full width of the center section, with a small ticket counter placed in the middle of the space along the exterior wall. Twin doors at the far wall lead to the women's locker room on the left and the men's locker room on the right. Narrow hallways off the vestibule run along the main axis of the building to the flanking wings. The locker rooms are mirror images of each other. In the center of the building are the actual locker rooms, outfitted with metal lockers and wood benches fixed to the floor. Along the pool-side exterior wall are three bays of rooms with shower facilities, bathrooms, and a hallway leading to the pool itself. The flanking wings each feature a single large open room (the southwest room has since been partitioned) with L-shaped stairs along the pool-side wall leading to the second story.

The interior finishes of the first floor are mostly intact. The exterior walls and some of the interior are painted brick. The interior walls between the locker rooms and between the locker rooms and the wings, are composed of wood paneled doors with translucent transoms, potentially allowing the entire first floor to be opened into a single long room. The flooring in the entrance vestibule, locker rooms, and wings is terrazzo. The shower and bathrooms have tiled floors, as well as marble partitions and historic porcelain fixtures. The ceilings are exposed painted concrete beams.

The second story is more open than the first, with cathedral ceilings extending the full height of the peaked roofs. The center section is partitioned along the building's short axis by a full-height wall and along the long axis by a shorter brick wall open above to the cathedral ceiling. The rooms in the wings are mostly open space, with newer partitions in the southwest room along the side exterior wall, and a half-height wall enclosing the staircase in the northwest room. Most of the historic walls are brick. The exposed ceiling comprises large steel beams running the long axis of the building, supporting wood rafters and roof deck.

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Pool (ca. 1931; 1 contributing structure, 2 contributing buildings)

The pool is a large concrete structure, horseshoe-shaped in plan; it is more than 300 feet in diameter at its widest point and can hold approximately 1.5 million gallons of water. It increases in depth from a few inches towards the outer rim to eight feet near the center. Stanchions linked with a rope mark the four-foot depth; a diving platform was built at the very center at the pool's deepest point. Outside the pool, a grassy slope rises to a circular tree-lined path that frames the pool. There are two small brick equipment sheds inside the fence that are contemporary with the pool. Each is about six feet tall and eight feet square with a slightly sloping shed roof. (contributing buildings)

James Hall Office (1852 & later; NHL 1976 – NHL, not counted)

The oldest building on the site, predating the creation of the park by nearly a half century, is the James Hall Office. The original building is L-shaped in plan, with a one-and-a-half story gabled main block and a shorter, one-story wing with a perpendicular gable. A two-tiered tower rises above the inside corner of the two sections. The rectangular main block has a low peaked roof running parallel with the long axis. The primary south facade, on one of the gable ends, has been partially reconfigured. Historically it had a central double-width entrance flanked by two blind recesses with round-arched lintels; it now features three rectangular window openings.² The north facade has two similar windows openings, and both gable ends contain paired round-arched attic windows. The long elevations, one of which has been enclosed by an addition, feature four rectangular windows—historically these openings extended nearly to the cornice (the original lintel is still visible) with a recessed spandrel separating the main ground-floor windows from the attic windows. The perpendicular wing, much of which is now enveloped by an addition, features a single window on its north facade, as well as two entrances. Both sections have simple molded cornices that return slightly around the gable ends. The window openings are fitted with wood multi-paned double-hung sash (some of the windows have been covered with plywood). A single corbelled brick course serves as a water table and separates the brick foundation from the upper walls. All of the brickwork has been painted. The tower has small, paired second story windows on each face and a single round-arched window on the third story. It is capped with a simple molded wood cornice with small ornamental modillions. A non-original brick chimney runs up its eastern face. A plaque extolling Hall's accomplishments was installed above the center window of the south facade in 1916 by the Association of American State Geologists.

The office was converted into the Sunshine School for special-needs students during alterations planned in 1936 and completed in 1937 under the Works Progress Administration. The reconfiguration of the primary facade likely occurred at this time, and a sun porch was built around the east and south facades of the original building's side wing. This porch sits on a tall concrete block foundation and features several large multi-paned casement windows, one of which has been altered with entrance doors and a metal stair landing. A much larger addition was constructed in 1977, enveloping the entire south facade of the earlier addition and obscuring the historic entrance to the original office building at the base of the tower.

² A photo of the facade before it was reconfigured was published in "The Albany I Remember," *Albany Times-Union*, September 29, 1963, I-13.

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Comfort Station (1936; 1 contributing building)

Adjacent to the west facade of the 1977 addition is a small, one-story red-brick building, originally a comfort station, completed in 1938 under the Works Progress Administration. Its relatively austere, nominally Colonial Revival design features a limestone watertable and large multi-paned casement windows with soldier-brick flat lintels and limestone sills.

Meneely Bell (1882; installed in Lincoln Park 1927; 1 contributing object)

West of the comfort station a large bell hangs just above the ground from a wood structure. The bell was commissioned in 1882 for Albany's new city hall (then still under construction) and was installed in the campanile that October 28. It was originally used as a fire alarm and connected to the city's fire telegraph relay; an inscription on the bell reads in part, "Purchased under the supervision of the Albany Board of Fire Commissioners, June 1882." Cast by Meneely & Co. of West Troy (now Watervliet), the bell is 70 inches in diameter, 50¼ inches tall, weighs 7,049 pounds, and was said to exceed "in size, weight and volume of sound, any bell in the city" at the time.³ It was likely placed in Lincoln Park around 1927 when a full concert-grade carillon was installed in the city hall bell tower

Former Public School 24 (now Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology) (1954-55; 1 contributing building)

The one-story school is constructed of brick with limestone trim over a steel frame with aluminum windows. In form, it consists of four wings arranged in a K-shaped plan. The main entrance, at the intersection of the two angled front wings and facing northeast, features a Modern abstraction of a classical portico with four limestone piers supporting a flat limestone lintel, screening a double-height glass curtain wall. The single-story front wings feature limestone lintels spanning the width of long rows of triple windows comprising double-hung sash and rectangular transoms. The ends of the wings are plain brick walls unbroken except for a recessed central entrance below a limestone lintel. The front facades of the two-story rear wings feature two layers of similar triple windows; the rear facades have triple windows on the second story and smaller, single windows on the ground floor. The ends of these wings are unadorned brick, with small brick porticos and a narrow strip of translucent panels below limestone lintels. The projecting rear pavilion, centered between the wings, features several large translucent windows and two large entrances accessed by a more recent ramp. On the interior, the centerpiece of the building is a large, five-hundred seat auditorium just inside the front entrance. Corridors surrounding the auditorium feature various administrative offices, a nurse's office, and a waiting room for parents. Grades are separated according to age, with the kindergartener being the most protected and secluded from the rest of the school. The main floor also features one large and two smaller gymnasiums, an arts and crafts room and a small lunch room (not a cafeteria) reserved for children who bring lunches. Classrooms occupy wings intended to provide each with maximum light and air. Originally, each room had an individual color scheme; it is not known if this survives. There is a relatively short, low red brick wall in the school parking lot; its function and date are unknown (*too small to count*)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial (1993; 1 non-contributing object; outside the period of significance) The statue is located amid a small grove of trees at the intersection of Morton Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr Drive. The memorial was designed by Daniel Hershberg with sculptures by Eileen Barry.

³ George Rogers Howell and Jonathan Tenney, *Bi-centennial History of Albany* (New York: W. W. Munsell & Co., 1886), 522.

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Playground Complex (post-1990)

There is a contemporary playground with varying equipment behind the tennis court and in front of James Hall's Office (too small to count)

Community Garden (Contemporary)

A community garden is unobtrusively planted in the ravine north of Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard near Park Avenue. It is almost invisible from the park. (too small to count)

Wood-frame gazebo (c2000) 1 non-contributing structure

The large, octagonal wood-frame gazebo is located at the corner of Morton Ave and Delaware Ave. It was installed in recent years and is used more by people outside the park than in; however, it is within the park boundary.

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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.

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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.

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning & Development

Landscape Architecture

Recreation

Architecture

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Period of Significance

1852; 1913-1935; 1955

Architect/Builder

Charles Downing Lay; Thomas L. Gleason, Jr.;

James S. Shattuck

Significant Dates

1852; 1913; 1930-33; 1955

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for Lincoln Park begins with initiation of the design by Charles Downing Lay in 1913 and ends with the completion of the landscape plan and the development of park buildings in 1933. In addition, there are two unrelated but individually significant resources located within the park: James Hall Office (1852, National Historic Landmark, previously listed) and the former Public School No 24, c 1955, significant as a fine intact example of mid-century modern school architecture in Albany.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Lincoln Park is significant under criterion A in the area of recreation and community planning and under criterion C in the areas of landscape architecture and architecture as an example of an important neighborhood public park in the city of Albany that embodies multiple layers of planning, recreational and design history illustrating its evolution from a gritty industrial site around the turn of the twentieth century to a popular center for public swimming and athletic events in the post WWII period. As 19th- century residential neighborhoods grew around it, the nearly 68-acre park site remained the site of various industrial endeavors and working-class housing in part because of its dramatic landscape, characterized by hilly land, a stream with waterfall, and a deep natural amphitheater. The western half of the area was the former estate of James Hall, a world famous geologist and paleontologist – whose 1850s office still survives within the park today (NHL). In 1890, near the end of Hall's life, the site was acquired by the city of Albany for a public park, and land was slowly cleared and cleaned for public recreation. In 1913, prominent landscape architect Charles Downing Lay developed a

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formal park design with a goal of enhancing its natural qualities while inserting recreational features, such as a pool, athletic fields, drives, paths and plantings. Lay drew sketches for potential buildings, including a pool house and band shelter, all in a Beaux Arts-influenced Neoclassical style typical of the period, while his park plan combined formal balance and symmetry with picturesque drives and paths. While Lay's entire plan was not developed at that time, the majority of the drives and paths were laid out according to his suggestions, trees were planted, and fields were laid out. By the late 1920s and early 1930s, when the city finally had the money for such amenities as the pool and bathhouse, they were sited almost exactly where Lay had proposed, even though they were designed in a more contemporary Colonial Revival style by architect Thomas L. Gibson Jr. The park's enormous horseshoe shaped concrete pool (1931) is significant as the first large-scale public pool in the city and an example of the use of state of the art filtration equipment to create a safe swimming environment for urban residents. Several of the buildings, including the pool house, were funded with WPA funds. The park retains an excellent level of integrity and Charles Lay's plan still defines its layout and character. All features built before 1935 survive with a high degree of integrity. Lincoln Park, Albany's second largest designed neighborhood park, remains one of Albany's most popular sites for public recreation. There are only a few non-historic features, such as contemporary park equipment, which are typical of parks and non-intrusive.

The nomination also includes PS 24, which, although not associated with the landscape or recreational significance of the park, is individually significant under criterion C as an outstanding intact example of mid-century modern school design. The architect, Albany native James S. Shattuck, took advantage of the open, park-like setting to design a building that was more typical of suburban schools of the period. The 1955 school, which replaced a nearby building that had burned, is characterized by its long, low one-story form with flat roof, multiple wings, an abundance of glass, and an abstracted classical design, marked by brick and limestone with a stylized classical portico. It retains a high level of integrity.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Site and Early History

Lincoln Park is located in a natural depression, part of which comprises the "hollow," the sunken area in which are now located the athletic fields. The Beaver Kill—sometimes referred to as Beaver Creek—was one of the three major streams that flowed through Albany to the Hudson River and traversed the northern section of the park, flowing through the ravine and then along a curved path around the north edge of the pool and through the center of the athletic fields. A small waterfall, named Buttermilk Falls due to its frothy nature, was located at the eastern end of the ravine, near where the community garden now stands.

In 1626 the park was the site of a well-remembered battle between Dutch colonists and their Mahican allies against a group of Mohawks; the Dutch commander and a number of others were killed, an event now memorialized by the informal

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name of Dead Man's Hill in the southern section of the park.⁴ During the second half of the eighteenth century most of the land now occupied by Lincoln Park (everything south of the Beaver Kill) was owned by Philip Schuyler, a wealthy and socially prominent Albany native who accumulated substantial landholdings throughout the city and New York State. His home stands several blocks to the east of the park and is a New York State historic site. Upon Schuyler's death in 1804, his Albany estate was readied for development.⁵ The existing street grid was extended through the area, with many of the new streets named for Schuyler relatives.⁶ The blocks east of Hawk Street were immediately subdivided into building lots, which developed slowly over the course of the 19th century into the South End residential neighborhood.⁷ The area west of Hawk Street, including the park site, remained sparsely developed for much longer, being sold in large tracts to a few prominent Albany families.

At the northern edge of the Schuyler estate, the water power provided by the Beaver Kill attracted a different sort of development: industry. In 1729 Evert Wendell petitioned the city for land and water rights on the creek in order to build "the first grist mill that ever was built within the limits of this city."⁸ His petition was deferred by the city council but he built the grist mill anyway, along with a saw mill, a brewery, and possibly a chocolate factory—all powered by the Beaver Kill and located near where the Lincoln Park swimming pool now stands.

By 1800 the Wendell mills were abandoned and, according to the historic record, the area went through a period of relative disuse. The creek, however, eventually lured a new generation of industrial entrepreneurs, led in 1857 by Frederick Hinckel and Andreas Schinnerer. They established the Cataract Brewery, named for Buttermilk Falls, at the corner of Swan Street and Park Avenue.⁹ Other beer manufacturers soon followed, including the Dobler Brewing Company, which set up shop directly across Swan Street from Hinckel's operation (at the northeast corner of Myrtle Avenue).

The same clay-rich soil that helped keep the beer kegs cool during the lagering process also made the Lincoln Park area an ideal location for brick manufacturing. During the second half of the 19th century several large producers operated around the edge of the park, including M. H. Bender (near the northwest corner at Delaware Avenue and Dove Street) and Babcock & Moore (on Morton Ave between Hawk and Eagle). As a result of these various industries, the generally rectangular parcel defined by a stream and hilly topography that would later become a park remained open while residential streets developed around it.

⁴ The Dutch colonists had instigated the attack by breaking their neutrality agreement with the Iroquois nations. Rebecca Kurtz, "Lincoln Park," Albany Walks for Health, accessed August 18, 2016, <http://www.albanywalksforhealth.com/items/show/5>.

⁵ "A Map of Land in and near City of Albany, surveyed in June 1808 for the heirs of the late Philip Schuyler Esq., John Randall, Jr. 29 Nov. 1808."

⁶ Morton Street, which forms the southern border of the Lincoln Park, was named for Schuyler's son-in-law Washington Morton, who married Cornelia Schuyler.

⁷ Much of which is preserved in the South End-Groesbeckville Historic District.

⁸ Albany Common Council minutes for January 6, 1729, quoted in Joel Munsell, *Annals of Albany* 9 (Albany, NY: Munsell & Rowland, 1858). 41.

⁹ Hinkle eventually bought out his partner (who had acquired his own operation in Schenectady), so the brewery is largely associated with his name. Some of the later buildings, dating from the 1880s, still stand on Park Avenue overlooking the ravine in Lincoln Park.

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James Hall

The most famous of the 19th-century estates established on former Schuyler landholding—and the only one of which any trace remains—was built by the noted geologist and paleontologist James Hall (1811-98). Hall graduated from Rensselaer School (now Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) in 1832 and was soon hired in 1835 for the New York State geological survey. After serving briefly as an assistant he was elevated to principal scientist covering the 4th district. His report, *Geology of New York, Part Four*, was published in 1843 and quickly became part of the official canon in the study of New York's geological history. Between 1843-94 Hall continued to work with the state government, producing eight volumes of a paleontological survey titled *New York State Natural History: Paleontology*.

By 1852 Hall had commissioned a tidy office building for himself, designed by the famous architects and landscape designers Alexander Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux (National Historic Landmark 1976). In many ways it resembled some of the Italianate villas published by Downing a year earlier in his 1851 treatise *The Architecture of Country Houses*. Its most distinctive feature was its asymmetrical plan, with a taller main block containing the primary facade in its gable end, and a smaller side wing with perpendicular gable. Like many of Downing's picturesque compositions, a tower anchors the interior corner of the building's two sections. Though relatively modest in terms of architectural ornament, the building has several round-arched windows that are a hallmark of the Italianate style that Downing helped popularize through his writings.

Hall's office was built in large part to house his extensive collection of paleontological and geological specimens. Though widely considered a temperamental curmudgeon, he also tutored a generation of scientists in the building, establishing a tradition of educational endeavors in Lincoln Park (which continues today with the Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology).¹⁰ According to the NHL nomination for the office, "the list of the men who throughout the second half of the nineteenth century spent time working in the red brick office in Albany reads like the geology committee of the National Academy of Sciences."¹¹

According to most accounts, Hall was more interested in his scientific pursuits than his domestic life, spending most of his time in his office. It is not known exactly when he built the main house on his estate—but by the 1870s he owned all or portions of eight city blocks from Delaware Avenue to Hawk Street, between Catherine and Martin Streets (or more than half the current park), with a residence (no longer extant) occupying the high ground at the southwest corner of the park (where the tennis courts are now located).¹² Hall was appointed director of the New York State Museum in 1866, and in 1893 the position of state geologist was created especially for him. His relationship with government was not without problems, however, and in 1885 the state required Hall to move his office and his vast collections to an official facility.

¹⁰ TOAST honors Hall directly with a geological rock park at the southeast corner of the school.

¹¹ NHL Nomination, 8:4.

¹² Several accounts note that his house was built in 1880, although this likely replaced an earlier building, which is clearly depicted on the 1876 map.

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James Hall died in 1898, a few years after Albany had authorized the creation of the park that was to subsume his entire urban estate. Although his house has long since disappeared, his office remains—though it has experienced several phases of redevelopment and alteration. One of the most significant was its conversion to the Sunshine School, a facility for special-needs students, which required it to be “completely rebuilt and remodeled, with adequate and properly ventilated classrooms, dietary facilities, and solarium for rest purposes.”¹³ This was accomplished as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project approved in 1936 and completed in 1937. Changes to the exterior consisted of a raised porch with many large casement windows wrapping around the east and south facades of the building’s side wing, as well as the reconfiguration of the main entrance and flanking windows. The following year, in 1938, the WPA built the adjacent comfort station that still stands.¹⁴ A much larger addition was built to the south in 1977, though the bones of the historic building are still very much discernable today.¹⁵

Martinville and the Creation of Beaver Park

Just east of the Hall estate (and within the current park boundary), the community of Martinville developed around the time of the Civil War in the 1860s. It was by reputation a rather ramshackle neighborhood—often erroneously labeled a shantytown—consisting primarily of Irish immigrants living in cheaply constructed wood-framed buildings.¹⁶ The heart of the community was a group of about 90 row houses occupying several full block fronts between Swan and Hawk Streets, from Providence to Warren Streets (right where the swimming pool and its lawn are now located). As depicted in a photograph from 1892, these buildings stepped down the hill in regular, if somewhat unkempt, lines. Scattered across the bottom of the bowl were individual houses and workshops set within a barren landscape.¹⁷

As the city grew in the late 19th century, the mostly undeveloped area around Lincoln Park was finally enveloped by dense urban neighborhoods. No longer on the city’s periphery and out of site, Martinville quickly became widely reviled as an unhealthy and, to some, downright dangerous location. Much of this was due to its proximity to the Beaver Kill Creek, which, by this time, carried much of the city’s sewage to the Hudson River.¹⁸ Portions of the creek east of Swan Street had already been enclosed in a proper underground sewer, but the section to the west remained open.¹⁹ In 1884 the area was condemned by the New York State Board of Health, which noted the “nuisances dangerous to the life and

¹³ Sunshine School in Lincoln Park,” *Albany Times Union*, January 4, 1938, 5. Students were supposed to take an hour nap each day on the sunroom porch.

¹⁴ The building is similar to other WPA-built structures in Albany, particularly the comfort station in Swinburne Park completed the same year.

¹⁵ The addition was already in the planning stages when the site was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

¹⁶ Though cheaply constructed, the majority of the buildings were obviously part of a planned development (unlike a true shantytown), occupying regularly-sized lots and erected as a cohesive group.

¹⁷ *Public Parks of the City of Albany, N.Y.: An Illustrated Pamphlet, Containing a Brief Outline of the History of Development of These Pleasure Grounds, And Statistical Information Relative Thereto* (Albany, NY: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1892), following page 42.

¹⁸ One newspaper article issued a call to action, arguing that, “something must be done to relieve the people living in that section from the nuisance caused by the drainage from nearly the entire northwestern section of the city.” A Sanitary Problem,” *Albany Morning Express*, March 3, 1887, 1.

¹⁹ Beaver Creek was enclosed from the Hudson as far west as Grand Street sometime between the 1810s and 1840s; the section of Johnson Street containing the brick-arch sewer was renamed Arch Street. The portion of the creek between Swan and Grand Street was buried sometime between 1866 and 1876.

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detrimental to the health of not only the immediate vicinity, but also of the inhabitants of a large part of the most thickly built portions of the city, including the governor's residence."²⁰

In the following years there were various proposals by Albany city officials to clean up the area. A new Martinville sewer was constructed but soon failed. By 1886 the city was considering what many considered the only possible solution—complete destruction of Martinville and its replacement with a city park. That November, Mayor John Boyd Thacher offered a resolution:

Whereas, a nuisance has existed for a long time in that portion of the city known as Martinville...and, Whereas, The board of health and many citizens have brought to the attention of this board a plan for remedying the same, through the creation of an artificial pond or lake, and together with making a small public park and place of public recreation with the same...Resolved, That this board refer the said plans to the commissioners of the Washington park, which body must be charged the creating, holding and maintaining of said lake and park.²¹

After several years of study and political wrangling, the commissioners of Washington Park, which administered all of Albany's city parks at that time, finally received authorization in 1890 to purchase land for what was then known as Beaver Park.²² The city appropriated \$350,000 for the new park, most of which was to be spent on acquiring property through eminent domain. In 1892 architect Adolph Fleishman surveyed the area and presented an estimate of costs. The following year city surveyors continued to map out the lots, and in 1894 the remaining buildings on the site were auctioned off—the more substantial brick structures selling for \$10-\$100, while the modest frame buildings in the hollow were sold in groups, a row of six fetching only \$5.²³ Most of the Irish residents of Martinville, who were forced out of their houses, relocated to the Gander Bay neighborhood (known today as Sheridan Hollow, just north of the Clinton Avenue).

To some observers, the creation of Beaver Park was primarily (as one newspaper headline put it) “A Sanitary Affair”—an effective way to solve a difficult public works problem in a rapidly developing neighborhood.²⁴ Others saw it (usually positively, at least in newspaper accounts) as a slum clearance project, a way for the government to remove an allegedly blighted section of the city and increase property values on the adjacent blocks. For William S. Egerton, the energetic superintendent of parks, who greatly expanded the city's parks system in the late 19th century, it was a real opportunity to establish one of Albany's premier open spaces. He felt that “the former topographical conditions of the site of Beaver Park were exceedingly picturesque” and that “by proper treatment...[could] ...be made exceedingly attractive.” In an 1892 pamphlet, accompanied by several photographs of the Martinville area, he wrote, “It may, at some future day (not so far

²⁰ Quoted in “A Sanitary Problem,” *Albany Morning Express*, March 3, 1887, 1.

²¹ “A Sanitary Problem,” *Albany Morning Express*, March 3, 1887, 1.

²² The authorization came under Chapter 449 of the Laws of 1890, sponsored by Assembly member Nolan, and Chapter 134 of the Laws of 1892.

²³ “Practically Concluded,” *Albany Morning Express*, April 3, 1894, 5.

²⁴ “A Sanitary Problem,” *Albany Morning Express*, March 3, 1887, 1.

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distant as the present conditions would seem to warrant), be interesting to compare these views with others to be taken when this area is improved.”²⁵

The Slow Development of Beaver Park

In spite of Egerton’s optimism that Beaver Park would be quickly transformed into a manicured public park, its design and construction would proceed in fits and starts over the course of several decades. An 1892 photo shows the site as a rather deep and mostly empty bowl dotted with buildings and sheds. The Martinsville houses still stand. By summer of 1894 all of the buildings had been removed from the site and workers started re-grading the area, moving large quantities of earth from the steep hillsides into the basin of the bowl, covering the stagnant lake and trash heaps.²⁶ Shortly thereafter, new grass was planted, and “children were roaming about and their parents either walked or sat and breathed pure air in the spot which will soon be Beaver park.”²⁷ The work of grading and preparing the site was still ongoing in 1899, however, although Egerton—ever the optimist—claimed that “the surface work of soiling, seeding or planting...can be done next season.”²⁸

One of the first notable improvements to the park was the opening of a children’s playground in July 1900 (not extant). The project was the first major victory by the Albany Mother’s Club and was lauded as the first “non-passive” park in Albany, known as the Central Playground.²⁹ The playground was adjacent to the James Hall Office and included several swings, a croquet ground, baseball field (“for boys”), and a large sand pile “where youngsters may dig to their hearts’ content.”³⁰ Several rooms in the building were fitted out for kindergarten classes, where “mothers may feel perfectly safe in leaving very small children there to be cared for during class hours.”³¹

Postcards from the early 1900s show that the landscaping long predicted by Egerton was finally accomplished. Pedestrian paths and vehicular drives wound through verdant green lawns—still mostly open with only a few mature trees towering above rows of newly planted saplings. A roadway, lined with rocky ledges, was built through the former Beaver Kill ravine in the northwest corner of the park. Even then, large portions of Beaver Park remained undeveloped, particularly the section east of Swan Street occupying the Martinville valley (whose steep topography required more intensive efforts to regrade). In 1912 the city passed yet another ordinance authorizing completion of the park and appropriating an additional \$50,000 for the effort. The following year landscape architect Charles Downing Lay was hired to draw up the first comprehensive plan for the entire Beaver Park site.³² It is Lay’s design that forms the outline of the

²⁵ *Public Parks of the City of Albany*, 41.

²⁶ “Martinville Has Disappeared,” *Albany Morning Express*, July 17, 1894, 7.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ “Park Season Has Closed,” *Albany Evening Journal*, November 24, 1899, 10.

²⁹ The Mother’s Club, later the Women’s Club, was formed the previous year in 1899. It also advocated for playgrounds in Dudley Park (opened 1904) and Swinburne Park (1908), among its other achievements.

³⁰ “The Children’s Playground,” *Albany Evening Journal*, May 30, 1900, 5.

³¹ “Playground to be Open Soon,” *Albany Evening Journal*, July 6, 1900, 5.

³² An early history of the park notes that the “first definite plans concerning Beaver Park are to be found in the report of the Bureau of Engineering, ending October 31, 1913. It notes: ‘On the request of Arnold W. Brunner, city planner, and at the request of the

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park today. This work was part of a larger civic improvement program in Albany, which was influenced by the nationwide City Beautiful movement. During the 1910s—under the administration of Mayor James B. McEwan—Lay and his close collaborator, architect Arnold W. Brunner (the city planner), developed a series of design proposals for public spaces through the city.³³ In addition to Beaver Park, the pair produced designs for Swinburne Park, State Street, Sheridan Park, and the waterfront—many of which were eventually realized.³⁴

Charles Downing Lay

Charles Downing Lay (1877-1956), a native of Newburgh, was named for Charles Downing, a relative, who was also the older brother of famed architect and landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing. Lay graduated from Columbia University's School of Architecture and then became the second graduate of Harvard University's new landscape architecture program. Lay practiced landscape architecture for the next forty-five years, primarily in New York City. He served as the landscape architect for the New York City Parks Department between 1913-1914 and he had an extensive private practice. Throughout his career he wrote extensively on parks and urban planning, art and architecture. He also established *Landscape Architecture* magazine in 1910 with Henry Hubbard and Robert Wheelwright and served as editor until 1920. He was known as a practical designer who focused on revitalizing the natural landscape, but also one who valued beauty, and he prepared town planning studies for numerous communities, including Albany, New York; Erie and Butler, Pennsylvania; Nassau County, New York; and subdivision studies for Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Hewlett, New York; and Westbrook, Connecticut. He designed Frear Park, Troy; Central Park and Pleasant Valley Park in Schenectady; and Marine Park, Brooklyn.³⁵ Lay's philosophy of landscape architecture included the stipulations that there should be both more art and less nature and more thought of design and less about fancy bushes.³⁶ Both of these can be discerned in his park designs, which seem to overlay a certain Neoclassical formality, particularly in terms of balance and proportion, over natural sites, but which also took advantage of natural settings and favored serpentine paths simply framed by allees of trees and other plantings. All proposed buildings were Neoclassical in design. Lay's plans for the city of Albany were published in a book called *Studies for Albany* (1914), written with Arnold William Brunner. It contains chapters and plans for fourteen specific sites and essays on general topics, such as streets and trees. Among those spaces for which specific designs were provided were Capitol Hill, Market Place, Sheridan Park, and Swinburne Park. Not all of the proposed designed were developed but some were, and the book suggested that they be carried out over time.

Commissioner of Public Works and City Engineer, James G. Brenner, the Board of Contract and Supply retained Charles Downing Lay, landscape artist, to advise the Commissioner and City Engineer as to the best way to complete Beaver Park." "South End Boasts Great Playground on Hallowed Soil," *Albany Evening Journal*, July 22, 1936, 24.

³³ Brunner had initially been hired by McEwan to design a new terminus for State Street. He soon won other commissions, and it was at his request that Lay was hired for the Beaver Park commission.

³⁴ These works are summarized in a small, copiously illustrated book, *Studies for Albany*, published in 1914. In it, Brunner was careful to note that, "no attempt has been made to prepare a City Planning survey of Albany nor make a complete City Plan." Furthermore, he recognized that, "the different items of the program are to be executed...when the conditions are favorable and the funds are at hand...consequently, many of the recommendations made in this report are in the nature of suggestions for the future."

³⁵ Laurie E. Hempton, "Charles Downing Lay," in Charles A. Birnbaum and Robin Karson, ed., *Pioneers of American Landscape Design* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 221-223.

³⁶ Hempton, 221.

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Lay's Design for Lincoln Park

Lay's design included modest improvements to the already-developed western section of the park and more radical interventions in the more or less blank canvas of the eastern section. His goal was to combine the formal and the natural, a plan that was in line with his overall philosophy. In the west, he proposed rearranging the Central Playground and enlarging the surrounding landscaping to include a formal garden with pergola and wading pool. In writing about these changes, Lay noted that, "the picturesque old house...once the home of Dr. James Hall...is to be remodeled and used for children's recreation in bad weather...the proportions of this building are so graceful that it is well worth while to give it the surrounding that it needs."³⁷ Along Delaware Avenue he laid out fifteen tennis courts and redesigned and called for relocation of a band shell that he believed "is not well placed."³⁸ Lay also felt that the ravine was too steep for automobile traffic, so he converted the path through it for pedestrian use, which he hoped "with proper planting will make it one of the most picturesque features of the Albany Parks."³⁹ The band shell was to take the form of a circular pedestal with eight Ionic columns supporting a multi-tiered roof, set amidst a grove of trees. .

The centerpiece of Lay's plan for the eastern section, characterized by a large, sunken, bowl-shaped space, was a huge athletic complex—still a rather novel civic amenity—located at the bottom of the park's steep slopes. From above, the complex resembled two intersecting ovals. The wider oval, to the east, was to hold various sports fields "of standard size" and a quarter-mile running track enclosing a regulation baseball diamond or football field—which would host the most important athletic contests since spectators could watch from the sloping banks on three sides; a broad flight of stairs along the northwest edge could also serve as a grand stand.⁴⁰ The fields could be flooded in winter for ice skating, and were "large enough for pageants, out-of-doors performances and public gatherings of many kinds and it should soon become the open-air amusement center of the city."⁴¹

Just up the stairs from the running track and across the driveway, in another oval shaped pod, Lay envisioned a large swimming pool for adults (almost where the existing swimming pool is located) with an adjacent wading pool for children. Both were supposed to have "the appearance of a natural lake with sandy shores and bottom and to provide all the delights of 'the old swimming hole.'"⁴² He also planned a large dressing pavilion at the top of the stairs—centered on the athletic field below, not quite in the exact position of the current bathhouse—to be built of concrete with a red tile roof, "of simple design that would contrast pleasantly with the rich green of the trees at each side."⁴³ A dense hedge was to surround the pool, directing patrons through the pavilion.

³⁷ Arnold William Brunner and Charles Downing Lay, *Studies for Albany* (Albany: Bartlett-Orr Press, 1914), 59.

³⁸ Brunner and Lay, 59.

³⁹ Brunner and Lay, 59. Lay wished the natural beauty of the ravine would be compared to the Vale of Cashmere in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. Instead, residents continued to use the area as a dumping ground.

⁴⁰ The designers thought that, "in the course of time it may be...desirable to continue the steps all around the field" to provide formal seating for athletic events.

⁴¹ Brunner and Lay, 51.

⁴² Brunner and Lay, 54.

⁴³ Brunner and Lay, 51.

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The plantings around the athletic field were laid out in rigid rows, "but on the undulating parts beyond the planting merges into the older [western] portions of the park" and was more picturesque in appearance. Lay in fact placed great emphasis on this contrast, writing:

The portion east of Swan Street [Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard] is in a deep bowl or what is practically a natural amphitheater with steeply sloping sides. The plan for the improvement of this undeveloped portion of the park was made with the intention of utilizing the elements of design provided by the natural condition of the ground. This is not an ordinary park with trees and lawns, hills and meadows, roads and paths. It includes them all but besides this it is endowed with the possibilities of a great athletic field which can be one of the most attractive in the country. In other words, the two methods of treatment, the formal and the natural, are blended in one design, each being used where the conditions demand.

Most of Lay's design was eventually built as he intended. The eastern section of the park is almost completely intact to Lay's design, including the arrangement of the athletic fields and many of the drives and pedestrian pathways.⁴⁴ Even the construction of the pool and bathhouse, although not built until the 1930s, largely respected his original scheme. (The buildings themselves were executed in a design more contemporary with the 1930s.) The western section has been more substantially altered, particularly with the completion of Public School 24 in 1955. The tennis courts were built slightly to the south of Lay's spot along Delaware Avenue, and the James Hall Office has received a rather large addition, while its carefully landscaped surroundings were converted into a playground. The general layout, however, including the drives and pedestrian paths, and the contrast between the rugged nature of the ravine (which lacks any path or drive) and the gentler slopes and curves of the paths and drives, is substantially the same.

Lincoln Park Pool and Bath House

In 1916, the name Beaver Park was changed to Lincoln Park.⁴⁵ Construction work on Lincoln Park continued through the 1920s. A newspaper article from 1923 noted that "Lincoln Park, which was the football of politics for several years, will finally be completed and the city will have full advantage of the natural amphitheater afforded by the park."⁴⁶ The eastern section was finally regraded and 3,500 trees and shrubs were planted. However, Lay's vision for a large swimming pool, wading pool, and dressing pavilion adjacent to the athletic fields remained unexecuted. Instead, a smaller pool was built at the eastern end of the ravine, near where the Buttermilk Falls were once located. Known as the Rocky Ledge Pool and opened in 1922, it was semi-natural with a sandy bottom laid over a natural layer of shale. This construction proved problematic, as water slowly leaked through the bottom, and by the late 1920s the city was considering options to either repair or replace the pool.⁴⁷

⁴⁴ Perhaps the most notable difference is the absence of a playground in the southeast corner of the park, which was supposed to have a wading pool, sand piles, slides, swings, and a babies' lawn next to a shady pergola for mothers.

⁴⁵ A later commentator noted this was done "by a patriotic but unimaginative Common Council."

⁴⁶ "Man in Street Talks Hackett, Praises Work," *Albany Times-Union*, July 9, 1923, 9.

⁴⁷ Many accounts erroneously claimed the pool was closed because sewage from the buried Beaverkill Creek seeped upward into the pool. The Department of Public Works knew from an early date that the real problem was that the pool was leaking too quickly through its natural bottom and that it couldn't be kept above the level of the outfall pipe, causing the remaining water to stagnate. "Rocky Ledge Pool Closed to Locate Leaks in Bottom," *Albany Evening News*, August 5, 1927, 15.

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The city eventually decided to build a new pool, which was officially announced in December 1929 by Mayor John B. Thacher.⁴⁸ Located east of Swan Street in nearly the exact location specified by Lay in his master plan, the massive structure—containing approximately 1.5 million gallons and stretching more than 300 feet across—was widely cited as the first and only outdoor, non-wading pool in all of Albany.⁴⁹ The unusual shape of the pool resembled a horseshoe in plan and increased in depth from a few inches towards the rim to eight feet near the center.⁵⁰ A series of stanchions linked with a rope marked the four foot depth and served as a safety barrier for less experienced swimmers, while a diving platform was built at the very center at its deepest point. As always, unexpected delays occurred during the pool's construction, but it finally opened with much fanfare on July 4, 1931.

The urban public swimming pool had emerged as a means of promoting public hygiene and slowing the spread of contagious disease among the working classes in the 1860s. Boston is believed to have pioneered the first municipal swimming pool in Roxbury in 1868; however, the popularity of the municipal pool was actually tied to the increase in leisure time that came with improvements in labor relations in the late 1920s. Albany's pool, constructed just before the Depression, is a product of these social changes, as well as the technical innovations that led to the development of safe municipal pools for the masses in the early 20th century. The most important one was water filtration; the first successful chlorine and sand filters were developed in 1910, giving operators the ability to maintain safe conditions without continuously changing the water. Thus, by the 1920s, municipal pools had become both efficient to run and quite popular and swimming was no longer reserved as a sport for the rich.⁵¹ The construction of public pools came to a temporary halt with the beginnings of the Great Depression, but the popularity of municipal pools picked up again in the mid 1930s, when many cities took advantage of the federal money available for public works projects to build large, state-of-the-art community swimming pools. Between 1933 and 1938 the federal government built approximately 750 municipal pools, some as large as football fields.

Thacher, in announcing the new pool, also suggested that a bathhouse would be built for use by both swimmers and athletes using the adjacent fields. The bathhouse was constructed in two phases, both designed by architect Thomas Liston Gleason Jr. (1890-1972). Gleason, who graduated from Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon), was also cited as the architect of five or six schools in Albany and Troy.⁵² [See notes under James S. Shattuck]. The first section opened 1931, at the same time as the pool, and consisted of the entire first story and flanking two-story pavilions with steeply pitched gabled roofs. The second phase, consisting of the center section of the second story – linking the earlier pavilions - was planned and built in 1933. According to a newspaper article, “the addition to the Lincoln Park Bath House comprises the roof area...between the present end pavilions on the second floor. In the new addition will be large

⁴⁸ “Mayor to Ask New Lincoln Park Recreation Facilities,” *Albany Times Union*, December 18, 1929, 2.

⁴⁹ Since the new pool was built on a different site, some city officials imagined that the Rocky Ledge pool would remain open to increase capacity.

⁵⁰ The shape of the pool was slightly different from Lay's design. It also the neighboring wading pond (the beginner's area being incorporated directly into the main pool itself).

⁵¹ Eric Herman, “Pools: A History of Innovation – Part 1 AQUAS <https://aquamagazine.com/pools/pools-a-history-of-innovation-part-i.html>

⁵² *Carnegie Alumnus* (March 1915), 14.

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men's and women's dressing rooms. The general plan being that the men and women will use the upper floor and the boys and girls the first floor."⁵³ Construction was similar to the original building with brick walls and a steel frame.

The construction of the bathhouse largely completed Lay's original master plan for Lincoln Park. Gleason's design for the building, however, was notably different than that proposed by Lay almost two decades earlier. Instead of a monumental Beaux Arts structure centered on axis with the athletic fields, the bathhouse was a relatively modest, slightly off-axis Colonial Revival building much more in keeping with the Depression-era public projects of the 1930s.⁵⁴ The most lavish elements of the building are the arcaded porches at the building's four corners, which feature elaborate terra-cotta-clad spiral columns with Corinthian capitals. The bulk of the first phase was rather plain, with large expanses of brick walls only occasionally interrupted by window or door openings. The building's second phase, which included the second story of the main block, is a little more embellished, with numerous round-arched windows featuring radiating muntins in the top sash. The tower rising above the exact center of the building contains four clock faces meant to be visible from all parts of the swimming pool and park. Other 1930s changes to the park contemporary with the bathhouse construction include a comfort station and the conversion of James Hall's Office into the Sunshine School for special-needs students in 1937.

Public School 24

After the pool and bathhouse effectively completed Lay's master plan for Lincoln Park in the 1930s, more recent additions and alterations have brought the park to its current state. The most significant intervention was the construction in 1954-55 of School 24 (now Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology). The school replaced the former PS 24 (corner of Delaware and Dana), which had burned down, and also accepted students from Schools 2 and 11, accommodating approximately 1,000 pupils in total. Called the "Two Million Dollar School" by the local press, it contained a large primary gym, two smaller ancillary gyms, and a 550-seat auditorium reportedly modeled after Radio City Music Hall.⁵⁵

James S. Shattuck (1890-1957)

Public School 24 was designed by architect James Scott Shattuck. Shattuck, son of James M. Shattuck and Annie Gilchrist Shattuck, was born in Albany and attended Syracuse University; according to census records, he apparently started his career as a draftsman in the 1910s. At some point in that era, he formed a partnership with Thomas L. Gleason (architect of the pool house) because they dissolved their partnership in 1916, with Shattuck keeping the office at 80-82 North Pearl Street and Gleason moving to 12 Pine Street. The partners Gleason and Shattuck were credited with the design of the \$40,000 home of the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter at the corner of Hudson and Lark Street, in

⁵³ "Lincoln Park Bath House," *Albany Times Union*, April 23, 1933, D-7.

⁵⁴ While the building resembles recreation facilities built under the Works Progress Administration and other New Deal work relief initiatives (such as the Bleecker Stadium field house in Albany's North End), it appears that the Lincoln Park bathhouse was begun before these programs were ever created.

⁵⁵ "School 24, Which Will Open Sept. 7, Described as Meeting 50-Year Needs," *Albany Knickerbocker News*, August 22, 1955, B-13.

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1915. The chapter house is an impressive two-story brick building with a double-height second floor (accommodating the lodge room) and a mansard roof.

In 1922, Shattuck advertised in *The American Architect-The Architect Review* that he was opening a practice at 86 State Street in Albany, and in the 1930 census, he was married and living at 867 Mercer Street. His mother's 1943 obituary noted that she died at the home of her son James at the Mercer Street address.⁵⁶ Various newspaper articles credit Shattuck with additions to other schools in the Albany public school system, including Schools 14 and 16, large-scale bowling alleys on Central Avenue and in Menands, and several supermarkets. When he designed PS 24 in 1955, his office was at 11 North Pearl Street. At the time of his death, he resided at 725 New Scotland Ave.

PS 24 was one of only a handful of new public schools erected in Albany during the mid-20th century, along with two other public schools and three private ones.⁵⁷ Unlike the city's earlier school buildings, which were usually located in denser residential neighborhoods and were clearly part of Albany's urban fabric, PS 24's setting in Lincoln Park gave it an almost suburban character. The park location was probably chosen so that the school could serve the same neighborhood as the school that burned.⁵⁸ However, the architect took advantage of the large open site to design a building that would be at home in the suburbs; the low, freestanding two-story structure was clearly meant to be viewed in the round, with fully designed elevations on all sides. The K-shaped plan is symmetrical, with the main entrance nestled at the crux of the building's four wings and featuring a modern interpretation of a classical portico. The school fully embodies the character of a modern school, defined by its long low plan, flat roof, multiple wings, prolific use of glass, and compartmentalized plan, which separated students by grade and function. On the interior, it was especially distinguished by its large, central auditorium and multiple gymnasiums with state-of-the-art equipment. Theresa Kilhan, a professional colorist, selected the interior palette, each room having its own scheme.⁵⁹ The exterior design, brick and limestone over a steel frame with classical portico, embodies an abstracted classicism typical of the Modern movement. Interestingly, despite its modern style and suburban feel, the school plan included a "small room for children who carry lunches," rather than a cafeteria, as it was still very much a neighborhood tradition that students walked home for lunch. PS 24 is one of few modern schools in the Albany system, which retained many of its 19th-century urban schools until the last few decades, when they were replaced by much newer styles. PS 24 is probably Shattuck's most important contribution to the city of Albany.

Later Development

From the late 1950s through the 1970s the streets facing the northeastern edge of the park were substantially changed with the creation of Empire State Plaza, a Modern complex of state government buildings designed by architect Wallace

⁵⁶Annie Gilchrist Shattuck Obituary, *Knickerbocker News (Albany, NY)*, 5 Jan 1943.

⁵⁷ Others included the Giffen Memorial Elementary School (1960) and the Arbor Hill Elementary School (1973). Private schools from the period include the Cardinal McCloskey High School on Elm Street (1950s, demolished for Empire State Plaza), its successor on Slingerland Street (1967), and the Bishop Maginn High School on Park Avenue just across from Lincoln Park (date not determined).

⁵⁸ In 1953 the State Legislature had to pass a special bill authorizing the city to build a school within a public park. "Striking New Lincoln Park School Will Open on Sept. 7," *Albany Times-Union*, August 26, 1955, 2.

⁵⁹One kindergarten room was fitted with yellow walls, gray linoleum, and white window trim. "School 24, Which Will Open Sept. 7."

Lincoln Park
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K. Harrison. Perhaps taking inspiration from this project, the city in 1982 proposed turning the eastern section of the park into a civic center—a vision that was never realized. In 1993 the section of Swan Street running through Lincoln Park was renamed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and a memorial in his honor was erected near the intersection of that street and Morton Avenue. The memorial was designed by Daniel Hershberg with sculptures by Eileen Barry.⁶⁰ It does not contribute to the nomination because it is outside the period of significance. Other later changes include installation of contemporary playground equipment and a wood-frame gazebo oriented to the street rather than to the park. These are all typical and expected features in public parks and, while they do not add to the significance, they do not compromise or distract from it either.

Conclusion

Although the park has experienced periods of use, neglect, and rejuvenation, it continues to serve the same function first proposed as early as 1886. The master plan for the park created by Charles Downing Lay in the 1910s is largely intact, especially with the completion of the pool and bathhouse in the 1930s, and the more recent additions have furthered a longstanding tradition (going back to the time of James Hall) of using portions of the park for educational purposes. It is, and has long been one of Albany's premier open spaces and is a great asset to its urban neighborhood.

⁶⁰ According to contemporary accounts, the project was originally proposed by Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III and "lacked the appropriate participation of the black community." "King Memorial Marked by Controversy," *Albany Sunday Gazette*, August 1, 1993), B1.

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brunner, Arnold W., and Charles Downing Lay, *Studies for Albany*. Bartlett-Orr Press: Albany, NY, 1914.

Hopkins, G. M.. *City Atlas of Albany, New York* . n.p., 1876, Plate L.

Public Parks of the City of Albany, N.Y. Albany, NY: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1892.

Sheire, James. James Hall's Office National Historic Landmark Nomination, July 1976.

Waite, Diana S., ed., *Albany Architecture: A Guide to the City*. Albany, NY: Mount Ida Press, 1993.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 67.16 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	600905	4722601	4	18	601440	4721942
Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

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2 18 601331 4722417
Zone Easting Northing

5 18 600725 4722191
Zone Easting Northing

3 18 601499 4722165
Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the attached map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of this nomination have been drawn to encompass the area originally purchased for Lincoln Park in the 1890s

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher D. Brazee; revised by Kathleen LaFrank, NYSHPO, January 2018
organization _____ date August 2016
street & number 174 4th Street telephone 518-279-6229
city or town Troy state NY zip code 12180
e-mail Chris@BrazeePhotography.com

Additional Documentation

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

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

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

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive 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: Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

Albany, New York
County and State

City or Vicinity: Albany
County: Albany State: New York
Photographer: Christopher D. Brazee
Date Photographed: April 2016 and November 2016

- 001 View looking to the northeast, towards downtown Albany
- 002 View of ravine at northwest side of park, looking north
- 003 James Hall Office, view looking to the north
- 004 James Hall Office, view looking to east
- 005 Bathhouse, view looking west
- 006 Bathhouse, view looking to northwest
- 007 Bathhouse, view looking to east (pool-side elevation)
- 008 Bathhouse, view looking to southeast
- 009 Bathhouse, interior, view showing first-floor changing room
- 010 Bathhouse, interior, view showing first-floor changing room
- 011 Bathhouse, interior, view showing lockers in changing room
- 012 Bathhouse, interior, detail view showing paneled wall screen and doors
- 013 Bathhouse, interior, upper floor exercise room
- 014 Bathhouse, interior, upper floor exercise room
- 015 Pool, view looking west
- 016 Comfort station, view looking to northwest
- 017 James Hall office, view looking south
- 018 James Hall office, view looking north showing addition
- 019 Public School No. 24, view looking west
- 020 Public School No. 24, detail view of entrance portico
- 021 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
- 022 View northeast from Martin Luther King Jr Blvd over pool, bathhouse and fields
- 023 View of athletic fields from sidewalk at south end, Empire State Plaza to the right
- 024 View northeast showing bowl-shaped athletic fields, paths, trees from higher elevation at north end
- 025 Detail, athletic fields
- 026 Looking at bathhouse from the south
- 027 Pool, bathhouse and surrounding landscape from the north

Lincoln Park
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Property Owner:

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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Historic Photos



BEAVER PARK, 1892.
Looking eastward from Swan street.

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

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County and State

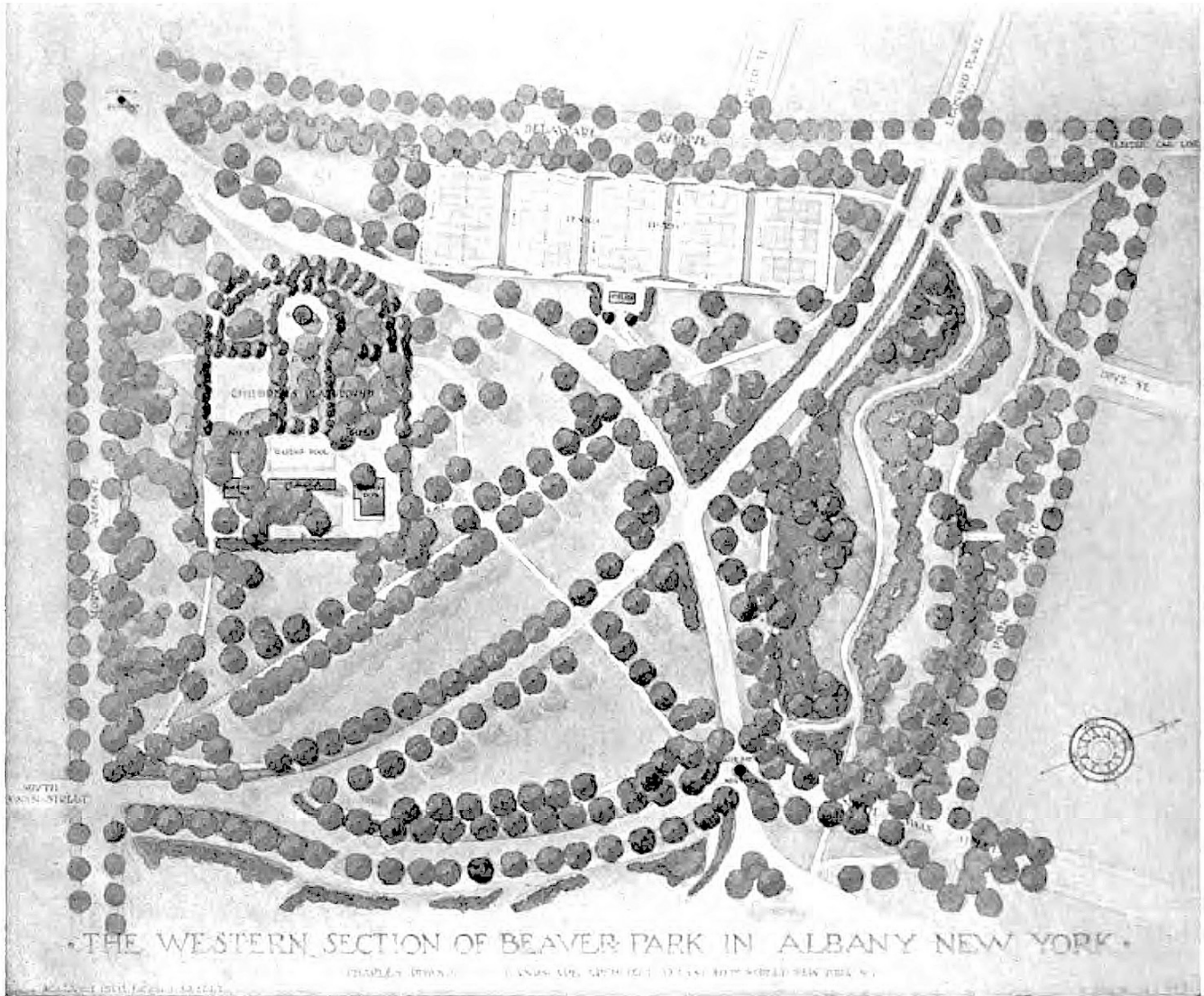


Plate 32. Plan of Western Section Beaver Park

Charles Downing Lay – 1913, From *Studies for Albany*

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

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Plate 31. Plan of Beaver Park

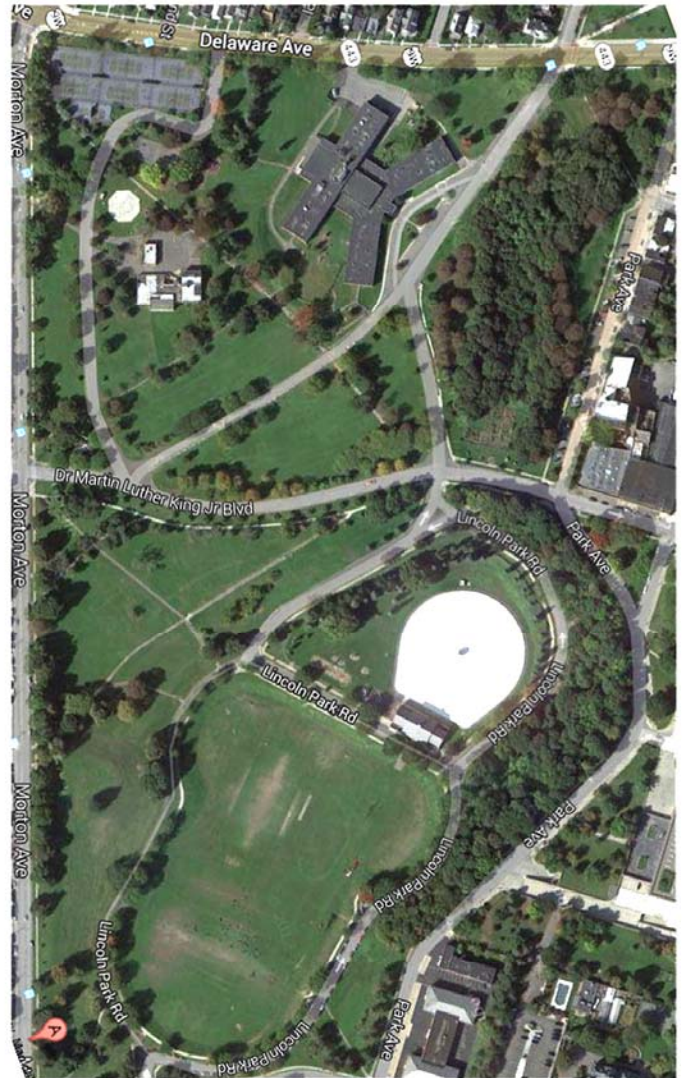
Charles Downing Lay – 1913, From *Studies for Albany*

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

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1914 plan



2014 aerial photo

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

Albany, New York
County and State

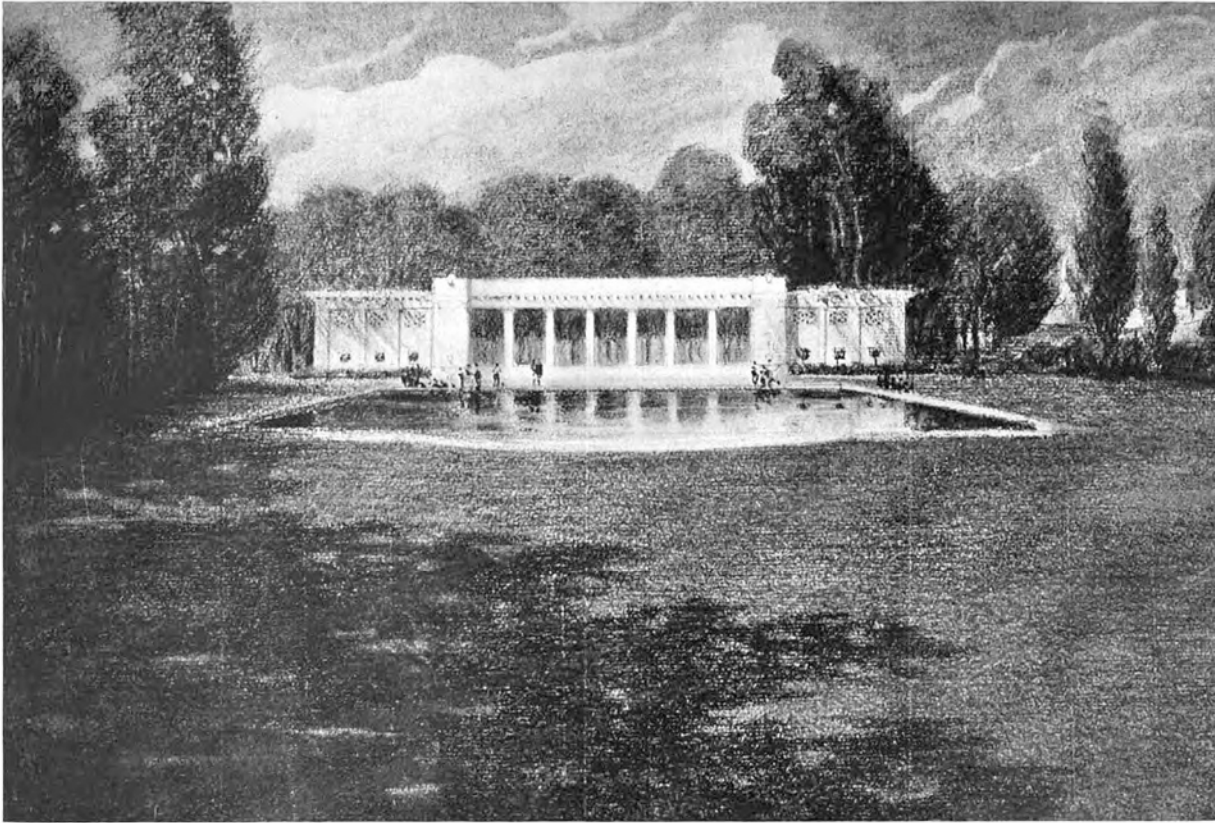


Plate 35. Pergola and Pool in Children's Playground, Beaver Park



Plate 36. Band Stand, Beaver Park

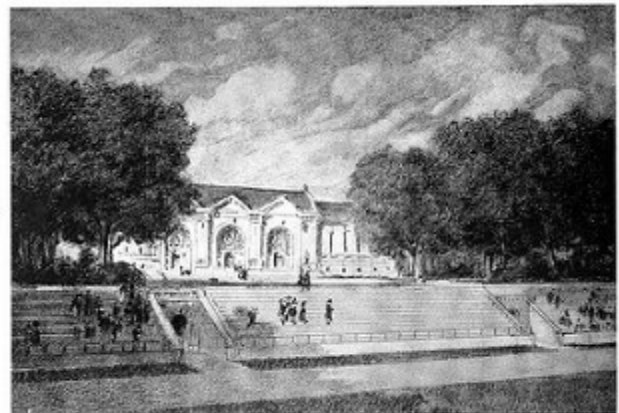


Plate 33. Field House, overlooking Athletic Field, Beaver Park

Suggested Buildings from Charles Downing Lay's Plan – 1913 – none built

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

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LINCOLN PARK SWIMMING POOL, ALBANY, N. Y. 189



4A-H1439

1930s

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/albanygroup/>

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

Albany, New York
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Pool - 1930s

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

Albany, New York
County and State




Winter Carnival – 1930s

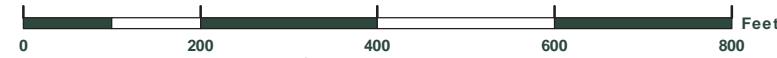
Lincoln Park

City of Albany, Albany County NY



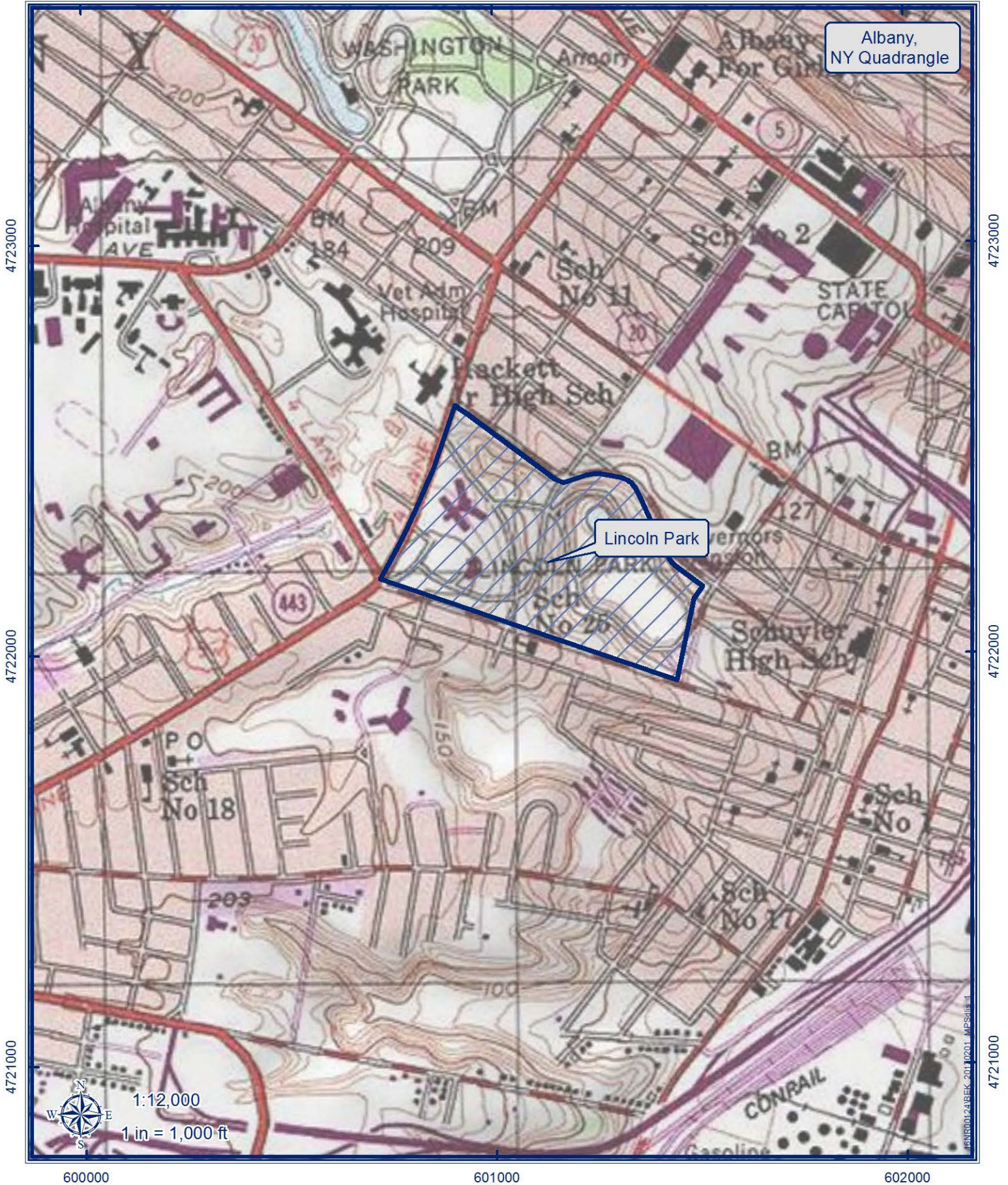
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Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

 National Register Listing



1 in = 217 ft
1:2,600

 NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation



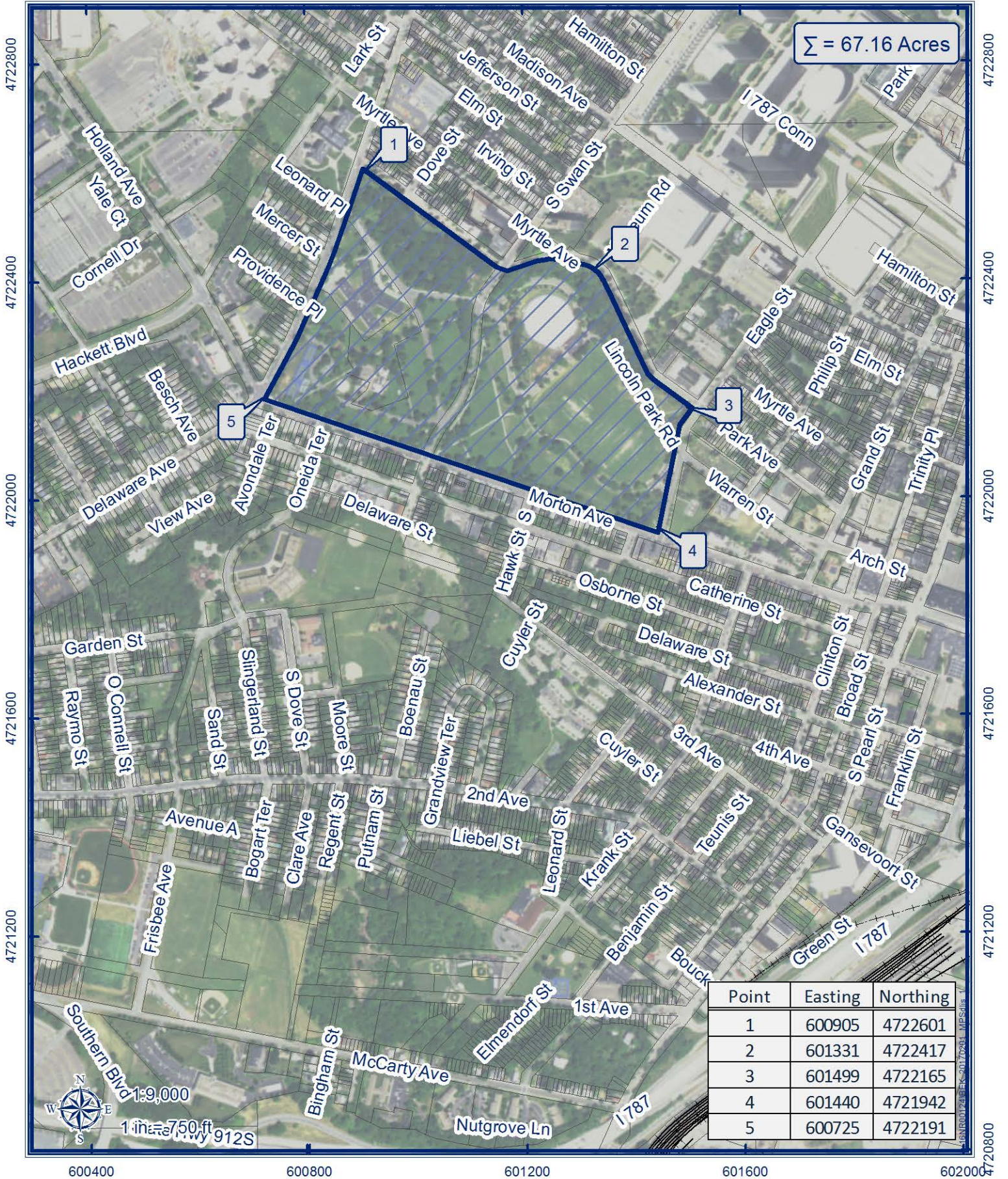
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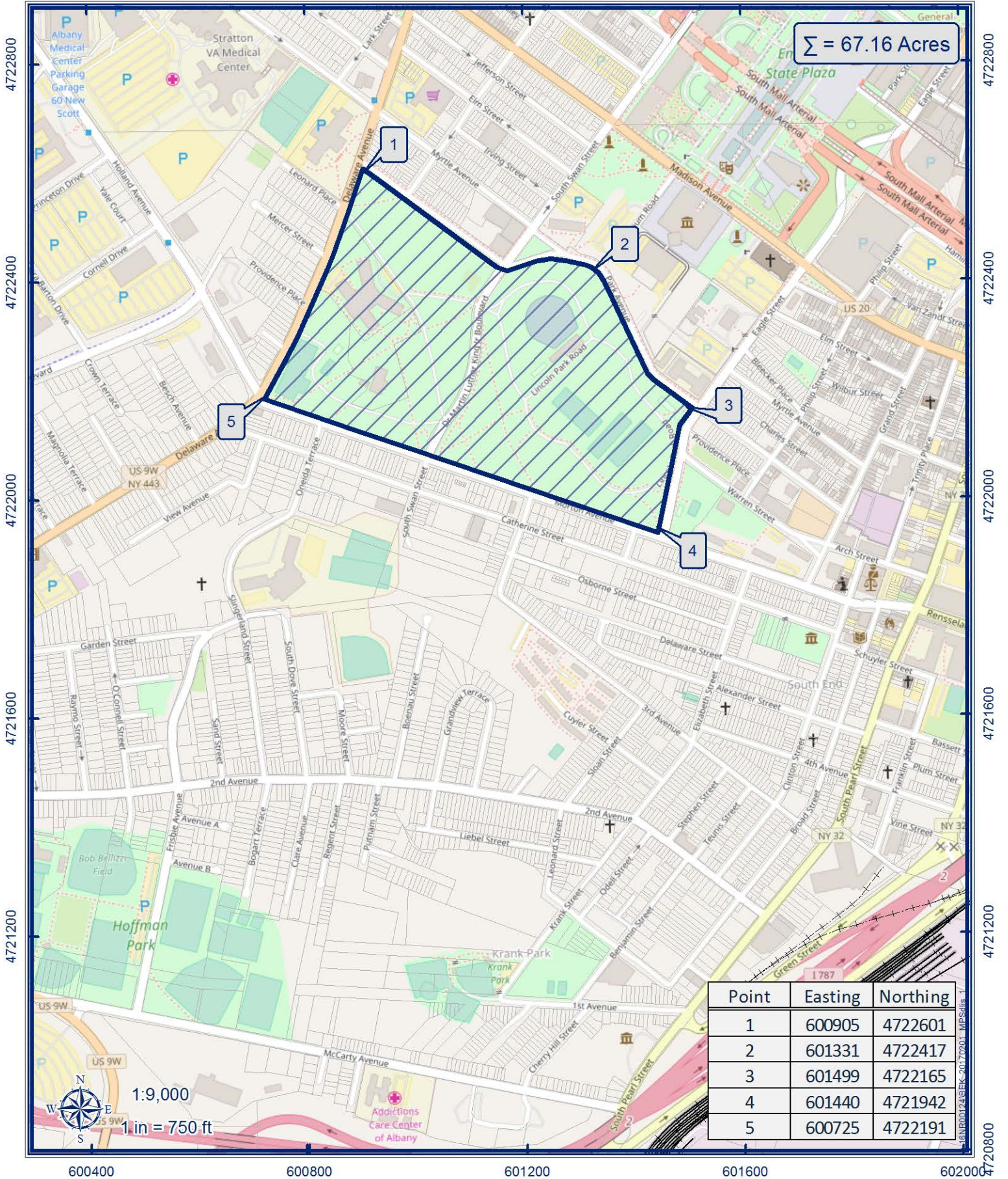
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Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter





Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter





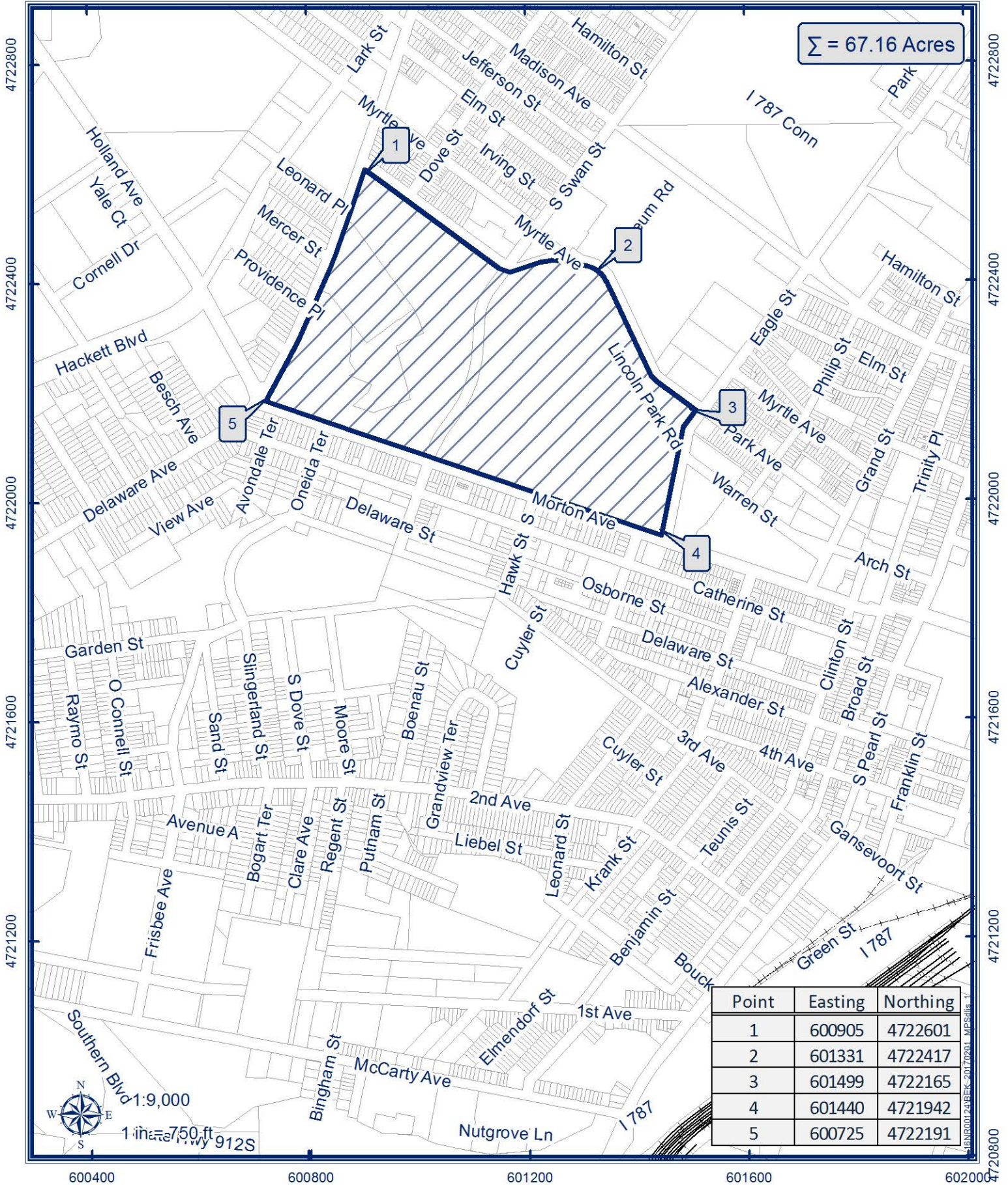
Σ = 67.16 Acres

Point	Easting	Northing
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2	601331	4722417
3	601499	4722165
4	601440	4721942
5	600725	4722191

1:9,000
1 in = 750 ft

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter





Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter









NO STOPPING
ANY TIME
OR NIGHT

NO PARKING
ANY TIME
OR NIGHT









NO
PARKING







BOTTOM ROW
OF LOCKERS
ARE FOR
PERSONAL
PADLOCK USE

THIS KEY
ONLY WORKS
ON THIS
LOCKER

Not
working





ATTENTION
- ALL -
PERSONAL ITEMS
MUST BE SECURED
IN A LOCKER
(Lockers 25c)

















Thomas O'Brien ACADEMY of SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



I just want to say that I am not a prophet. I am just a man who has tried to do what I think is right. I have been wrong many times, but I have never stopped trying to do what I think is right. I have been wrong many times, but I have never stopped trying to do what I think is right.

RELIEF OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND OTHERS

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
1929-1968













National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



24 February 2017

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following four nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Lincoln Park, Albany County
Bleecker Stadium and Swinburn Park, Albany County
Dollar Island Camp, Hamilton County
Nelson Methodist Episcopal Church, Madison County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office

56-890

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Lincoln Park

other names/site number Beaver Park

Name of related MPDF N/A

2. Location

street & number Lincoln Park

<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input type="checkbox"/>	vicinity

city or town Albany

state New York code NY county Albany code 001 zip code 12202

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

Michael Lynch Deputy SPO 2/24/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

Returned

Lincoln Park
 Name of Property

Albany, New York
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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.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	2	structures
1	0	objects
6	2	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

N/A

1 (James Hall Office)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE/
 Park & Recreation Center

RECREATION & CULTURE/
 Park & Recreation Center

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/
 Picturesque - Park Landscape
 Colonial Revival - Bathhouse

foundation: Brick: James Hall Office; limestone:
 Bathhouse, Public School 24

walls: Brick and limestone: James Hall
 Office, bathhouse, comfort station,
 Public School 24

MODERN MOVEMENT/
 Modern - Public School 24

roof: Standing-seam metal: James Hall
 Office; Asphalt shingle: Bathhouse

other:

Lincoln Park
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Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Lincoln Park is bounded on the northeast by Park Avenue, on the southeast by Eagle Street, on the southwest by Morton Avenue, and on the northwest by Delaware Avenue (for the sake of clarity, directions in the remainder of the report will be simplified to cardinal notation—under which Morton Avenue runs west to east). The site comprises four tax parcels plus the roadbed of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Parcels 76.10-1-1 and 76-10.1-2 are owned by the Albany City School District, while parcels 76.10-1-3 and 76.10-3-1 are owned by the City of Albany and operated by the Department of Recreation.

The park is roughly rectangular in shape, with the curved section along the north edge generally following the former course of the Beaver Kill creek, which has since been diverted underground. It is divided into two sections by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (formerly Swan Street). Most of the western section comprises a gentle slope towards the northeast. Much of this land was owned by the renowned geologist and paleontologist James Hall in the mid-19th century, prior to the creation of a public park by the City of Albany in the 1890s. His office, designed by architects Calvert Vaux and Andrew Jackson Downing and completed in 1852, has been incorporated into the school property; it is a National Historic Landmark (1976) and listed on the National Register (1976) and State Register (1980). This section also contains Public School 24 (1954-55), now the Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology, and a small athletic complex comprising tennis courts, handball courts, a basketball court, a playground, and a water playground. The northwest corner is the most rugged section of the park, containing a natural ravine through which the Beaver Kill once ran.

The eastern section of the park forms what has been termed "a deep bowl or what is practically a natural amphitheater with steeply sloping sides." From the corner of Morton Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, the ground drops steeply to the northeast, reaching its low point at the bottom of the bowl, which has been used as athletic fields since the adoption of the park's design in 1913—executed by landscape architect Charles Downing Lay in close collaboration with architect Arnold W. Brunner. The actual bowl is roughly T-shaped, composed of two intersecting ovals. Northwest of the bowl, at the top of the embankment overlooking the athletic fields, is the Lincoln Park bath house, built in two phases between 1929 and 1933. Behind the bath house and enclosed by a non-original chain-link fence is the large pool, completed around the same time in 1931 (and in nearly same location as the pool designated in Lay's 1913 plans).

Narrative Description

Site

Lincoln Park is a large urban park surrounded by a several different neighborhoods of different characters. Portions are bordered by historic, low-rise residential areas; it is immediately adjacent to the Center Square/Hudson-Park Historic District (S/NRHP 1980) to the north, and is in close proximity to the Mansion Historic District (S/NRHP 1982) to the east and the South End-Groesbeckville Historic District (S/NRHP 1984) to the southeast. The park is also within a block of the New York Executive Mansion (NRHP 1971; SRHP 1980) and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (NRHP 1976; SRHP 1980). Empire State Plaza, a large complex of state government buildings begun in 1965, backs onto the part of northern edge of the park. A couple of schools, the public William S. Hackett Middle School and the Catholic Bishop Maginn High School, also face the park. A number of high-rise apartment and institutional buildings are located adjacent or near the park and can be visible from within the park.

James Hall Office (1852 & later; previously S/NRHP listed; NHL 1976)

The oldest building on the site, predating the creation of the park by nearly a half century, is the James Hall Office. The original building is L-shaped in plan, with a one-and-a-half story gabled main block and a shorter, one-story wing with a perpendicular gable. A two-tiered tower rises above the inside corner of the two sections. The rectangular main block has a low peaked roof running parallel with the long axis. The primary south facade, on one of the gable ends, has been partially reconfigured. Historically it had a central double-width entrance flanked by two blind recesses with round-arched lintels; it now features three rectangular window openings.¹ The north facade has two similar windows openings, and both

¹ A photo of the facade before it was reconfigured was published in "The Albany I Remember," *Albany Times-Union* (September 29, 1963), I-13.

Lincoln Park
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gable ends contain paired round-arched attic windows. The long facades, one of which has been enclosed by an addition, feature four rectangular windows—historically these openings extended nearly to the cornice (the original lintel is still visible) with a recessed spandrel separating the main ground-floor windows from the attic windows. The perpendicular wing, much of which is now enveloped by an addition, features a single window on its north facade, as well as two entrances. Both sections have simple molded cornices that return slightly around the gable ends. The windows openings are fitted with wood multi-paned double-hung sash (some of the windows have been covered with plywood). A single corbelled brick course serves as a water table and separates the brick foundation from the upper walls. All of the brickwork has been painted. The tower has small, paired second story windows on each face and a single round-arched window on the third story. It is capped with a simple molded cornice wood cornice with small ornamental modillions. A non-original brick chimney runs up its eastern face. A plaque extolling Hall's accomplishments was installed above the center window of the south facade in 1916 by the Association of American State Geologists.

The office was converted into the Sunshine School for special-needs students during alterations planned in 1936 and completed in 1937 under the Works Progress Administration. The reconfiguration of the primary facade likely occurred at this time, and a sun porch was built around the east and south facades of the original building's side wing. This porch sits on a tall concrete block foundation and features several large multi-paned casement windows, one of which has been altered with entrance doors and a metal stair landing. A much larger addition was constructed in 1977, enveloping the entire south facade of the earlier addition and obscuring the historic entrance to the original office building at the base of the tower.

Adjacent to the west facade of the 1977 addition is a small, one-story red-brick building, originally a comfort station, completed in 1938 under the Works Progress Administration. Its relatively austere, nominally Colonial Revival design features a limestone watertable and large multi-paned casement windows with soldier-brick flat lintels and limestone sills. It is noted as a contributing building.

West of the comfort station a large bell hangs just above the ground from a wood structure. The bell was commissioned in 1882 for Albany's new city hall (then still under construction) and was installed in the campanile that October 28. It was originally used as a fire alarm and connected to the city fire telegraph relay; an inscription on the bell reads in part, "Purchased under the supervision of the Albany Board of Fire Commissioners, June 1882." Cast by Meneely & Co. of West Troy (now Watervliet), the bell is 70 inches in diameter, 50 1/2 inches tall, weighs 7,049 pounds, and was said to exceed "in size, weight and volume of sound, any bell in the city at the time."² It was likely placed in Lincoln Park around 1927 when a full concert-grade carillon was installed in the City Hall bell tower; it is noted as a contributing object.

Lincoln Park Plan: Road Network and Landscaping (1913; contributing site)

The master plan for Lincoln Park was designed in 1913 by landscape architect Charles Downing Lay, likely incorporating some existing features in the already-open western section. The general layout consists of several larger drives suitable for automobile traffic—now paved with asphalt with granite curbing—and smaller pedestrian paths, currently paved with concrete. Both are predominantly curvilinear and winding in the tradition of the Picturesque landscape movement. In the eastern section, the main park drive leads from the main entrance on Eagle Street and encircles the T-shaped athletic fields and a triangular-shaped parcel comprising the swimming pool and bathhouse. In the western section, the primary drive enters the park at Delaware Avenue and Leonard Place, extending southeast to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (in almost exactly the location called for by Lay). Another drive enters the park just north of the tennis courts; this has been largely reconfigured from Lay's plans, which called for an entrance at the southwest corner of the park and a drive curving north and then east. The paths mostly follow Lay's design, although some appear to have been straightened. The only stairs in the pedestrian network are at the southwest corner of the athletic fields—rather remarkable given the steep terrain of the site (a historic stair leading from the bathhouse to the athletic fields has recently been replaced with a contemporary stairway and accessible ramp).

The landscaping largely consists of open grass fields with some tree cover along the drives and paths. These plantings are of varied age and do not conform to the formal allée envisioned in Lay's master plan. The ravine and the embankment north of the pool are most heavily wooded, reflecting the steeper terrain in these sections.

Bathhouse (1930-33; contributing building)

The Colonial Revival bathhouse, built in two phases between 1930 and 1933, is a long, axially-arranged building with long facades facing the park drive on the southeast and the pool on the northwest. The two-story, six-bay-wide center section

² George Rogers Howell and Jonathan Tenney, *Bi-centennial History of Albany* (New York: W. W. Munsell & Co., 1886), 522.

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features a peaked roof running along the building axis; this is flanked by side pavilions comprising one-story arcaded porches and setback two-story wings with slightly shorter peaked gable roofs. Located in the center of the primary roof is a square, wood-framed clock tower with domed roof and spire. The exterior walls are brick laid in common bond with limestone and terra-cotta trim. A continuous beltcourse wraps the entire building between the first and second stories, forming a cornice for the pavilion porches. The building retains historic wood windows—most six-over-six, although the second story of the central section has round-arched upper sash with radiating muntins and round center panes.

The primary facade faces the park drive. It features two entrances in the second and fifth bay of the center section (which historically corresponded to separate entrances for women on the left and men on the right), with single-paned doors set within enframements with glazed transoms and blind sidelights. A small limestone plaque on the second story is inscribed with the architect's name: "Thomas L. Gleason Architect." The flanking porches have an arcaded screen supported by intricate terra-cotta clad spiral columns. Centered under each porch are secondary entrances with double doors and glazed transoms. The ceilings above the porches are composed of large concrete beams, which support second-story decks accessed through additional sets of paired doors with glazed transoms.

The pool-side facade is generally similar to the primary facade. The exits from the locker rooms are grouped closer toward the center of the facade, and the flanking second-story decks feature tall flag poles. Alterations to this facade include the bricking in of the windows in the second and fifth bays of the center section's first story, conversion of entrance openings in the first and six bays to window openings (enlarged upwards with ventilation louvres), and the installation of a metal railing around the right second-story deck.

The side facades feature two sets of paired windows on each floor, with the arcaded porch screens wrapping around from the park drive and pool side facades a single bay each. The northeast side facade has a tall brick chimney running up the center its full height.

The interior plan is generally symmetrical about the short axis of the building and reflects the historic separation of locker room facilities for women and men. On the first story, the two entrances in the center section of the primary facade lead to a shallow vestibule running nearly the full width of the center section, with a small ticket counter placed in the middle of the space along the exterior wall. Twin doors at the far wall lead to the women's locker room on the left and the men's locker room on the right. Narrow hallways off the vestibule run along the main axis of the building to the flanking wings. The locker rooms are mirror images of each other. In the center of the building are the actual locker rooms, outfitted with metal lockers and wood benches fixed to the floor. Along the pool-side exterior wall are three bays of rooms with shower facilities, bathrooms, and a hallway leading to the pool itself. The flanking wings each feature a single large open room (the southwest room has since been partitioned) with L-shaped stairs along the pool-side wall leading to the second story.

The interior finishes of the first floor are mostly intact. The exterior walls and some of the interior are painted brick. The interior walls between the locker rooms, and between the locker rooms and the wings are composed of wood paneled doors with translucent transoms, potentially allowing the entire first floor to be opened into a single long room. The flooring in the entrance vestibule, locker rooms, and wings is terrazzo. The shower and bathrooms have tiled floors, as well as marble partitions and historic porcelain fixtures. The ceilings are exposed concrete beams that have been painted.

The second story is more open than the first, with cathedral ceilings extending the full height of the peaked roofs. The center section is partitioned along the building's short axis by a full-height wall, and along the long axis by a shorter brick wall open above to the cathedral ceiling. The rooms in the wings are mostly open space, with newer partitions in the southwest room along the side exterior wall, and a half-height wall enclosing the staircase in the northwest room. Most of the historic walls are brick. The exposed ceiling comprises large steel beams running the long axis of the building, supporting wood rafters and roof deck.

Pool (ca. 1931; contributing structure)

The pool is a large concrete structure, horseshoe-shaped in plan; it is more than 300 feet in diameter at its widest point and can hold approximately 1.5 million gallons of water. It increases in depth from a few inches towards the outer rim to eight feet near the center. Stanchions linked with a rope mark the four-foot depth; a diving platform was built at the very center at the pool's deepest point.

Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology (1954-55; contributing building)

The brick school consists of four wings arranged in a K-shaped in plan. The main entrance, at the intersection of the two angled front wings and facing northeast, features a Modern abstraction of a classical portico with four concrete piers

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supporting a flat concrete lintel, screening a double-height glass curtain wall. The single-story front wings feature concrete lintels spanning the width of long rows of triple windows comprising double-hung sash and rectangular transoms. The ends of the wings are plain brick walls unbroken except for a recessed central entrance below a concrete lintel. The front facades of the two-story rear wings feature two layers of similar triple windows; the rear facades have triple windows on the second story and smaller, single windows on the ground floor. The ends of these wings are unadorned brick, with small brick porticos and a narrow strip of translucent panels below concrete lintels. The projecting rear pavilion, centered between the wings, features several large translucent windows and two large entrances accessed by a more recent ramp.

Other cited resources

In addition to those resources already outlined, this nomination additionally includes the memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1993), a non-contributing structure. The athletic complex in the park's northwest section, near former Public School No. 24, is also cited as a non-contributing structure.

Returned

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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.)

Community Planning & Development

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1852-1955

Significant Dates

1852; 1890; 1913; 1930-33; 1955

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.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Charles Downing Lay; Thomas L. Gleason, Jr.;

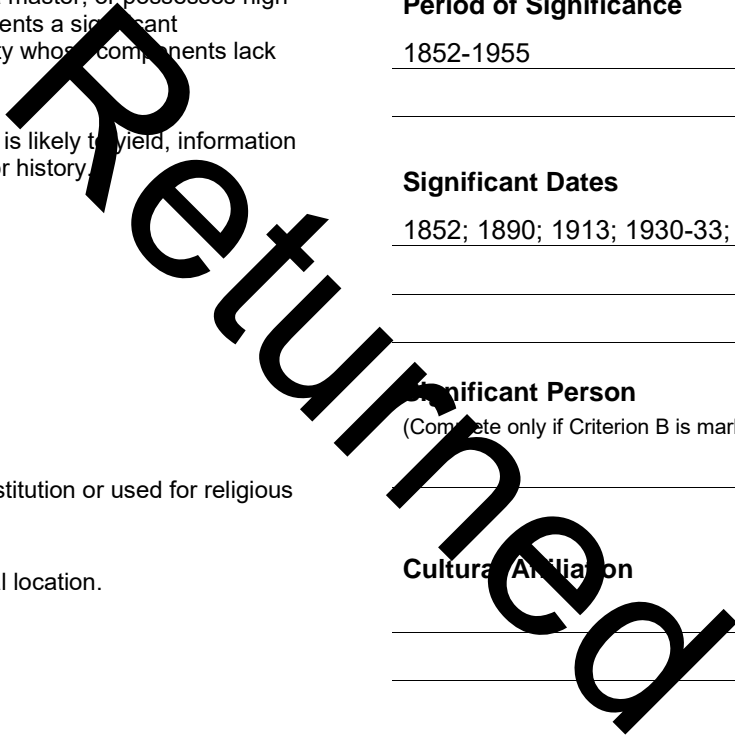
James S. Shattuck

Period of Significance (justification)

The cited period of significance begins with the construction of the James Hall Office, in 1852, which was subsumed within the park at the time of its creation; the terminal date, 1955, reflects the completion of former Public School No. 24, now the Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A



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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Lincoln Park is significant under Criterion A in the area of entertainment/recreation, and under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. The irregularly shaped site is bounded by Delaware Avenue, Park Avenue, Eagle Street, and Morton Avenue. Contributing built resources associated with the property include the Colonial Revival-style bathhouse, the horseshoe-shaped swimming pool, the former James Hall Office (listed in the State/National Registers of Historic Places and a National Historic Landmark), and Public School 24/Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology. Contributing landscape features include the vehicular and pedestrian circulation system, and what is referred to as "the bowl," a manmade feature. Additional resources that are considered non-contributing include the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. memorial, which does not yet meet the 50 year eligibility requirement.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Site and Early History

Lincoln Park is located in a natural depression, part of which comprises the "hollow," the sunken area in which are now located the athletic fields. The Beaver Kill—sometimes referred to as Beaver Creek—was one of the three major streams that flowed through Albany to the Hudson River and traversed the northern section of the park, flowing through the ravine and then along a curved path around the north edge of the pool and through the center of the athletic fields. A small waterfall, named Buttermilk Falls due to its frothy nature, was located at the eastern end of the ravine, near where the community garden now stands.

In 1626 the park was the site of a well-remembered battle between Dutch colonists and their Mahican allies against a group of Mohawks; the Dutch commander and a number of others were killed, an event now memorialized by the informal name of Dead Man's Hill in the southern section of the park.³

During the second half of the eighteenth century most of the land now occupied by Lincoln Park (everything south of the Beaver Kill) was owned by Philip Schuyler, a wealthy and socially prominent Albany native who accumulated substantial landholdings throughout the city and New York State. Upon his death in 1804, his Albany estate was readied for development.⁴ The existing street grid was extended through the area, with many of the new streets named for Schuyler relatives.⁵ The blocks east of Hawk Street were immediately subdivided into building lots, which developed slowly over the course of the 19th century into the South End residential neighborhood. The area west of Hawk Street, including the park site, remained sparsely developed for much longer, being sold in large tracts to a few prominent Albany families.

At the northern edge of the Schuyler estate, the water power provided by the Beaver Kill attracted a different sort of development: industry. In 1729 Evert Wendell petitioned the city for land and water rights on the creek in order to build "the first grist mill that ever was built within the limits of this city."⁷ His petition was deferred by the city council but he built the grist mill anyway, along with a saw mill, brewery, and possibly a chocolate factory—all powered by the Beaver Kill and located near where the Lincoln Park swimming pool now stands.

By 1800 the Wendell mills were abandoned and the area went through a period of relative disuse (at least according to the historic record). The creek, however, eventually lured a new generation of industrial entrepreneurs, lead in 1857 by Frederick Hinckel and Andreas Schinnerer. They established the Cataract Brewery, named for Buttermilk Falls, at the

³ The Dutch colonists had instigated the attack by breaking their neutrality agreement with the Iroquois nations. Rebecca Kurtz, "Lincoln Park," Albany Walks for Health, accessed August 18, 2016, <http://www.albanywalksforhealth.com/items/show/5>.

⁴ "A Map of Land in and near City of Albany, surveyed in June 1808 for the heirs of the late Philip Schuyler Esq., John Randall, Jr. 29 Nov. 1808."

⁵ Morton Street, which forms the southern border of the Lincoln Park, was named for Schuyler's son-in-law Washington Morton, who married Cornelia Schuyler.

⁶ Much of which is preserved in the South End-Groesbeckville Historic District.

⁷ Albany Common Council minutes for January 6, 1729, quoted in Joel Munsell, *Annals of Albany* 9 (Albany, NY: Munsell & Rowland, 1858). 41.

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corner of Swan Street and Park Avenue.⁸ Other beer manufacturers soon followed, including the Dobler Brewing Company, which set up shop directly across Swan Street from Hinckel's operation (at the northeast corner of Myrtle Avenue).

The same clay-rich soil that helped keep the beer kegs cool during the lagering process also made the Lincoln Park area an ideal location for brick manufacturing. During the second half of the 19th century several large producers operated around the edge of the park, including M. H. Bender (near the northwest corner at Delaware Avenue and Dove Street) and Babcock & Moore (on Morton Ave between Hawk and Eagle).

James Hall

The most famous of the 19th century estates established on former Schuyler landholding—and the only one of which any trace remains—was built by the noted geologist and paleontologist James Hall (1811-98). By 1852 Hall had commissioned a tidy office building for himself, designed by the famous architects and landscape designers Alexander Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux (it was listed as a National Historic Landmark and on the National Register in 1976, and on the State Register in 1980). In many ways it resembled some of the Italianate villas published by Downing a year earlier in his 1851 treatise *The Architecture of Country Houses*. Its most distinctive feature is the asymmetrical plan, with a taller main block containing the primary facade in its gable end, and a smaller side wing with perpendicular gable. Like many of Downing's Picturesque compositions, a tower anchors the interior corner of the building's two sections. Though relatively modest in terms of architectural ornament, the building has several round-arched windows that are a hallmark of the Italianate style that Downing helped popularize through his writings.

According to most accounts, Hall was more interested in his scientific pursuits than his domestic life, spending most of his time in his office. It is not known exactly when he built the main house on his estate—but by the 1870s he owned all or portions of eight city blocks from Delaware Avenue to Hawk Street, between Catherine and Martin Streets, with a residence occupying the high ground at the southwest corner of the park (where the tennis courts are now located).⁹

Hall graduated from Rensselaer School (now Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) in 1832 and was soon hired in 1835 for the New York State geological survey. After serving briefly as an assistant he was elevated to principal scientist covering the 4th district. His report, *Geology of New York, Part Four*, was published in 1843 and quickly became part of the official canon in the study of New York geological history. From 1843-94 Hall continued to work with the state government, producing eight volumes of a paleontological survey titled *New York State Natural History: Paleontology*.

Hall's office was built in large part to house his extensive collection of paleontological and geological specimens. Though widely considered a temperamental curmudgeon, he also tutored a generation of scientists in the building, establishing a tradition of educational endeavors in Lincoln Park (which continues today with the Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology).¹⁰ According to the National Register nomination for the office, "the list of the men who throughout the second half of the nineteenth century spent time working in the red brick office in Albany reads like the geology committee of the National Academy of Sciences."¹¹

Hall was appointed director of the New York State Museum in 1866, and in 1893 the position of state geologist was created especially for him. His relationship with government was not without problems, however, and in 1885 the state required Hall to move his office, and his vast collections, to an official facility.

James Hall died in 1898, a few years after Albany had authorized the creation of the park that was to subsume his entire urban estate. His house has long since disappeared, but his office remains—though it has experienced several phases of

⁸ Hinckel eventually bought out his partner (who had acquired his own operation in Schenectady), so the brewery is largely associated with his name. Some of the later buildings, dating from the 1880s, still stand on Park Avenue overlooking the ravine in Lincoln Park.

⁹ Several accounts note that his house was built in 1880, although this likely replaced an earlier building, which is clearly depicted on the 1876 map.

¹⁰ TOAST honors Hall directly with a geological rock park at the southeast corner of the school.

¹¹ NR Nomination, 8:4.

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redevelopment and alteration. One of the most significant was its conversion to the Sunshine School, a facility for special-needs students, which required it to be “completely rebuilt and remodeled, with adequate and properly ventilated classrooms, dietary facilities, and solarium for rest purposes.”¹² This was accomplished as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project approved in 1936 and completed in 1937. Changes to the exterior consisted of a raised porch with many large casement windows wrapping around the east and south facades of the building’s side wing, as well as the reconfiguration of the main entrance and flanking windows. The following year, in 1938, the WPA built the adjacent comfort station that still stands.¹³ A much larger addition was built to the south in 1977, though the bones of the historic building are still very much discernable today.¹⁴

Martinville and the Creation of Beaver Park

Just a block or two away from the elegant Hall estate, the community of Martinville developed around the time of the Civil War in the 1860s. It was by reputation a rather ramshackle neighborhood—often erroneously labeled a shantytown—consisting primarily of Irish immigrants living in cheaply constructed wood-framed buildings.¹⁵ The heart of the community was a group of about 90 row houses occupying several full block fronts between Swan and Hawk Street, from Providence to Warren Streets (right where the swimming pool and its lawn are now located). As depicted in a photograph from 1892, these buildings stepped down the hill in regular, if somewhat unkempt, lines. Scattered across the bottom of the bowl were individual houses and workshops set within a barren landscape.¹⁶

As the city grew in the late 19th century, the mostly undeveloped area around Lincoln Park was finally enveloped by dense urban neighborhoods. No longer on the city’s periphery and out of site, Martinville quickly became widely reviled as an unhealthy and, to some, downright dangerous location. Much of this was due to its proximity of the Beaver Kill creek, which by this time carried much of the city’s sewage to the Hudson River.¹⁷ Portions of the creek east of Swan Street had already been enclosed in a proper underground sewer, but the section to the west remained open.¹⁸ In 1884 the area was condemned by the State Board of Health, which noted the “nuisances dangerous to the life and detrimental to the health of not only the immediate vicinity, but also of the inhabitants of a large part of the most thickly built portions of the city, including the governor’s residence.”¹⁹

In the following years there were various proposals by Albany city officials to clean up the area. A new Martinville sewer was constructed, but soon failed. By 1886 the city was considering what many considered the only possible solution—complete destruction of Martinville and its replacement with a city park. That November Mayor Thatcher offered a resolution:

“Whereas, a nuisance has existed for a long time in that portion of the city known as Martinville...and, Whereas, The board of health and many citizens have brought to the attention of this board a plan for remedying the same, through the creation of an artificial pond or lake, and together with making a small public park and place of public recreation with the same...Resolved, That this board refer the said plans to

¹² “Sunshine School in Lincoln Park,” *Albany Times Union* (January 4, 1938), 5. Students were supposed to take an hour nap each day on the sunroom porch.

¹³ The building is similar to other WPA-built structures in Albany, particularly the comfort station in Swinburne Park completed the same year.

¹⁴ The addition was already in the planning stages when the site was listed as a National Historic Landmark and on the National Register in 1976.

¹⁵ Though cheaply constructed, the majority of the buildings were obviously part of a planned development (unlike a true shantytown), occupying regularly-sized lots and erected as a cohesive group.

¹⁶ *Public Parks of the City of Albany*, following page 42.

¹⁷ One newspaper article issued a call to action, arguing that, “something must be done to relieve the people living in that section from the nuisance caused by the drainage from nearly the entire northwestern section of the city.” “A Sanitary Problem,” *Albany Morning Express* (March 3, 1887), 1.

¹⁸ Beaver Creek was enclosed from the Hudson as far west as Grand Street sometime between the 1810s and 1840s; the section of Johnson Street containing the brick-arch sewer was renamed Arch Street. The portion of the creek between Swan and Grand Street was buried sometime between 1866 and 1876.

¹⁹ Quoted in “A Sanitary Problem,” *Albany Morning Express* (March 3, 1887), 1.

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the commissioners of the Washington park, which body must be charged the creating, holding and maintaining of said lake and park.²⁰

After several years of study and political wrangling, the Commissioners of Washington Park finally received authorization in 1890 to purchase land for what was then known as Beaver Park.²¹

The city appropriated \$350,000 for the new park, most of which was to be spent on acquiring property through eminent domain. In 1892 architect Adolph Fleishman surveyed the area and presented an estimate of costs to the Beaver Park Commission. The following year city surveyors continued to map out the lots, and in 1894 the remaining buildings on the site were auctioned off—the more substantial brick structures selling for \$10-100, while the modest frame buildings in the hollow were sold in groups, a row of six fetching only \$5.²² Most of the Irish residents of Martinville who were forced out of their houses relocated to the Gander Bay neighborhood (more commonly known today as Sheridan Hollow).

To some observers, the creation of Beaver Park was primarily (as one newspaper headline put it) “A Sanitary Affair”—an effective way to solve a difficult public works problem in a rapidly developing neighborhood.²³ Others saw it (usually positively, at least in newspaper accounts) as a slum clearance project, a way for the government to remove a allegedly blighted section of the city and increase property values on the adjacent blocks. For William S. Egerton, the energetic Superintendent of Parks who greatly expanded the city’s parks system in the late 19th century, it was a real opportunity to establish one of Albany’s premier open spaces. He felt that “the former topographical conditions of the site of Beaver Park were exceedingly picturesque” and that “the proper treatment...be made exceedingly attractive.” In an 1892 pamphlet, accompanying several photographs of the Martinville area, he wrote, “It may, at some future day (not so far distant as the present conditions would seem to warrant), be interesting to compare these views with others to be taken when this area is improved.”²⁴

The Slow Development of Beaver Park

In spite of Egerton’s optimism that Beaver Park would be quickly transformed into a manicured public park, its design and construction would proceed in fits and starts over the course of several decades. By summer of 1894 all of the buildings had been removed from the site and workers started regrading the area, moving large quantities of earth from the steep hillsides into the basin of the bowl, covering the stagnant lake and trash heaps.²⁵ New grass was planted, and “children were roaming about and their parents either walked or sat and breathed pure air in the spot which will soon be Beaver park.”²⁶ The work of grading and preparing the site was still ongoing in 1895, however, although Egerton—ever the optimist—claimed that “the surface work of soiling, seeding or planting...can be done next season.”²⁷

One of the first notable improvements to the park was the opening of a children’s playground in July 1900. The project was the first major victory by the Albany Mother’s Club, and was lauded as the first “non-passive” park in Albany, known as the Central Playground.²⁸ The playground was adjacent to the James Hall Office, and included several swings, a croquet ground, baseball field (“for boys”), and a large sand pile “where youngsters may dig to their hearts’ content.”²⁹ Several rooms in the building were fitted out for kindergarten classes, where “mothers may feel perfectly safe in leaving very small children there to be cared for during class hours.”³⁰

²⁰ “A Sanitary Problem,” *Albany Morning Express* (March 3, 1887), 1.

²¹ The authorization came under Chapter 449 of the Laws of 1890, sponsored by Assemblymember Nolan, and Chapter 134 of the Laws of 1892.

²² “Practically Concluded,” *Albany Morning Express* (April 3, 1894), 5.

²³ “A Sanitary Problem,” *Albany Morning Express* (March 3, 1887), 1.

²⁴ *The Public Parks of the City of Albany, N.Y.* (Albany, NY: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1892), 41.

²⁵ “Martinville Has Disappeared,” *Albany Morning Express* (July 17, 1894), 7.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ “Park Season Has Closed,” *Albany Evening Journal* (November 24, 1899), 10.

²⁸ The Mother’s Club, later the Women’s Club, was formed the previous year in 1899. It also advocated for playgrounds in Dudley Park (opened 1904) and Swinburne Park (1908), amongst its other achievements.

²⁹ “The Children’s Playground,” *Albany Evening Journal* (May 30, 1900), 5.

³⁰ “Playground to be Open Soon,” *Albany Evening Journal* (July 6, 1900), 5.

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Postcards from the early 1900s show that the landscaping long predicted by Egerton was finally accomplished. Pedestrian paths and vehicular drives wound through verdant green lawns—still mostly open with only a few mature trees towering above rows of newly planted saplings. A roadway, lined with rocky ledges, was built through the former Beaver Kill ravine in the northwest corner of the park.

Even then, large portions of Beaver Park remained undeveloped, particularly the section east of Swan Street occupying the Martinville valley (whose steep topography required more intensive efforts to regrade). In 1912 the city passed yet another ordinance authorizing the completion of the park and appropriating an additional \$50,000 for the effort. The following year landscape architect Charles Downing Lay was hired to draw up the first comprehensive plan for the entire Beaver Park site.³¹ This work was part of a larger civic improvement program in Albany, which in turn was influenced by the nationwide City Beautiful movement. During the 1910s—under the administration of Mayor James B. McEwan—Lay and his close collaborator, architect Arnold W. Brunner, developed a whole series of design proposals for public spaces through the city.³² In addition to Beaver Park, the pair produced designs for Swinburne Park, State Street, Sheridan Park, and the waterfront—many of which were eventually realized.³³

Lay's design included modest improvements to the already-developed western section of the park and more radical interventions in the blank canvas of the eastern section. In the former, he proposed rearranging the Central Playground and enlarging the surrounding landscaping to include a formal garden with pergola and wading pool. In writing about these changes, Lay noted that, "the picturesque old house...once the home of Dr. James Hall...is to be remodeled and used for children's recreation in bad weather...the proportions of this building are so graceful that it is well worth while to give it the surrounding that it needs."³⁴ Along Delaware Avenue he laid out fifteen tennis courts, and redesigned and relocated a bandshell that he believed "is not well placed."³⁵ Lay also felt that the ravine was too steep for automobile traffic, so he converted the path through it for pedestrian use, which he hoped "with proper planting will make it one of the most picturesque features of the Albany Parks."³⁶

The centerpiece of Lay's plan for the eastern section was a huge athletic complex—still a rather novel civic amenity—located at the bottom of the park's steep slopes. From above, the complex resembled two ovals intersecting in the shape of a T. The wider oval comprising the stem of the T held various sports fields "of standard size." The narrower oval at the top of the T accommodated a quarter-mile running track enclosing a regulation baseball diamond or football field—which would host the most important athletic contests since spectators could watch from the sloping banks on three sides; a broad flight of stairs along the northwest edge could also serve as a grand stand.³⁷ The fields could be flooded in winter for ice skating, and were "large enough for pageants, out-of-doors performances and public gatherings of many kinds and it should soon become the open-air amusement center of the city."³⁸

Just up the stairs from the running track and across the driveway, Lay envisioned a large swimming pool for adults (almost where the existing swimming pool is located) with an adjacent wading pool for children. Both were supposed to

³¹ An early history of the park notes that the "first definite plans concerning Beaver Park are to be found in the report of the Bureau of Engineering, ending October 31, 1913. It notes: 'On the request of Arnold W. Brunner, city planner, and at the request of the Commissioner of Public Works and City Engineer, James G. Brenner, the Board of Contract and Supply retained Charles Downing Lay, landscape artist, to advise the Commissioner and City Engineer as to the best way to complete Beaver Park.'" "South End Boasts Great Playground on Hallowed Soil," *Albany Evening Journal* (July 22, 1936), 24.

³² Brunner had initially been hired by McEwan to design a new terminus for State Street. He soon won other commissions, and it was at his request that Lay was hired for the Beaver Park commission.

³³ These works are summarized in a small, copiously-illustrated book, *Studies for Albany*, published in 1914. In it, Brunner was careful to note that, "no attempt has been made to prepare a City Planning survey of Albany nor make a complete City Plan." Furthermore, he recognized that, "the different items of the program are to be executed...when the conditions are favorable and the funds are at hand...consequently, many of the recommendations made in this report are in the nature of suggestions for the future."

³⁴ *Studies*, 59.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ *Ibid.* Lay wished the natural beauty of the ravine would be compared to the Vale of Cashmere in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. Instead, residents continued to use the area as a dumping ground.

³⁷ The designers thought that, "in the course of time it may be...desirable to continue the steps all around the field" to provide formal seating for athletic events.

³⁸ *Studies for Albany*, 51.

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have “the appearance of a natural lake with sandy shores and bottom and to provide all the delights of ‘the old swimming hole.’”³⁹ He also planned a large dressing pavilion at the top of the stairs—centered on the athletic field below, not quite in the exact position of the current bathhouse—to be built of concrete with a red tile roof, “of simple design that would contrast pleasantly with the rich green of the trees at each side.”⁴⁰ A dense hedge was to surround the pool, directing patrons through the pavilion.

The plantings around the athletic field were laid out in rigid rows, “but on the undulating parts beyond the planting merges into the older [western] portions of the park” and was more Picturesque in appearance. Lay in fact placed great emphasis on this contrast, writing:

“The portion east of Swan Street is in a deep bowl or what is practically a natural amphitheater with steeply sloping sides. The plan for the improvement of this undeveloped portion of the park was made with the intention of utilizing the elements of design provided by the natural condition of the ground. This is not an ordinary park with trees and lawns, hills and meadows, roads and paths. It includes them all but besides this it is endowed with the possibilities of a great athletic field which can be one of the most attractive in the country. In other words, the two methods of treatment, the formal and the natural, are blended in one design, each being used where the conditions demand.”⁴¹

Most of Lay’s design was eventually built as intended. The eastern section of Beaver Park survives intact to this day, including the arrangement of the athletic fields and many of the drives and pedestrian pathways.⁴² Even the reconstruction of the pool and bathhouse in the 1930s largely respected his original scheme. The western section has been more substantially altered, particularly with the construction of Public School 24 in 1955. The tennis courts have been shifted slightly to the south along Delaware Avenue, and the James Hall Office has received a rather large addition and its carefully landscaped surroundings converted into a playground. The general layout, however, including the drives and pedestrian paths, and the rugged nature of the ravine is substantially the same. Now on its way to completion, in 1916 the name of Beaver Park was changed to Lincoln Park.⁴³

Lincoln Park Pool and Bath House

Construction work on Lincoln Park continued through the 1920s. A newspaper article from 1923 noted that “Lincoln Park, which was the football of politics for several years, will finally be completed and the city will have full advantage of the natural amphitheatre afforded by the park.”⁴⁴ The eastern section was finally graded and 3,500 trees and shrubs were planted. Lay’s vision for a large swimming pool, wading pool, and dressing pavilion adjacent to the athletic fields remained unexecuted. Instead, a smaller pool was built at the eastern end of the ravine, near where the Buttermilk Falls were once located. Known as the Rocky Ledge Pool and opened in 1922, it was semi-natural with a sandy bottom laid over a natural layer of shale. This construction proved problematic, as water would slowly leak through the bottom, and by the late 1920s the city was considering options to either repair or replace the pool.⁴⁵

The city eventually decided to build a new pool, which was officially announced in December 1929 by Mayor John B. Thacher.⁴⁶ Located east of Swan Street in nearly the exact location specified by Lay in his master plan for Lincoln Park, the massive structure—containing approximately 1.5 million gallons and stretching more than 300 feet across—was

³⁹ *Studies for Albany*, 54.

⁴⁰ *Studies for Albany*, 51.

⁴¹ *Studies for Albany*, 51.

⁴² Perhaps the most notable difference is the absence of a playground in the southeast corner of the park, which was supposed to have a wading pool, sand piles, slides, swings, and a babies’ lawn next to a shady pergola for mothers.

⁴³ A later commentator noted this was done “by a patriotic but unimaginative Common Council.”

⁴⁴ “Man in street Talks Hackett, Praises Work,” *Albany Times-Union* (July 9, 1923), 9.

⁴⁵ Many accounts erroneously claimed the pool was closed because sewage from the buried Beaverkill Creek seeped upward into the pool. The Department of Public Works knew from an early date that the real problem was that the pool was leaking too quickly through its natural bottom and that it couldn’t be kept above the level of the outfall pipe, causing the remaining water to stagnate. “Rocky Ledge Pool Closed to Locate Leaks in Bottom,” *Albany Evening News* (August 5, 1927), 15.

⁴⁶ “Mayor to Ask New Lincoln Park Recreation Facilities,” *Albany Times Union* (December 18, 1929), 2.

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widely cited as the first and only outdoor, non-wading pool in all of Albany.⁴⁷ The unusual shape of the pool resembled a horseshoe in plan and increased in depth from a few inches towards the rim to eight feet near the center.⁴⁸ A series of stanchions linked with a rope marked the four foot depth and served as a safety barrier for less experienced swimmers, while a diving platform was built at the very center at its deepest point. As always, unexpected delays occurred during the pool's construction, but it finally opened with much fanfare on July 4, 1931.

Thacher, in announcing the new pool, also suggested a bathhouse would be built for use by both swimmers and athletes using the adjacent fields. This was accomplished in two phases, both designed by architect Thomas Liston Gleason, Jr. (1890-1972). The first section opened 1931, at the same time as the pool, and consisted of the entire first story and the flanking two-story pavilions with steeply pitched gabled roofs.

The second phase, comprising the center section above the first story, was planned and built in 1933. According to a newspaper article, "the addition to the Lincoln Park Bath House comprises the roof area...between the present end pavilions on the second floor. In the new addition will be large men's and women's dressing rooms. The general plan being that the men and women will use the upper floor and the boys and girls the first floor."⁴⁹ Construction was similar to the original building with brick walls and a steel frame.

The construction of the bathhouse largely completed Lay's original master plan for Lincoln Park. Gleason's design, however, was notably different than that proposed by Lay almost two decades earlier. Instead of a monumental Beaux Arts structure centered on axis with the athletic fields, the bathhouse was a relatively modest, slightly off-axis Colonial Revival building much more in keeping with the Depression-era public projects of the 1930s.⁵⁰ The most lavish elements of the building are the arcaded porches at the building's four corners, which feature elaborate terra-cotta-clad spiral columns with Corinthian capitals. The bulk of the first phase was rather plain, with large expanses of brick walls only occasionally interrupted by window or door openings. The building's second phase, comprising the second story of the main block, is a little more embellished, with numerous round-arched windows featuring radiating muntins in the top sash. The tower rising above the exact center of the building contains two clock faces meant to be visible from all parts of the swimming pool and park.

Public School 24 and Subsequent History

After the pool and bathhouse effectively completed Lay's master plan for Lincoln Park in the 1930s, more recent additions and alterations have brought the park to its current state. The most significant intervention was the construction in 1954-55 of School 24, now known as the Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology. It replaced the former PS 24 on Delaware Avenue, which had burned down, and also accepted students from schools 9 and 11, accommodating approximately 1,000 pupils in total. Called the "Two Million Dollar School" by the local press, it contained a large primary gym, two smaller ancillary gyms, and a 550-seat auditorium reportedly modeled after Radio City Music Hall.⁵¹

Public School 24 was designed by architect James S. Shattuck and is a representative example of midcentury Modern school architecture.⁵² It was one of only a handful of new public schools erected in Albany during the mid-20th century, along with two other public schools and three private ones.⁵³ Unlike the city's earlier school buildings, which were usually located in denser residential neighborhoods and were clearly part of Albany's urban fabric, PS 24's setting in Lincoln Park

⁴⁷ Since the new pool was built on a different site, some city officials imagined that the Rocky Ledge pool would remain open to increase capacity.

⁴⁸ The shape of the pool was slightly different from Lay's design. It also the neighboring wading pond (the beginner's area being incorporated directly into the main pool itself).

⁴⁹ "Lincoln Park Bath House," *Albany Times Union* (April 23), 1933, D-7.

⁵⁰ While the building resembles recreation facilities built under the Works Progress Administration and other New Deal work relief initiatives (such as the Bleecker Stadium field house in Albany's North End), it appears that the Lincoln Park bathhouse was begun before these programs were ever created.

⁵¹ "School 24, Which Will Open Sept. 7, Described as Meeting 50-Year Needs," *Albany Knickerbocker News* (August 22, 1955), B-13.

⁵² In the 1910s Shattuck had a short-lived partnership with Thomas L. Gleason, who later designed the Lincoln Park bathhouse.

⁵³ Others included the Giffen Memorial Elementary School (1960) and the Arbor Hill Elementary School (1973). Private schools from the period include the Cardinal McCloskey High School on Elm Street (1950s, demolished for Empire State Plaza), its successor on Slingerland Street (1967), and the Bishop Maginn High School on Park Avenue just across from Lincoln Park (date not determined).

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gave it an almost suburban character.⁵⁴ The building's architecture enhances this feeling; the low, freestanding two-story structure was clearly meant to be viewed in the round, with fully designed facades on all sides. The K-shaped plan is symmetrical, with the main entrance nestled at the crux of the building's four wings and featuring a modern interpretation of a classical portico.

From the late 1950s through the 1970s the streets facing the northeastern edge of the park were substantially changed with the creation of Empire State Plaza, a Modernist complex of state government buildings designed by architect Wallace Harrison. Perhaps taking inspiration from this project, the city in 1982 proposed turning the eastern section of the park into a civic center—a vision that was never realized.

In 1993 the section of Swan Street running through Lincoln Park was renamed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and a memorial in his honor was erected near the intersection of that street and Morton Avenue. Not without controversy, the memorial was designed by Daniel Hershberg with sculptures by Eileen Barry.⁵⁵

Though the park has experienced periods of use, neglect, and rejuvenation, it continues to serve its same function first proposed as early as 1886. The master plan for the park created by Charles Downing Lay in the 1910s is largely intact, especially with the completion of the playground bathhouse in the 1930s, and the more recent additions have furthered a long-standing tradition (going back to the time of James Hall) of using portions of the park for educational purposes. It is, and has long been, one of Albany's premier open spaces.

Returned

⁵⁴ In 1953 the State Legislature had to pass a special bill authorizing the city to build a school within a public park. "Striking New Lincoln Park School Will Open on Sept. 7," *Albany Times-Union* (August 26, 1955), 2.

⁵⁵ According to contemporary accounts, the project was originally proposed by Mayor Thomas M. Whalen III and "lacked the appropriate participation of the black community." "King Memorial Marked by Controversy," *Albany Sunday Gazette* (August 1, 1993), B1.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Arnold W. Brunner and Charles Downing Lay, *Studies for Albany* (Bartlett-Orr Press: Albany, NY, 1914).

G. M. Hopkins, City atlas of Albany, New York (1876), Plate L.

The Public Parks of the City of Albany, N. Y. (Albany, NY: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1892)

James Sheire, "James Hall's Office," National Register Nomination (July 1976).

Diana S. Waite, ed., Albany Architecture: A Guide to the City (Albany, NY: Mount Ida Press, 1993).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 67.16 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>600905</u>	<u>4722601</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>601440</u>	<u>4721942</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18</u>	<u>601331</u>	<u>4722417</u>	5	<u>18</u>	<u>600725</u>	<u>4722191</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>18</u>	<u>601499</u>	<u>4722165</u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is comprised of tax parcel 76.10-1-3 (encompassing the entirety of the park) and is depicted on the enclosed mapping, which is entitled "Lincoln Park, City of Albany, Albany Co., NY." Maps were drawn at a scale of 1:24,000, 1:12,000, and 1: 9,000.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of this nomination have been drawn to encompass the area historically associated with Lincoln Park, including the property now owned by the City School District of Albany containing the James Hall Office and Public School 24/Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science and Technology. No additional or "buffer" land is included.

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

Albany, New York
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christopher D. Brazee
organization _____ date August 2016
street & number 174 4th Street telephone 518-279-6229
city or town Troy state NY zip code 12180
e-mail Chris@BrazeePhotography.com

Additional Documentation

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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: Lincoln Park
City or Vicinity: Albany
County: Albany State: New York
Photographer: Christopher D. Brazee
Date Photographed: April 2016 and November 2016

- 001 View looking to the northeast, towards downtown Albany
- 002 View of ravine at northwest side of park, looking north
- 003 James Hall Office, view looking to the north
- 004 James Hall Office, view looking to east
- 005 Bathhouse, view looking west
- 006 Bathhouse, view looking to northwest
- 007 Bathhouse, view looking to east (pool-side elevation)
- 008 Bathhouse, view looking to southeast
- 009 Bathhouse, interior, view showing first-floor changing room
- 010 Bathhouse, interior, view showing first-floor changing room
- 011 Bathhouse, interior, view showing lockers in changing room
- 012 Bathhouse, interior, detail view showing paneled wall screen and doors
- 013 Bathhouse, interior, upper floor exercise room
- 014 Bathhouse, interior, upper floor exercise room
- 015 Pool, view looking west
- 016 Comfort station, view looking to northwest
- 017 James Hall office, view looking south
- 018 James Hall office, view looking north showing addition
- 019 Public School No. 24, view looking west
- 020 Public School No. 24, detail view of entrance portico
- 021 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

Returned

Lincoln Park
Name of Property

Albany, New York
County and State

Property Owner:

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

name City of Albany
street & number 200 Henry Johnson Boulevard telephone 518-465-6066
city or town Albany state NY zip code 12210

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

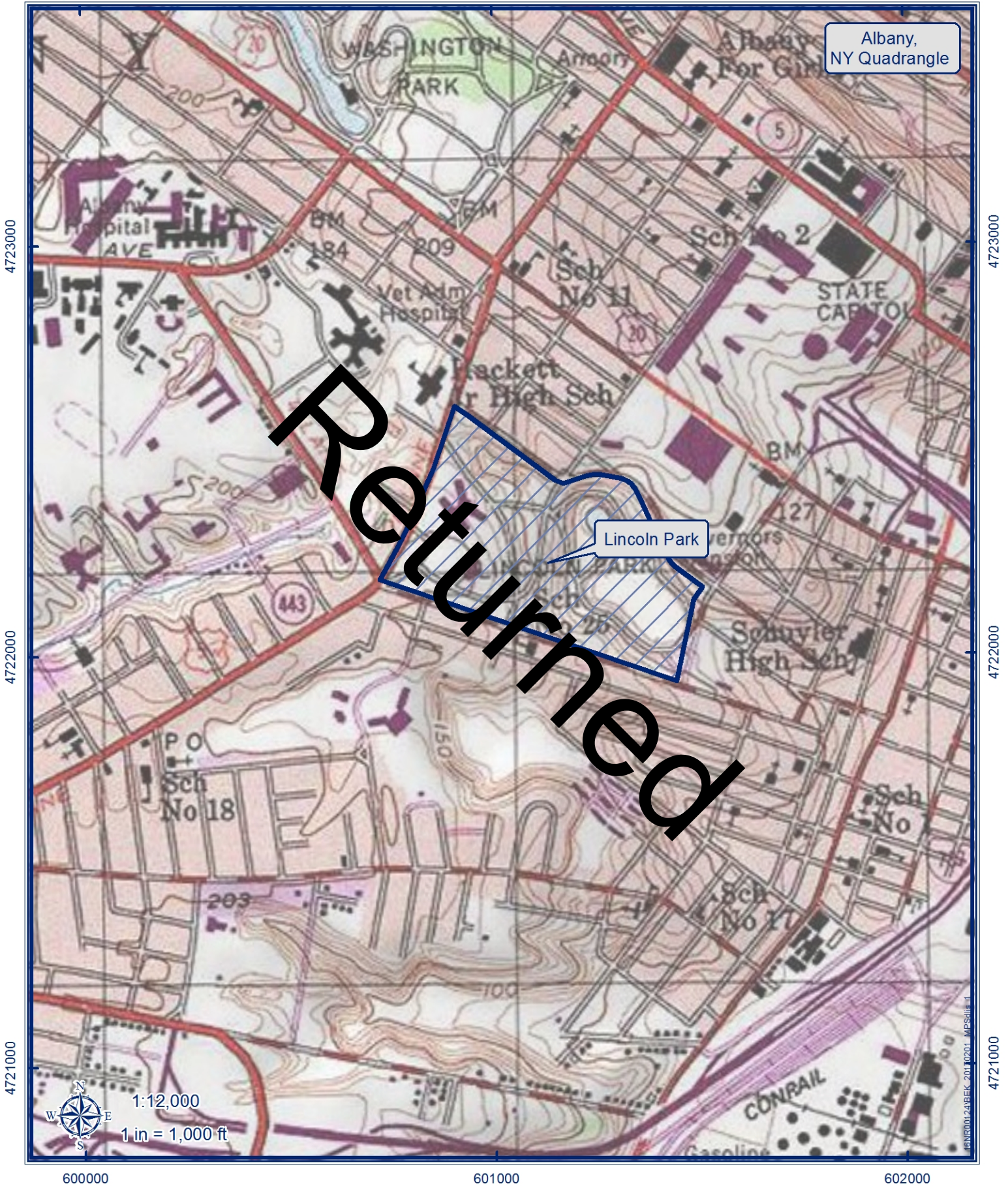
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

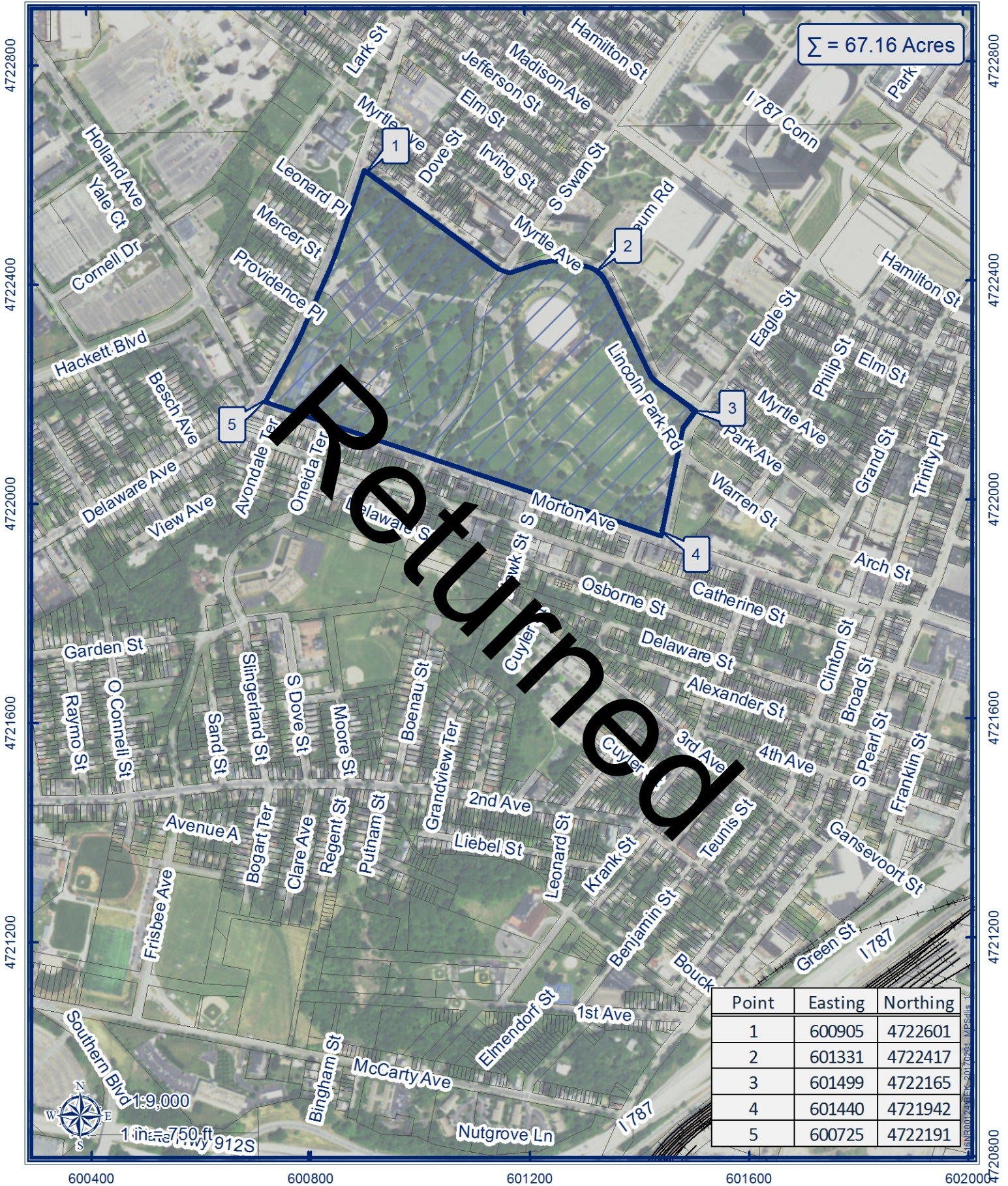
Returned



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter





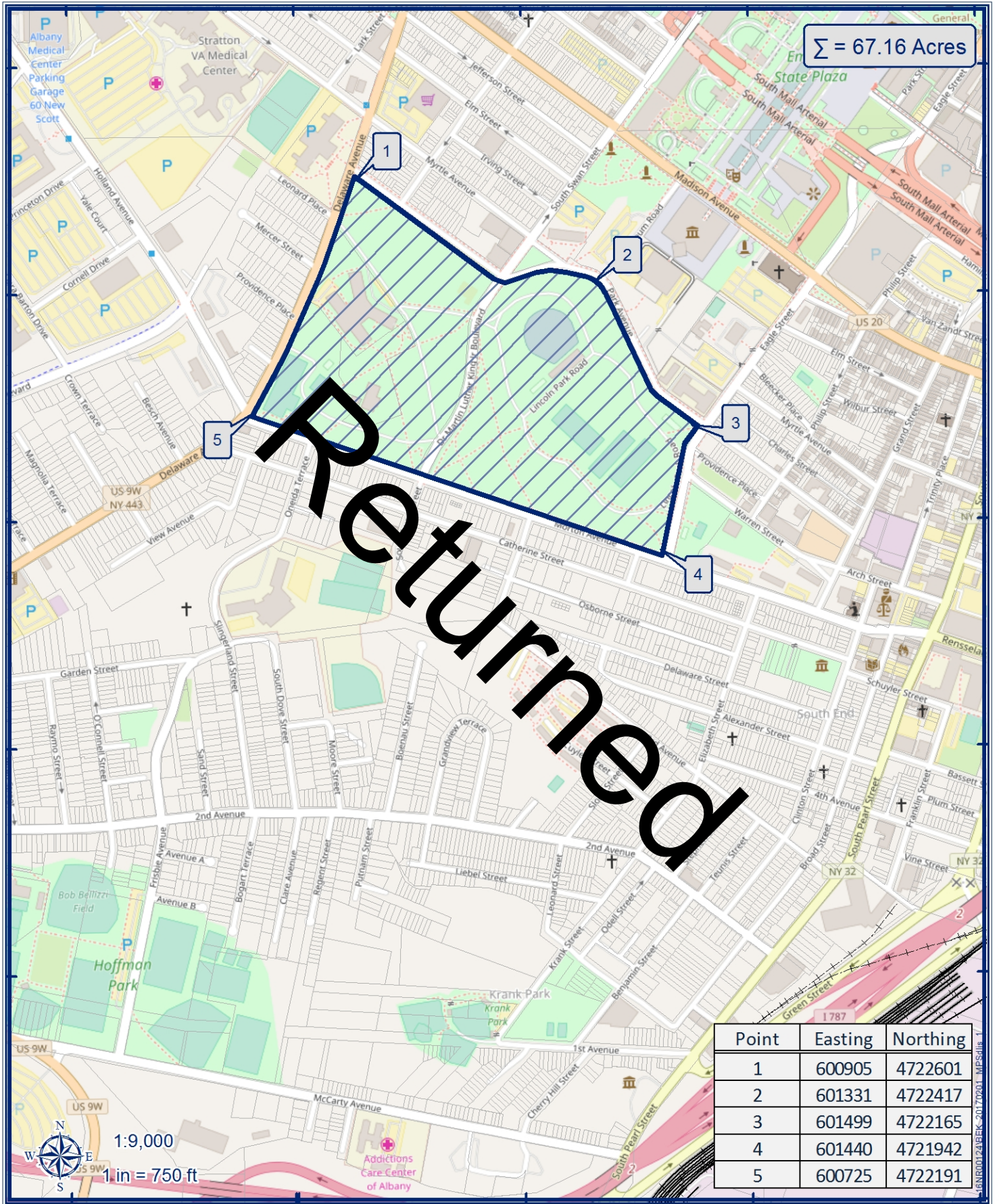


Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Σ = 67.16 Acres

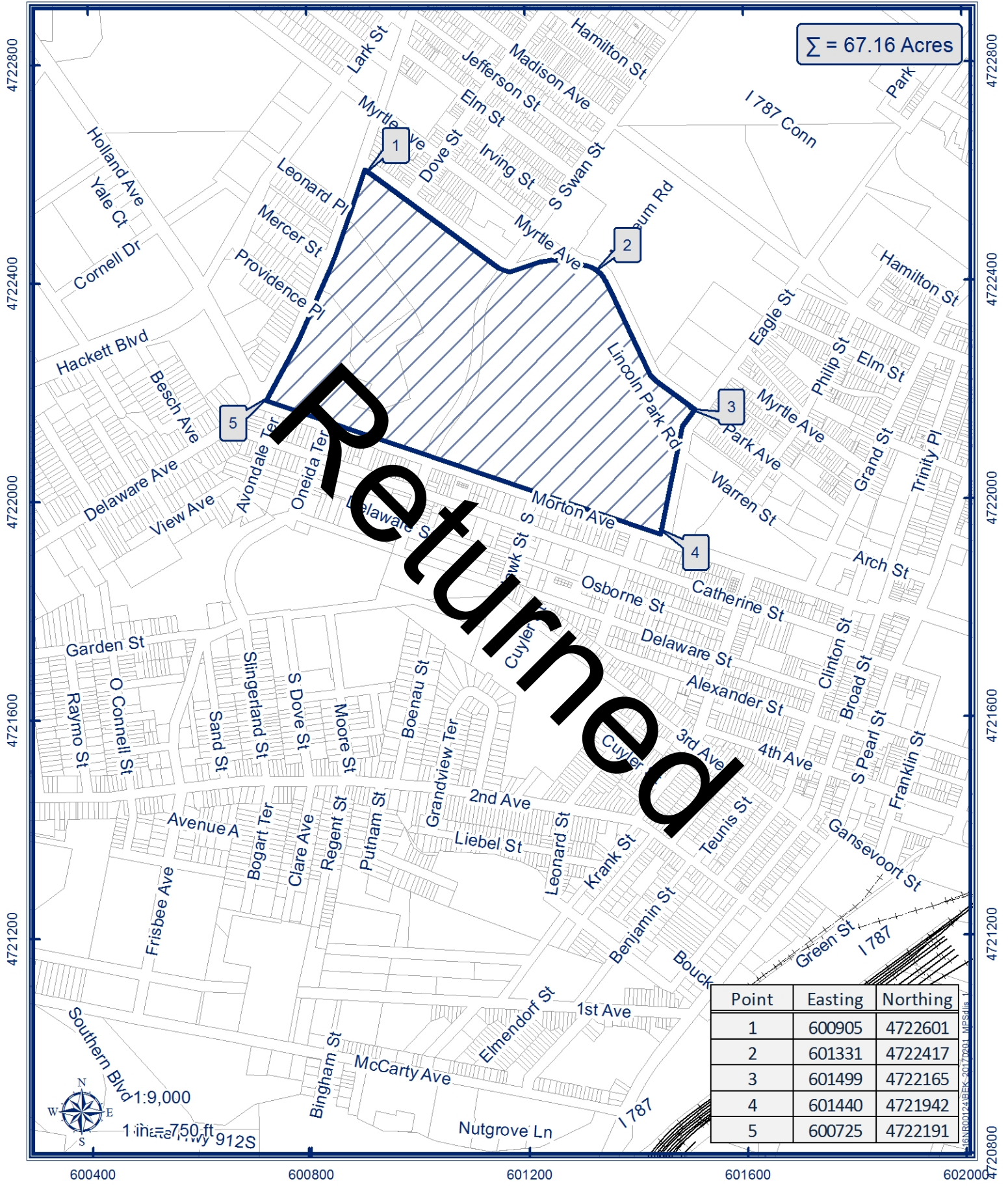
Returned



Point	Easting	Northing
1	600905	4722601
2	601331	4722417
3	601499	4722165
4	601440	4721942
5	600725	4722191

1:9,000
1 in = 750 ft

Σ = 67.16 Acres



Point	Easting	Northing
1	600905	4722601
2	601331	4722417
3	601499	4722165
4	601440	4721942
5	600725	4722191

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

The Lincoln Albany, New York, is being returned for technical and substantial reasons. The issues are almost identical to those of the Bleeker Stadium and Swinburne Park National Register nomination.

Technically: In section 7 there are resources that are not fully described, in addition there is no sketch map in section 10 that reflects the contributing and non-contributing resources. For a National Register nomination to be complete the NR nomination should be sufficiently photographed to reflect section 7 and section 10.

The NR nomination did not provide a sketch map as is required of district, please review the bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form bulletin on sketch maps. Another bulletin that might be helpful is: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes. Both are available on the National Register of Historic Places website.

Substantially: Section 7 Site descriptions and a landscape methodology: When documenting a landscape a different methodology may be needed in section 7 to determine what is a contributing resource, what is a feature of the site, and how best to manage count. The site map, images, and descriptions function as one system within the methodology.

Make sure resources are dated.

Begin by determining if some of the resources are too small to counted individually but do contribute to the landscape, for instance park benches or light posts are common resources within designed landscapes that are too small to count individually but are significant to the overall design of the landscape. Other resources, like garages may or may be counted because of size and visibility according to the guidance found in the NR bulletins. How these resource types should be discussed in the methodology in section 7.

Sufficient landscape images need to be provided along the images of buildings and structures to correspond with sections 7 and 10 to tell the complete story of the nomination. Sample images of small features are helpful as well.

Information does not need to be repeated in each section; if each section is connected to make one large picture.

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236

Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Lincoln Park
Albany County, New York
April 17, 2017
SG100000889

The Lincoln Albany, New York, is being returned for technical and substantial reasons. The issues are almost identical to those of the Bleeker Stadium and Swinburne Park National Register nomination.

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Information does not need to be repeated in each section; if each section is connected to make one large picture.

If you have any questions please call me.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexis Abernathy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Alexis Abernathy

National Register Reviewer

202-354-2236



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



11 January 2018

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: Lincoln Park
Albany, Albany County

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to re-submit the nomination for Lincoln Park, Albany County, to the Keeper of the National Register for listing on the National Register. In response to your comments returning this nomination to us on April 17, 2017, staff has done quite a bit of additional research on this property and substantially rewritten the nomination to include the following information:

- additional description and analysis of the site itself
- additional description and analysis of site features
- additional description and analysis of landscape features
- a new resource count
- an additional map with all features labeled
- additional historic photos, site plans and maps
- slightly revised period and areas of significance
- an expanded history and significance statement
- supplementary photos

I feel that this nomination is a substantial improvement over the one initially submitted. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kathleen LaFrank at 518.268.2165.

Sincerely:

R. Daniel Mackay
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation and
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 1/18/2018 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 3/5/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 2/20/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.