NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

388

1. Name of Property
Historic name: Fairview Community Park Historic District
Other names/site number: Bain Park
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location
Street & number: 21077 North Park Drive
City or town: Fairview Park State: Ohio County: Cuyahoga
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___national ___statewide _X__local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

_X__A ___B _X__C ___D

Barbara Pewer Department Head, Inventory & Registration 4/15/2013

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

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

for Carson H. Beall 6-14-12

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
		sites
6	2	structures
1		objects
9	4	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation

7. Description
Architectural Classification

OTHER/ PRE – WORLD WAR II – Works Progress Administration Architecture and Rustic Park Architecture

Materials

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Sandstone, Rubble, Cobblestone, Concrete, Brick, Shiplap Siding, Philadelphia Fencing, Slate, Asphalt Shingle

Summary Paragraph

Fairview Community Park Historic District is located in the City of Fairview Park, Cuyahoga County, Ohio; locally significant for its association with work relief efforts spanning the Depression era, including the Federal Work Progress Administration (WPA), Public Works Administration (PWA) and Federal Arts Project (FAP) programs.

The period of significance begins with the dedication of "Fairview Community Park" in 1928 and ends with the installation of a Federal Arts Project community cabin mural at the conclusion of the Works Project Administration program in 1943.

Fairview Community Park Historic District includes the following nine (9) contributing historic resources: a community cabin completed in 1939 with an interior 8 ft. x 12 ft. Federal Arts Project Mural installed in 1943; a stone staircase and stone retaining walls constructed in 1937; a wishing well constructed ca. 1935-1937; four (4) stone bridges constructed in 1940; shower basins constructed in 1940; and, a shelter house constructed in 1940. The District also includes four (4) non-contributing elements including two (2) buildings: a warming hut at the skating rink and toilet; and, two (2) structures: a stream culvert that was constructed during the period of significance, but later altered and a contemporary gazebo.

Fairview Community Park Historic District has been continuously used as a public park since its dedication in 1928. In 1957, the park was renamed Bain Park to honor Village of Fairview Mayor David R. Bain.

Location and Setting; Geography and Topography

Fairview Community Park Historic District is located in the Rocky River watershed and consists of approximately 34 wooded park acres situated 2000 feet south of Lorain Road with West 210th Street as the eastern boundary. The park angles to the southwest following the Coe Creek and ravine between the streets and backyards of residences on North Park Drive, West Park Drive and South Park Drive. It then crosses over Eaton Road with Seabury Avenue at the southern boundary.

The design of Fairview Community Park/Bain Park is dictated by the topography and geography of the site, following the path of Coe Creek and ravine running through the length of the park property. The community cabin and wishing well are located at the southwest corner of West 210th Street and North Park Drive with Coe Creek running northeast and exiting to the south of the cabin. A sandstone staircase pedestrian entrance and retaining walls are located off of North Park Drive at Bain Park Drive, leading south and east down a hillside to the community cabin. Coe Creek continues to wind from the west of the cabin to a trailhead beginning to the southwest of a new gazebo, following a dirt path including four stone bridges leading to the shower basins and a shelter house at Eaton Road. The landscape is naturalistic, with no formal gardens.

Constructed and installed between ca. 1932 and 1943, contributing historic resources within the Historic District are representative of pre-World War II park architecture styles including the romantic rustic picturesque style, and the later trend towards simplification coinciding with the emergence of the modern International style movement and the end of the WPA. Construction materials and types include primarily sandstone, rubble, cobblestone, concrete, brick, shiplap siding, Philadelphia fencing, slate and asphalt shingle. The oil on canvas mural is also a contributing historic resource installed in the community cabin in 1943 and an excellent example of WPA Federal Art Project work.

Fairview Community Cabin, now known as Bain Park Cabin, was designated a local historic landmark by the City of Fairview Park in 1985 and commemorated with a bronze plaque mounted on a large stone located on the southeast of the community cabin parking lot, placed by the Fairview Park Historical Society and Rockport Chapter of Questers in 1990. An Ohio Historical Marker for Bain Park Cabin is located on the west side of West 210th Street, just south of the North Park Drive.

On a whole the Historic District possesses excellent integrity in aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to convey its significance.

Condition and Integrity

The park facility and contributing resources are generally in excellent condition. Changes to the community cabin include installation of new vinyl clad front and side elevation windows, which replace original wood paned windows while retaining the original fenestration, pane size and configuration. Original front elevation exterior doors have also been replaced and a new entrance added to the south wing, as well as an ADA restroom erected on the rear south wing elevation. In addition, four (4) non-contributing facilities have been added to the park including a gazebo, stream enclosure/underground culvert, toilets and a warming hut. Other features located within the district include play areas, a basketball court/ice rink and parking lot. These park amenities and changes are not significant in size or scope and have not been included in the resource count. They have been added over time and do not detract from the integrity of the Historic District.

Narrative Description

For the following Inventory, each principal resource is identified by a number locating it on the accompanying Sketch Map and Photo Key. Each primary entry in the Inventory includes the date of construction or completion, known changes or additions, a description, photo number, historic image reference and a determination as either contributing or non-contributing to the significance of the Historic District.

Contributing Resources: Numbers in parenthesis relate to map references

(1) Community Cabin, 1939 **Building 1**

The community cabin is a side gabled community house park structure completed in 1939 with a floor plan featuring a center two and one-half story section housing a main commons room, with two one and one-half story wings on either side. Using the foundation and basements of an earlier 1937 cabin lost to fire, the center section of the 1939 cabin building is constructed primarily on a reinforced concrete slab foundation with two separate basements located with one under the north wing and another under the southeast corner of the commons room, each with 4" concrete foundation floors with cement finish, 4" concrete foundation walls finished with stone, and warm/cold air heating and ventilating tunnel walls finished with waterproofed "used" brick. There is no basement under the south wing.

Front West Elevation:

The front façade includes a two and one-half story side gabled recessed centered section with a one and one-half story wall of random ashlar sandstone. This section features a large set of triple vertical divided light windows with a center window of 3 square panes in width by 7 panes in height, and windows of 2 square panes in width and 7 panes in height an either side. Double entrance doors each with rectangular 5 panes and 3 pane transom lights above are located on either side of the center triple window and lead to a brick terrace. All windows and doors are brown in color with stone sills.

The one and one-half story north and south wings are constructed with walls of red hard burnt common brick in a running bond pattern with a header beltcourse located approximately 2 ft. above grade. The north wing front façade first floor wall includes a bronze plaque embedded in the brick work and inscribed "Cleveland Clay League Certified Brick and Tile Walls # 546." Six stone corbelled brackets are also embedded in the masonry at the beltcourse supporting three wood flower boxes. Just above the flower boxes are five identical divided light vertical three rectangular pane windows with 4 rectangular pane vertical windows on either side. The 3 pane windows have brick header sills. The 4 pane windows connect at the bottom to the beltcourse. A new door replaces an original wood batten entrance door located on the south side of the north brick wing addition. The south wing front façade includes a set of four identical divided light rectangular pane windows located to the south with brick header sills connected at the beltcourse. The windows are all brown in color. A new entrance door has been installed on the north side of this wing. A sandstone corner stone inscribed with "Fairview Community Building 1939 Built by the Citizens of Fairview and WPA" is located on the north side of the south wing.

A steeply pitched slate roof with overhanging eaves and exposed false rafter tails covers the two and one-half story center section. On the one and one-half story north and south wings triangular brackets support the overhanging roof eaves along with exposed false rafter tails. A wide wood faced flat roof dormer is located on the north wing featuring triple 4 rectangular pane windows in the center and two identical 4 rectangular pane windows over the north wing, all of which is brown in color. Partially exposed random ashlar sandstone chimneys finished with copper flashing are located on the north and south sides of the two and one-half story main center section.

All windows on the front façade were replicated and replaced between 2003 and 2009. The original batten door located on the south corner of the north wing was replaced in 2006. Original copper gutters with brass hangers have been removed and replaced.
Photo Location: Photo nos. 0001,0002

North Side Elevation:
The north side gabled facade is one and one-half stories in height. The first floor is constructed with walls of red hard burnt common brick in a running bond pattern with a header beltcourse located approximately 2 ft. above grade, and four side by side 3 rectangular pane divided lights, located to the east. The second floor walls are vertical random width white pine shiplap siding with cut points and wood corbels below connected by decorative wood moulding at the line of the second floor, all brown in color.

A wood framed triple window with three 4 rectangular paned divided light windows is located in the center of the gable end with three wood triangular brackets to support a flower box. The side gabled slate roof with overhanging eaves is supported by triangular brackets with exposed false rafter tails. The random ashlar sandstone north chimney is exposed between the north and center building sections and features a 3 horizontal pane divided light window with a stone sill and a palladium sandstone stone lintel and arched sandstone hood.
Photo Location: Photo no. 0001
Historic Image: Figure 5

South Side Elevation
The south side first and second floor masonry and wood wall materials, corbels and decorative moulding replicate the north side façade. The window configuration includes two sets of first floor paired 4 rectangular pane divided lights with brick beltcourse sills and a second floor 3 rectangular pane single window centered at the gable end. On the second floor are two 3 rectangular pane windows on either side of the chimney. An ADA restroom addition was added to the east in 1992.
Photo Location: Photo no. 0004

Rear East Elevation
The rear east façade includes a two and one-half story center section with two one and one-half story wings on either side. The first floor center section and north and south wings are constructed with walls of red hard burnt common brick in a running bond pattern with a header beltcourse located approximately 2 ft. above grade. A one and one-half story partial porch with an extended roof as part of the main center section slate roof is supported by timbered hand hewn simple bracketed vertical beam columns, with exposed rafters over a stone terrace. On the north and south porch ends, hand hewn vertical beams are secured by a horizontal supporting beam. The porch covers two identical entranceways on the north and south porch ends, each with center double doors with 5 rectangular pane divided lights and sidelights with 3 rectangular panes over single wood panels with a brick sill below connecting at the beltcourse. Glass transoms of 3 rectangular panes are located above the double doors and sidelights. Both entrance doors lead into the commons room. The roof eaves are supported by two large wood curved braces and stone corbels located at the north and south ends.

The north wing includes on the first floor a five rectangular pane entrance door to the south with a slate roof overhead separate from the center section roof and incorporating a flat roof wood sided dormer featuring a triple window with four pane wood framed windows. The south wing is a simple brick addition for ADA accessible restrooms.
Photo Location: Photo no. 0003

Interior Features:
Interior features include a two and one-half story vaulted ceiling with wood trusses and decorative half-timbering against a plastered ceiling over a main commons room measuring approximately 63 ft. x 32 ft. The exterior walls are red masonry brick, with interior wide wood pine plank walls stained

dark brown. A random ashlar sandstone fireplace is located at the south end under a balcony supported by hand hewn timbered columns and simple brackets. The balcony railing features 4"x4" wood posts with decorative diagonal plank balusters. Entrance doors on the north and south of both the front and rear elevation are located off the commons room. The large front elevation paned window faces southeast towards the park from the commons room, with a built-in window seat below running the full width of the window. An interesting diagonal batten accordion door is located to the north of the commons room. The north wing includes the serving, kitchen and pantry areas featuring original batten door wood cabinetry. The original composition flooring has been replaced with a clear stained narrow wood floor.

The south wing library houses the Fairview Park Historical Society Museum and archives with original crystal glass cabinetry, book shelves with hammered finished hardware, fireplace and sandstone hearth, and original composition flooring. Dutch style batten doors lead from the library to the commons room.
Photo Location: Interior – Photos nos. 0005, 0008, 0009

(2) Mural, 1943
An oil on canvas wood framed WPA Federal Art Project mural measuring 8 ft. x 12 ft. is mounted on the east interior wall of the community cabin commons room. The mural depicts the history of the Village of Fairview from habitation by Indians, includes the arrival of earlier settlers to the Connecticut Western Reserve, and recognizes notable citizens Grace and Bill Nichols, Ralph Tindal, Robert Twitchell, Guy Wheeler and Mayor David Bain looking at blueprints for the 1939 cabin with Andy Dorenkott. It also features the fire that burned the first WPA community cabin in 1937, as well as the seal of the Mayor of the Village of Fairview.

The mural was designed by Fairview resident Earl J. Neff who appears in the lower left corner of the mural on horseback with his family. The mural was painted by Michael Rozdilsky of the Federal Art Project and installed in January 1943. In 1978, it was restored by the "Ohio WPA Graphic Service by "Ginurcizyk k g" as indicated in the lower right corner of the mural.
Photo Location: Photo nos. 0006, 0007

(3 & 4) Stone Staircase and Retaining Walls, 1937 **Structure 1**
A random ashlar tooled sandstone staircase constructed as an entrance to the park, leads from North Park Drive, located at an elevation of 99.5 ft., down a hillside to the community cabin located 85 ft. below to the south located at an elevation of 82 ft. Double staircases are designated with random sandstone tooled newel posts on either side, each topped with a graduated pyramidal design. The east side staircase leads directly to a landing/viewing area facing south with newel posts inscribed "Fairview Community Cabin 1937" and "Built By Works Progress Administration," marking the date of the earlier cabin.

The west side staircase angles to the east with a landing connecting to the east viewing area with pyramidal newel posts, incorporating a 4 ft.- 6 in. retaining wall to the north and a 7 ft. wall to the south. A single staircase then winds to the east leading to the community cabin. All staircases have random tooled ashlar sandstone rails on either side with rock faced sandstone caps and sandstone steps, some of which have been replaced by concrete. Black cast metal stair rails have been added for support.

Connecting to the base of the staircase and continuing along the hillside to the east approximately 70 ft. and located at an elevation of 86.5 ft., is a random tooled ashlar sandstone battered retaining wall 40 in.

height with a rockface cap 20 in. width. Another similar retaining wall approximately 50ft. in length is located parallel and to the north of this wall at an elevation of 92.5 ft.
Photo Location: Stone Staircase – Photos nos. 0010, 0011, 0012, 0013, 0014
Retaining Walls - Photo nos. 0015
Historic Images: Figure 7

(5) Wishing Well, ca.1935-1937 **Structure 2**
A wishing well constructed in the rustic picturesque style is located to the rear northeast side of the community cabin, and to the east of the sandstone staircase entrance and retaining wall. The well is constructed on a concrete wall base with round coursed rubble stone masonry walls 12 ft.-6 in. in circumference and 30 in. height, 19 in. width with a cobblestone cap. Two vertical stacked river stone piers are constructed as part of the base wall, and embedded with two horizontal hand hewn beams supporting a wood plank side gabled roof with exposed rafters. A horizontal timber is mounted across the center of the well, most likely for suspension of a pulley or other chain apparatus to hang a water bucket.

The well is non-functioning with no apparent source of water, with a concrete base 14" below grade level. It appears that the original roof and supporting roof timbers have been replaced, likely due to deterioration.
Photo Location: Photos nos. 0016, 0017
Historic Image: Figure 9

(6) Four Bridges, 1932-1940
Four stone rustic style pedestrian bridges are located throughout the park spanning Coe Creek at different locations along a dirt path traveling southeast from the community cabin to the shelter house located to the north of Eaton Road. In 1932, four earlier rustic bridges with concrete bases and timbered rails were built in the park as part of a local Village of Fairview work relief program. Remnants of these bridges are apparent in the two of the sandstone bridges reconstructed in 1940.

6-1. Spillway Bridge #1, 1932, 1940 **Structure 3**
This double arch pedestrian bridge is constructed on a concrete and rubble stone base with random ashlar sandstone railings and stone caps, and situated in a north/south position. The side rails are graduated at the north end, with an east rail measuring 75 ft. in length and a west rail measuring 55 ft. in length. Both rails are 44 in. in height with 19 in. smooth sandstone caps. A concrete pad footpath 9 ft. in width is located over the 25 ft. double arch bridge span located below. This bridge likely incorporates an earlier single arch timber rail bridge on this site, as evidenced by the inconsistent material of the concrete arches and base.

This bridge was part of a spillway unit, retaining wall and rails constructed on this site in 1940 to control the flow of water from a lake formerly located to the west of the bridge and drained in 1945.
Photo Location: Photos nos. 0018, 0019, 0020
Historic Image: Figure 11

6-2. Bridges #2, 1932, 1940 **Structure 4**
This single arch pedestrian bridge was reconstructed in 1940 using the rubble stone and concrete arch base of an earlier 1932 bridge, and is situated in a northeast/southwest position. Random ashlar sandstone curved side rails are 3 ft. – 6 in. in height with smooth stone caps, and approximately 62 ft. in length. A concrete pad footpath approximately 8 ft.- 6 in. width is located over the 13 ft. single arch span located below. Concrete retaining walls are located on either side of the northeast approach to the bridge and connecting to each sandstone rail.
Photo Location: Photos nos.0021,0022

6-3. Bridge #3, 1940 **Structure 5**

This random ashlar single arch sandstone bridge is constructed on a concrete base and situated in a northeast/southwest position. The arch is approximately 18 ft.-6 in. in width at the base and 6 ft. in height at the center with a well scaled segmented ashlar sandstone surround. The bridge random ashlar sandstone side rails are curved and graduated at each end, measuring 48 in. in height at the highest point and approximately 57 ft. in length, with smooth sandstone caps. The bridge measures 23 ft. between the side rails at the northeast end, narrows to 8 ft. at the center and again extends to 23 ft. at the southeast end.

The top of the concrete culvert pipe is exposed at the center of the bridge creating a raised concrete arch in the footpath, measuring approximately 8 ft. in width and 13 ft. in length.

This bridge is similar in construction to Bridge #4.
Photo Location: Photos nos.0023,0024,0025

6-4. Bridge #4, 1940 **Structure 6**

This random ashlar single arch sandstone bridge is constructed on a concrete base and situated in a northeast/southwest position. The arch is approximately 18 ft.-6 in. in width at the base and 6 ft. in height at the center with a well scaled segmented ashlar sandstone surround. The bridge random ashlar sandstone side rails are curved and graduated at each end, measuring 48 in. in height at the highest point and approximately 57 ft. in length, with smooth sandstone caps. The bridge measures 23 ft. between the side rails at the northeast end, narrows to 8 ft. at the center and again extends to 23 ft. at the southeast end.

The top of the concrete culvert pipe is exposed at the center of the bridge creating a raised concrete arch in the footpath, measuring approximately 8 ft. in width and 13 ft. in length.

This bridge is similar in construction to Bridge #3.
Photo Location: Photos nos.0026, 0027, 0028

(7) <u>Shower Basins, 1940</u> **Object 1**

Two concrete shower basins are located to the north of the shelter house and east of West Park Drive, situated in a northwest/southeast configuration with a 19 ft.-6 in. asphalt pad separating them. Each shower basin measures approximately 24 ft.-6in x 24 ft. with rounded outer edges, approximately 5 in. curbs and a base poured to slant towards a centered raised circular concrete base 4 ft. in circumference. The south shower basin concrete base has retained its 8 in. copper sprinkler head through which water flowed to create a fountain. Water from the fountain would have immediately drained through a pipe drain located adjacent to the cement base of each basin. Shower basins were used instead of wading pools for children, to eliminate the concern of drowning.
Photo Location: Photos nos. 0029, 0030

(8) <u>Shelter House, 1940</u> **Building 2**

A side gabled shelter house with walls of random ashlar sandstone and wood is situated in the park at the north of Eaton Road. The approximately 33ft. x 69 ft. structure rests on a 6" reinforced concrete foundation with 4' footings all around. The front south and rear north side elevations feature sandstone walls with 5 openings, the three center of which measure approximately 12 ft. x 8 ft-6 in. on center and on either side 16 ft.-4in. x 8 ft.-6 in. openings, above a 3 ft. solid sandstone wall with dividing piers. Smooth sandstone caps top the walls at each opening.

At the west side elevation, the first floor walls are random ashlar sandstone with a centered open entrance area and open air window measuring 6 ft.-4 in. x 5 ft. to the north and sandstone fireplace with an arched keystone hood and double grille cooking area, to the south. The second floor gable end is finished in white pine Philadelphia fencing with cut point ends, brown in color with a centered wood louver vent opening. The east side elevation is a mirror image of the west elevation, with another fireplace/grille cooking area.

Four wood trusses painted red in color are spaced 12 ft. apart and with exposed rafters support the asphalt shingled side gabled roof. Two random ashlar sandstone chimneys with pick dressed ends, decorative openings and stone caps are located at the east and west ends above the cooking fireplaces.

Uncovered entrance areas measuring approximately 9 ft. x 32 ft.-8 in. with concrete floors and 3 ft. stone walls on two sides are located at the east and west ends of the shelter house building.

Sidewalk pedestrian access to the shelter building enters the park from the southeast corner of West Park Drive and Eaton Road.
Photo Location: Photos nos. 0031, 0032, 0033, 0034, 0035

Non-Contributing Resources:

A. Bain Park Gazebo, 1995
The Bain Park Gazebo was originally designed by architect Jeffrey Grusenmeyer and constructed in Bohlken Park, City of Fairview Park in 1995. On September 6, 2000, it was relocated to its current location in Fairview Community Park/Bain Park and installed on a new concrete pad.
Photo Location: Photo no. 0036

B. Stream Enclosure/Underground Culvert, 1940, ca. 1950
The stream enclosure/underground culvert was originally constructed as part of the WPA funded improvements to Fairview Community Park in 1940, but was significantly altered in the 1950's with a cement path 12 ft. in width and 500 ft. in length from Eaton Road north, and east of the shelter house leading to a concrete railing overlooking the culvert, both of which remain today.
Photo Location: Photo no.0037, 0038

C. Toilets
Toilet facilities are located to the east of the culvert walkway and west of the culvert railing, in a simple brick building with an asphalt shingle roof.
Photo Location: Photo no. 0039

D. Warming Hut
A simple brick and concrete block warming hut with an asphalt shingled roof is located just to the south of a Basketball Court/Ice Rink located to the north of Seabury Ave. on the east side of the park.
Photo Location: Photo no. 0040

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE
ART

Period of Significance
1928-1943

Significant Dates
N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
John Justin Carr
J. Ellsworth Potter
John R. Cloyd
WPA Cuyahoga County District Four
Earl Neff

Statement of Significance

Criterion A

Summary

Fairview Community Park Historic District is significant under **Criterion A: Community Planning and Development** for its association with local, regional and national work relief efforts spanning the Depression era, including the Federal Works Progress Administration (WPA), Public Works Administration (PWA) and WPA Federal Arts Project (FAP) programs.

Between 1922 and 1927, the open farmland and rural character of the Village of Fairview was transformed into residential subdivisions, as a suburb of the City of Cleveland. A planned community park for the Village of Fairview not only embraced the regional civic pride and park movements going on in Greater Cleveland, but also created an amenity to complement its new suburban subdivision design. "Fairview Community Park" was dedicated on September 8, 1928.

During the early Depression years between 1930 and 1933, implementation of improvements to Fairview Community Park became a focal point for local labor relief projects and in 1935, a cabin in the park was one of the first projects approved in Cuyahoga County under the new federal labor relief program of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) The cabin was completed in 1937, but lost to fire in the same year. A second WPA community cabin was approved and constructed on the same site in the park in 1939, which remains today. In 1940, PWA money and WPA labor were used to construct Fairview Community Park features including four (4) stone bridges, shower basins, and a shelter house, in addition to the stone staircase and retaining walls that were part of the 1937 project. In 1943, the final year of the WPA, an 8 ft. x 12 ft. WPA Federal Art Project mural depicting the history of the Village of Fairview was installed in the community cabin.

Fairview Community Park Historic District is unusual and significant for its representation of historic park resources spanning the entirety of the Works Progress Administration from 1935 to 1943. In 1957, the park was renamed Bain Park to honor Mayor David R. Bain who served as Mayor during the Depression

era from 1932-1943 and persevered to make a community cabin and park facility a reality for the Village of Fairview.

The period of significance begins with the dedication of Fairview Community Park in 1928 and ends with the installation of the final Federal Art Project mural project in 1943.

Narrative Statement of Significance

History of Village of Fairview & Regional Influences

The Village of Fairview was settled as part of Township No. 7, Range 4 of the Connecticut Western Reserve, known as part of Rockport Township by 1819. The name "Rockport" reflected the characteristics of the land with high, rocky embankments along Lake Erie to the north, and along both sides of the Rocky River which travelled north/south from the Lake through the township. (Goebelt 1978, 10) The land was also rich with sandy loam, ideal for the farm based community that would settle here. (Goebelt 1978, 2)

Lakewood was the first community to organize in Rockport Township by becoming a hamlet in 1889 and then a village in 1893. (Goebelt 1978, 105) Rocky River was then incorporated as a village in 1892. In 1910, residents in the southern portion of Rocky River petitioned to create a separate township, which became Goldwood Township comprised of what would become Fairview Village and Parkview Village. In that same year, a group of residents again petitioned and then voted for the incorporation of the Village of Fairview with a population of 300 residents installing resident George Sweet as their first Mayor. It was not until 1948 that the Village was renamed Fairview Park to avoid confusion at the post office with another town named Fairview located in Guernsey and Belmont counties, Ohio. (Goebelt 1978, 105-106) In 1950, the US Census showed a population of 9,311 residents, therefore leading the Village to officially become the City of Fairview Park in 1951. (Goebelt 1978, 123)

Formation of the Village of Fairview in 1910 marked the transition away from a rural farm based community. Within a few years of formation, the Village began making infrastructure improvements allowing for the move towards a more suburban residential subdivision based plan. In 1913, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company brought service to homes and buildings in the Village. In 1916, gas mains came into the Village. In 1923, water mains were extended under the Rocky River connecting to the City of Cleveland, bringing local water mains to 29 streets. In 1925, sewer construction began and in 1926 many contracts were let for water mains, sewers, sidewalks and curb connections. A road paving program was commenced in 1927. (Fairview Community Cabin Dedication Program 1937, unnumbered) As a result, most of the Village was subdivided for residential development between 1922 and 1927. The Village of Fairview saw a population increase of almost six fold, from 642 residents in 1920 to 3,689 residents by 1930. (Goebelt 1978, 114)

The whole country was booming and Cleveland, located just to the east of the Village of Fairview, was at the turn of the twentieth century, the sixth largest city in the United States (Rarick 1986, 35) The City Beautiful Movement stemming from the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 had greatly influenced city leaders introducing beautification and monumental grandeur to architecture and urban planning promoted to inspire increased civic and moral values and therefore an improved quality of life. The movement became strongly associated with Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and Washington D.C. (*American Landscape and Architectural Design, 1850-1920)* Between 1903 and 1930, Cleveland experienced an enormous surge of civic pride and building projects. The Group Plan of 1903 was in place, inspired by the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. (Rarick 1986, 13) Building

during this period in the downtown City of Cleveland included construction of the Federal Building (1910), Cuyahoga County Court House (1912), Cleveland City Hall (1916), Cleveland Public Auditorium (1922) and Music Hall (1928), Cleveland Public Library (1925), the Federal Reserve Bank (1923), the Board of Education Building (1931) and the Union Station and Terminal Tower complex which opened in 1930. (Rarick 1986; Johannesen, 1979) In addition, Cleveland Municipal airport opened runways in 1925 for mail transport in 1927, just south of the Village of Fairview on Brookpark Road. (Van Tassel, 1996)

Also associated with the City Beautiful movement were parks and landscapes championed by landscape architect and city designer Frederick Law Olmstead. Creation of a metropolitan park system as an "emerald necklace" around the City of Cleveland was locally led by William Stinchcomb beginning in 1905. (Miller 1992, 2) In about 1910, a small group of west side Cleveland businessmen conceived of the idea of preserving the Rocky River valley as parkland, with many of them owning homes in the valley and anxious for protection from commercial and industrial development. (Miller 1992, 2) These men supported Stinchcomb and promoted their cause through the Cleveland Chamber of Industry, an organization of west side business interests. (Miller 1992, 2) With the creation of a Board of Parks Commissioners of Cuyahoga Valley in 1912, William Stinchcomb was hired and charged with consulting Frederick Law Olmstead, the son of his namesake as landscape architect. (Miller 1992, 3) Stinchcomb and the new park board persevered and land in the Rocky River Valley was among the first acquired for the park.

Mayor of the Village of Fairview Park, George Sweet was among the men who recognized the need for park space in Greater Cleveland and as a buffer for his community located immediately to the west of the city. (Goebelt 1978, 38) He worked to help William Stinchcomb promote the Cleveland Metropolitan Park System and later was influential in having a monument built in Stinchcomb's honor in the Rocky River reservation. (Goebelt 1978, 39) He also personally sold 59+ acres of his Rocky River Valley land to the Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District in 1920. (Cuyahoga County Deed from George B. Sweet to Board of Park Commissioners of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, 27 December 1920)

Creation and Dedication of Fairview Community Park

Civic pride,the importance of parks to the well being of people and relief from city life were at the forefront for residents of the Cleveland region in 1920-1930. In the Village of Fairview, the land that would become Fairview Community Park in 1928 ran through four new housing subdivisions with topography including a scenic ravine, creek and lake which rendered it largely unusable for residential construction. Creation of a local public park in the center of the Village of Fairview for the enjoyment of the community was a logical and well planned use for land unsuitable for development.

Fairview Community Park was created primarily from pieces of land donated by the residential housing subdivisions of Fairview Golflands, Spencer Road, Royal Spencer, and Spencer Gardens, which were acquired by these subdivision owners as the former farmland of the early Connecticut Western Reserve pioneer Sweet and Spencer families.

It took two and one-half years between March 1928 and August 1930 to formally deed the park land to the Village of Fairview. The following land ownership history indicates the complexity of bringing the park to fruition:

> Fairview Community Park is divided on the land records into four distinct major blocks beginning in the northeast portion of the park at West 210th Street (Wagar Road) and North Park Drive with Block C and travelling southwest along Coe Creek through Blocks B, across Eaton Road with

Block A to the south and Block G located north of Seabury Avenue. (See Historic Images - Map of Fairview Community Park, Figure 1)

- **Block C of Fairview Community Park (approximately 17 acres):**

Northeast Part (approx. 12 acres)
In March, 1928, Fairview Golflands, owned by Maerkle-White-Huxtable-Auble Co., donated the first 12 acres of Fairview Community Park to the Village of Fairview, which was the original north part of the 35 acre D.O. Sweet parcel located in Block C, and included in the deed:

> *[T]he grantee agrees to hold, use, occupy and maintain said premises for public natural park purposes only, it being agreed that the term "Natural Park" is here defined as a preserve in which natural and pristine vegetation, creeks, slopes and contours shall be conserved, save and except where landscaping, so-called, would effect a beneficial change; the definition of a "Natural Park" precluding within the scope of its meaning the erection, placing or maintaining of such contrivances as merry-go-rounds, aerial swings, glides, dance and roller skating pavilions or platforms, and other contrivances usually found in amusement parks, excepting and saving there from the erection, placing and maintaining of standard equipment and apparatus for children's playgrounds, tennis, croquet and roque courts....*
> (Cuyahoga County Deed from The Fairview Golflands Company to The Village of Fairview, 12 March 1928; *Plain Dealer*, 18 March 1928)

West Part (4.46 acres):
In December 1920, Frank J. Spencer conveyed his land located in the west part of Block C to Fournier Realty. (Cuyahoga County Deed from Frank J. Spencer to The Fournier Realty Co., 7 December 1920) In April 1930, Fournier Realty then conveyed 4.46 acres of the Spencer Road Subdivision to the Village of Fairview in April 1930 for the express purpose of a "public natural park." (Cuyahoga County Deed from Fournier Realty Co. to the Village of Fairview Community Park, 10 April 1930)

Part of Spencer Road Subdivision Lot #29 (.55 acres)
A small section of .55 acres of the Spencer Road Subdivision Lot # 29 located in Block C was purchased by the Village of Fairview for $600 from Timothy and Frances Raleigh in August 1930. (Cuyahoga County Deed from Timothy H. and Frances F. Raleigh to The Village of Fairview, 25 August 1930; Fairview Community Cabin Dedication Program 1937, unnumbered)

- **Block B, A of Fairview Community Park (approximately 11 acres):**

Benjamin Spencer owned 100 acres of property located to the East of 220th Street (Spencer Road) (Goebelt 1978, 25) His daughter Minnie Spencer Eaton acquired the land in 1914 and at her passing the land went to her son Harvey Eaton, and later became the Royal Spencer and Spencer Gardens Subdivisions owned by Donley & Emery. (Cuyahoga County Deeds The United Banking and Trust Company to Village of Fairview 23 September; *Plain Dealer,* 8 September 1929)

This land was formally donated to the Village by deed dated September 24, 1929. (Cuyahoga County Deed from United Banking and Trust Co. to Village of Fairview, 24 September 1929)

- **Block G of Fairview Community Park (approximately 6 acres):**

Amos Spencer owned land, the east part of 7.37 acres of which would become Block G of Fairview Community Park. His children Virginia Spencer Landphair and Edwin Spencer inherited this land which became Donely & Emery's Royal Spencer Subdivision including six acres that

were formally donated to the Village of Fairview in September 1929. (Cuyahoga County Deed from United Banking and Trust Co. to Village of Fairview, 24 September 1929)

Donation of this 34 acres of land as a public park was an advantage to the Village of Fairview and to the real estate subdivision owners/developers for whom it created a strong selling point. Subdivision lots in 1928 were advertised to:

> *Possess every advantage of large estates but are moderately priced and can be had on easy terms at $1,800 and up yet they are 50 feet front and more on drives 60,70 and 80 feet wide with paving, sewers, water, curb and sidewalks installed and paid. Many lots front on Fairview Park and Metropolitan Park in Rocky River valley, where scenic beauty and every form of outdoor sport prevail, [Every Lot Less Than 1,500 Feet From a Natural Park]*
> *(Plain Dealer,* 18 March 1928*)*

Real estate advertisements boasted,

> *Play Where You Live... Fairview Golflands Estates adjoin the Rocky River Valley of the Metropolitan Park, with its golf course, its scenic beauty, its children's playgrounds, its bridle paths, and in addition within itself beautiful FAIRVIEW PARK...*
> *(Plain Dealer,* 6 May 1928*)*

The formal dedication of Fairview Community Park was held on September 8, 1928 as "Fairview Day," with the winning slogan selected for the event as "Live with Nature in Beautiful Fairview." The daylong celebration included acceptance of the park for its citizenry by Mayor Joseph M. Daugherty, a parade, ox barbecue, contests, dancing, three bands and a 30 piece drum corps. (Goebelt 1978, 232; *Plain Dealer,* 8 September 1928)

In 1930, the Village sold $6,000.00 of general bonds for the purpose of purchasing the park land and for clearing, draining and otherwise improving it. (Fairview Community Cabin Dedication Program 1937, unnumbered; Ordinances and Minutes, 2 June 1930)

The Depression Era

According to resident Grace Nichols, "[i]t was the custom of the Fairview Village men to gather in the village park on Sundays and discuss the ways and means to make Fairview Village a better place in which to live" and included Bob Twitchell, Walter Harbath, Guy Wheeler, Ralph Tindal, Bill Nichols, Andy Dorenkott and others...and "[i]t was Mayor Bain's idea that a community meeting place was needed and the best place for it was in the park." (Nichols 1984, 1) The expanding population of Fairview had to outgrown the 1913 Town Hall as a community meeting space, leaving the Garnett School as the only place big enough to accommodate the need. (Correspondence WPA, Mayor Bain letter to W.H.Cameron, WPA District 4, 30 June 1938; Nichols 1984, 4)

Mayor David R. Bain was elected Mayor of Fairview Village in November of 1931, almost two years after the Stock Market Crash of October 1929. He had also served the previous administration under Mayor Joseph M. Daugherty as President of Village Council. (Goebelt 1978, 20) In addition, he owned David R. Bain Inc., a masonry home building construction company responsible for building many of the homes in Fairview. (*Plain Dealer*, 9 November 1953)

The Depression had begun under Mayor Daugherty's term, but reached its worst period under Mayor Bain. Before enactment of the Works Projects Administration in 1933, communities were largely on their

own regarding relief efforts. Of the sixteen financial institutions operating in neighboring Cleveland in 1929, only four reopened. (Marling 1974, 3) In 1932, activity in the construction and building trades in Cleveland had dropped off by more than 75%. (Marling 1974, 3) A 1 mill county relief levy was adopted the same year, and city and county taxes on gasoline and licenses were allocated to relief agencies. However, these revenues proved inadequate, cumbersome to collect and controversial. (Marling 1974, 3) In 1933, Depression era unemployment in the City of Cleveland peaked with nearly one-third of the city's workers jobless and people coping with the fifth year of what Franklin Roosevelt termed the "Great Depression." (Van Tassel, xxvi; Dean 2006, 12) Cleveland's experience mirrored the national experience and local government was forced to take on the burden.

In February 1932, Mayor Bain and the Fairview Village Council worked out a local relief plan providing each unemployed man with two days work on village roads every two weeks at a salary of $4.00 per day. The Mayor also arranged for the Cleveland Community Fund to work with the Fairview Village welfare committee to alleviate distress in the village. At the same time, he and other elected Village officials took a 20% pay cut. (*Plain Dealer*, 1 February 1932)

On April 8, 1932, the *Plain Dealer* reported that Fairview Village and Mayor Bain were attacking "both the unemployment problem and the park problem simultaneously." About 75 men were hired to work two days a week planting young evergreens on six acres in Fairview Community Park along the ravine near Eaton Road, following the suggestions from State Forester Edmund C. Secrest of Wooster. (*Plain Dealer*, 8 April 1932) It was reported by the Mayor that 8,000 young trees had been shipped by the State Agricultural Department to the Village of Fairview. (Minutes 4 April 1932) Also included for benefit of Fairview Community Park was clearance of brush and a 1,000 foot slag walk laid through the ravine and four rustic bridges across the creek. School children were building bird houses and feeding trays and high school students were labeling tree species with zinc labels throughout the park. The park was described as containing "a lake, winding gravel paths, bridges, arches, railings, drinking fountains, fireplaces, and other features of convenience and charm." (Fairview Community Cabin Dedication Program 1937, unnumbered) It was reported that the money used came from the general village fund and from converted gas tax money. (*Plain Dealer*, 8 April 1932)

Other local relief efforts included a crew of 25 unemployed male residents of Fairview who harvested crops they had raised over the summer of 1932 on "Fairview's 20 acre community garden at Eaton and Wager Roads" with an estimated yield of at least 1000 bushels of potatoes, beets, parsnips and rutabagas to be distributed over the winter to Fairview's needy by the mayor's relief committee in cooperation with the Associated Charities. (*Plain Dealer*, 11 October 1932)

In October 1932, the Ohio legislature passed a state law which provided for the cancellation of delinquent special assessments allowing them to be reassessed over a period of future years without penalty or interest. Mayor Bain and Village Council worked out an arrangement that cancelled $765,000 of special assessments for its residents, along with the penalty and interest charges spreading the rest over a period of 10 years, providing great relief to many Village property owners. (*Plain Dealer*, 26 March 1933) Times were difficult.

The Work Progress Administration (WPA)

Responding to the overwhelming need and among the first federal relief programs to be enacted under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Reforestation Relief Act of 1933. In an effort to get men back to work, 250,000 young men were employed under this program and were housed and fed in work camps receiving $30 a month for work planting trees, draining swamps and combating soil erosion among other jobs. (Estrin 1991, 248)

By spring 1935, Congress had established the Works Progress Administration (WPA) which provided a federally sponsored work relief programs using local labor. The WPA helped design and oversaw the operation of approved public projects submitted by local communities. The Public Works Administration (PWA) provided financing for WPA projects and required that the owner commit a portion of the cost. The result of federal relief efforts was $11 billion spent on work for over 8 million people. (Estrin 1991, 249)

The Works Progress Administration in Ohio was divided by county offices with the Cuyahoga County Works Progress Administration District Four office located in Cleveland and overseen by Cuyahoga County WPA Director Waldo F. Walker. In September 1935, a total of $109,831,749 in potential WPA projects from the Cuyahoga County Cleveland office were submitted to Columbus for approval. (*Plain Dealer*, 5 September 1935)

In July 1936, the Cuyahoga County Mayor's Association notified local suburban mayors "to warn them that if the relief system collapses their municipal governments will be responsible for their own needy." (*Plain Dealer*, 2 July 1936) Mayor Bain and others responded that the "municipalities cannot bear the relief load." (*Plain Dealer*, 2 July 1936) Discussion of the future of the local relief programs continued in May 1937 with a Mayor's Committee meeting with Fred Ramsey, Cleveland welfare director, to discuss whether Cleveland should continue to handle relief for the suburbs with appeals for assistance from the Cleveland Welfare Federation, the Cleveland Community Fund, and the Jewish Welfare Federation of Cleveland. Mayor Bain was an appointed member of the committee. (*Plain Dealer*, 6 May 1937)

Federal relief projects during the Great Depression resulted in the substantial development and benefit to national, state and local parks, of which Fairview Community Park was included. By 1939 the Cleveland Metroparks System with William Stinchcomb as director-secretary contained 11,285 acres on nine major reservations including the Rocky River Reservation. Permanent improvements were estimated to cost $10,226,548 of which $7,836,616 was contributed by United States relief agencies and included 55 miles of auto roads, 60 miles of bridle trails, 53 miles of foot trails, 10 shelter houses, 3 trailside museums, 2 public golf courses, 33 picnic grounds and 14 camping centers. (Rose 1950, 960)

The First WPA Fairview Community Cabin, 1937

As early as 1933 and before creation of the Works Progress Administration, Mayor Bain had begun collecting the material to build a rustic community log cabin in Fairview Community Park. (*Cleveland News*, 14 December 1937) He salvaged telephone and utility poles as "log" walls, and stone from the rebuilding of the Lorain Road Bridge over the Rocky River in 1935 and slum clearance projects for foundation and fireplace/chimney materials.

In August 1935, construction of "Fairview's community park and community cabin" began as one of the of the first WPA projects to get underway using WPA labor in Cuyahoga County under the newly formed Works Progress Administration, after orders from the Ohio WPA headquarters in Columbus to get the program underway. (*Plain Dealer*, 11 August 1935) WPA architect John Justin Carr working from the

Cuyahoga County Planning Department of Works Division of the Cuyahoga County Emergency Relief Administration (CCERA) designed the plans for the community's rustic log cabin. (Carr, 1935)

Landscape architects from the same office designed a landscape plan for the cabin site including construction of a stone staircase and retaining walls leading from North Park Drive down a hillside and south to the cabin below, aided by engineer J.K. Johnson. (Planning Department of Works Division CCERA 1935) The "Citizens Committee for Log Cabin" was appointed by the Mayor in February 1937 and chaired by D.L. Bishop and Wm. D. Nichols as Secretary. (Ordinances and Minutes, 1937) Out of this committee was created the Fairview Conservation Association to work in conjunction with Fairview Village Council "to the end that the natural endowments of our community shall be preserved and enhanced thus making our village a more attractive place to live." (Ordinances and Minutes 1937) The Association set the goal to raise $3,000 to complete, furnish and landscape the Fairview Village community cabin. Funds were "particularly necessary to install heating, plumbing and wiring in the building, constructed as a WPA project." (*Plain Dealer*, 5 March 1937)

Organization for implementation of WPA projects for Cuyahoga County were centralized in the Cleveland District Four office and included WPA labor done in accordance with plans drawn the city parks department. Directing the WPA workers was Herbert F. Hyatt, area engineer in the office of District Director Col. Joseph H. Alexander, with Arthur H. Alexander, chief of the city's division of landscape architecture and in charge of the twenty landscape architects doing park work. (*Plain Dealer*, 23 March 1938)

Mayor's Bain's community "mountain cabin" was constructed using WPA labor and traditional log cabin construction methods, on a foundation using recycled sandstone. The telephone and utility poles were shaped adz and ax by hand to form the "log" walls with exposed ends. No nails were used for construction, beams were dowelled and chinks between the log poles were caulked. (The History of Bain Cabin; Fairview Community Cabin Dedication Program 1937, unnumbered; Goebelt 1978, 228-229) The structure featured a two and one-half story interior commons area with one and one half story wings to the north and south. A large paned glass picture window was centered on the front façade and faced southwest looking out at the park lake from a center interior commons room, with a main entrance door to the southeast of the picture window. A steeply pitched wood shingled roof featured sandstone north and south interior chimneys. The finished cabin contained one large commons room with a vaulted ceiling in the center with balconies and fireplaces at either end, and two wings with two committee rooms, a library, kitchen, pantry, serving area and toilet facilities. (*Plain Dealer*, 5 December 1937) A mill stone was featured on the interior of the south chimney. (Goebelt 1978, 229; Nichols 1984; Photo Collection, Fairview Community Park Historical Society) The interior woodwork and furniture were handmade on location hewn from logs and planks cut on the premises, and carved and etched with native tree leaves by local artists, Austrian carpenters and craftsman. (Nichols 1984, 1; The History of Bain Cabin; *Plain Dealer,* 5 December 1937) Old wagon wheel chandeliers were converted from oil wick lamps to electricity. Mayor Bain bought the linoleum, drapes and all the kitchenware to outfit the cabin from Halle's Department store in Cleveland. (The History of Bain Cabin: WPA Correspondence, Halle's Receipt)
A stacked timbered criss-cross frontier style fence surrounded the cabin with a rustic timbered gate and rustic wood signage inscribed with "Fairview Community Cabin." Stone retaining walls and a sandstone staircase were constructed leading from North Park Drive to the Cabin entrance gate area inscribed with "Fairview Community Cabin 1937" on the east newel post and "Built by Works Progress Administration" on the west newel post. (See Historic Images, Figure2)

In September 1937, it was announced that Cleveland's $4,000,000 blanket WPA project for rehabilitation of its parks had been almost cut in half by Washington WPA officials due to the inability of the city to meet its sponsorship share. Work included in the cut backs was completion of Fairview Community Park. (*Plain Dealer*, 1 September 1937)

Despite all odds, the Fairview Community Cabin and park amenities were completed in December 1937 at a cost $65,000 furnished by the WPA, of which $14,000 was contributed by villagers. (*Plain Dealer*, 30 November 1939) The moment was described in the Dedication program,

> *We have all dreamed of a sheltered place with a cabin, surrounded by shade, on the side of a hill sloping down to a stream, with a lake, seen through the trees in the distance...the Fairview Community Cabin stands, surpassing all words of description, the accomplished result of much dreaming, planning, and patience and effort."*
> (Fairview Community Cabin Dedication Program 1937, unnumbered)

Then in the early morning December 14, 1937 the new Fairview Community Cabin, "the pride of Fairview," caught fire and burned quickly beyond repair, just four days before the gala opening celebration and cabin dedication party at which William Stinchcomb, director of the Metropolitan Park Board and WPA officials were to speak. With no insurance yet in place, the loss was even harder. The community and the Mayor were heartbroken.

Mayor Bain called for an investigation and gave the opinion that "the fire was of incendiary origin." (*Plain Dealer*, 15 December 1937) The State of Ohio Fire Marshall responded shortly thereafter that "[d]ue to lack of funds for the maintenance of this department, it was necessary for us to close our branch offices and lay off all our field men on September 30 [1937]. Hence we do not have anyone available for investigation work at this time...We regret exceedingly that we are unable to give this matter our immediate attention." (Letter from State of Ohio Fire Marshall, 17 December 1937) (See Historic Images, Figure 2)

The Second WPA Fairview Community Cabin, 1939

The gala dedication celebration planned for Saturday, December 18, 1937 was renamed the "Cabin Rebuilding Dinner" and held as scheduled instead at the Garnet School at West 208th Street and Lorain Road. (Goebelt 1978, 229) Mayor Bain stated that "[t]he the fire probably will weld the residents into one of the finest of community spirits. Villagers are solidly behind a rebuilding program..." with nearly 300 residents in attendance at the party. (*Plain Dealer*, 15 December 1937) Among those present, William Stinchcomb, director of the Metropolitan Park Board, who assured residents of his continued interest and W.H. Cameron, director of local WPA projects told them they could be certain of his cooperation. (*Plain Dealer*, 19 December 1937) Letters of support were received from around the country. Organizational donations, anonymous gifts, proceeds from dinners, the ice carnival, dances, card parties, the Girls Scouts for Christmas caroling $7.77; a high school boy's dance $11.50; and children's donation for $5.00 all contributed to the rebuilding effort. United State Senator Robert J. Buckley and Ohio Legislative member Adam Frick were both influential in procuring funds for a new community cabin and wrote letters of support. (WPA Correspondence)

Architectural plans for a new community cabin were drawn by local Village of Fairview resident and architect J. Ellsworth Potter of Potter & Bremmer in Cleveland. (See Historic Images, Figure 3) The plans were largely based on the design of the earlier cabin, but this time specified less flammable materials including walls of brick and sandstone, and a slate roof. (See Historic Images, Figures 4&5) In addition,

park improvement plans designed by engineer J.R. Cloyd and completed in May 1938 included a shelter house, four (4) bridges, shower basins and other amenities. (Cloyd 1938) The new Fairview Community Cabin and park improvement projects totaled $166,000 and were submitted in June 1938 for review by the WPA. (*Plain Dealer*, 21 June 1938) Mayor Bain in a letter dated June 30, 1938 to W.H. Cameron, Director of WPA District 4 stated that,

> *The hopes and dreams of this entire community are centered on the time we can open our community building as a recreational and cultural center. At present these activities are held in our town hall which has become entirely inadequate for this purpose. This completed park and building project is a very necessary step in the development of our community and cannot be accomplished without the aid of WPA. The former cabin project, which was destroyed by fire before dedication, was one of the pleasure spots and show places of this end of the County and was considered by local WPA officials and other authorities as being one of the most outstanding WPA accomplishments of this district.*

In August 1938, Mayor Bain announced a PWA grant of $145,612 had been approved for the project, including a $60,000 cabin built on the $15,000 salvaged foundation and materials from the earlier cabin. A cornerstone with records of 16 civic, church and community organizations sealed in a box was laid March 19, 1938 and construction commenced on the new community cabin in October 1938. (*Plain Dealer*, 4 October 1938; *Plain Dealer*, 20 March 1939) (See Historic Images, Figure 6)

The new, second, Fairview Community Cabin was completed in December 1939, two years after the fire. (*Plain Dealer*, 1 December 1939) The cabin was described as

> *Built to last forever, of big stone blocks and red brick, with a slate roof, the new cabin will be used as a recreation center and for civic and cultural programs. The interior is finished in knotty pine. The main room...has a balcony at each end and large sandstone fireplace. There is a well-lighted library, also with a fireplace, and a modern kitchen.*
>
> (*Plain Dealer,* 1 December 1939)

The finished cabin was opened for inspection by the community on November 30, 1939 with 500 residents attending. Mayor Bain pronounced that "I think it's a very good country in which to live when a community the size of ours can own a building like this. We hope, with the spirit of cooperation which exists here, to add a new shelter house and two tennis courts to the parks next summer. '" (*Plain Dealer*,1 December 1939) The cabin was formally dedicated on January 15, 1940 to "recreational, social, cultural, and civic uses for the enjoyment of all citizens of Fairview." (Goebelt 1978, 230)

Based on plans drawn by Fairview Village engineer J.E. Cloyd, WPA park improvements made over the summer of 1940 included a shelter house with cooking grilles, outdoor stoves, a 500 ft. stream enclosure/culvert enclosing Coe Creek, four (4) stone bridges, two (2) shower basins, 500 transplanted trees and 1,200 newly planted trees. (*Plain Dealer*, 15 December 1940; Cloyd1938; Cloyd 1939)

Fairview resident Walter Harbath planned and directed the planting of special trees around the cabin, many of them he had grafted and grown himself. The Fairview Garden Club and Fairview Community Park Women's Club helped finance the project. Trees which were planted included: Red Flowering Peach, Fall Scarlet Hawthorne, Judas, Laburnum Golden Ray, Flowering Red Crab and Golden Elms. (Goebelt 1978, 230) Some of these trees remain today.

In December 1940, WPA operations director Louis L. Drasler presented the cabin and park improvements to the Village of Fairview, which was accepted by Mayor Bain. (*Plain Dealer*, 15 December 1940) Cuyahoga County Commissioner Joseph F. Gorman stated that "although the development might seem costly to some, "it is better to pay for materials, work, health and happiness than for bullets and bombs." (*Plain Dealer*, 15 December 1940)

It was reported that by the summer of 1940, $25 million had been spent overall on the improvement of Cleveland's park system, recreational areas, airport and market houses during the past three and one-half years, with the city contributing its sponsor's share of only $750,000. Listed among the improvements was the Fairview Community Cabin and rehabilitated park. (*Plain Dealer*, 21 July 1940)

Federal Art Project

The association of the Village of Fairview with WPA federal relief projects did not end with completion of the community cabin and park improvements in 1940. The Federal Art Project (FAP) was part of the Works Progress Administration operating from 1935 until 1943. The primary goal of the FAP was to employ out-of-work artists while providing art for public spaces. FAP artists created primarily posters, murals and paintings among other types of art. The program began as the Public Works of Art Program (PWAP) in December 1933 under the Federal Civil Works Administration.

Nine regional directors were chosen from prominent museums around the country to oversee the program and among them was William Milliken, Director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, selected to head the Midwest Region. (Dean 2006, 13) In 1934, the PWAP program was widely recognized as a success and reorganized as part of a larger arts program under the Works Progress Administration and renamed the Federal Art Project (FAP) Under the FAP program more than 5,000 artists created 108,000 easel paintings, 17,700 sculptures, 11,000 print designs and 2,500 murals. (Dean 2006, 13)

The leaders of the FAP looked to shape the style and message of the imagery produced, avoiding depiction of the present poverty and hopelessness. For example, murals were to portray neutral, historical topics that were perceived as accepted public fact. (Dean 2006, 14) American scene painting and social realism became the pervasive style. Milliken went one step farther and lobbied for a regional painting style encouraging local artists to interpret their immediate surroundings in ways that "contributed toward a rapport with the public and a definition of the character and perceptions of Northeast Ohio." (Dean 2006, 16) Milliken continued after his role at the PWAP to help out with the FAP. (Dean 2006, 16) In Washington circles, Milliken was considered one of the most successful regional directors of federal art in the country. (Dean 2006, 17)

Other widely recognized federally sponsored programs included the Treasury Department Section of Painting and Sculpture (the "Section") formed in 1934 and the Treasury Relief Art Project (TRAP) formed in 1935. These programs commissioned art specifically for existing federal buildings, most often post office mural projects where approximately 3,000 murals were installed across the United States with 71 in Ohio with 19 in the Cleveland area. (Dean 2006, 18-19, 23, 24)

Local Village of Fairview resident and WPA artist Earl Neff came up with the idea of a mural for the Fairview community cabin interior. (Trainer 1993, 4) He designed an 8ft. x 12ft. mural for the cabin depicting in the popular regionalism style of WPA art, the history and character of the residents of Fairview who overcame the heartbreak of their first community cabin lost to fire and rallied again to rebuild. Central to the story is Mayor Bain featured holding plans for a new cabin with the seal of the

Mayor of Fairview prominently displayed in the center. Michael Rozdilsky of the Federal Art Project painted the oil on canvas mural.

The mural was dedicated and unveiled on the east wall of the community cabin on January 23, 1943 with William Milliken, director of the Cleveland Museum of Art as the featured speaker. (*Plain Dealer*, 22 January 1943)

The Works Progress Administration, including the longest surviving Treasury Department Section and Federal Art Project programs, were shut down in 1943 when the beginning of World War II changed the economic priority to the war effort and the country experienced economic recovery, 14 years after the stock market crash of 1929.

Renaming of Fairview Community Park to Bain Park

Mayor David R. Bain passed away in 1952 leaving a legacy of vision, leadership, strength and perseverance which had carried the Village of Fairview through the Great Depression. On October 8, 1957, the City of Fairview Community Park voted by Ordinance 57- 44 to rename Fairview Community Park as "Bain Park" recognizing:

> *WHEREAS, David R. Bain was Mayor of the City from 1932 to 1943, and*
>
> *WHEREAS, as a result of his great vision, leadership and ability our community developed into the fine City that it is today, and*
>
> *WHEREAS, it is proper that this Council pay tribute to the memory and work of the late Mayor R. Bain, and*
>
> *WHEREAS, this Council therefore deems it appropriate to name the present Fairview Community Park- Bain Park.*

Conclusion

The Fairview Community Park Historic District is significant for its association with a tenacious community planning and development effort by the Village of Fairview led by Mayor David R. Bain using local and federal labor relief programs of the Depression era. A community cabin and park improvements for Fairview Community Park was one of the first projects to obtain approval and financing in Cuyahoga County under the newly formed Works Progress Administration in 1935, completed with WPA labor and PWA financing in 1937. Completion of another WPA sponsored and PWA financed community cabin was accomplished in 1939, after the first one was lost to fire. More park improvements were installed in 1940 again with WPA labor and PWA monies. Finally, a WPA mural commissioned and dedicated during the final year of the Federal Arts Project in 1943. The Fairview Community Park Historic District remained associated with the Works Progress Administration from its inception in 1935, until the last of the WPA programs was shut down in 1943.

Criterion C

Summary

Fairview Community Park Historic District is significant under **Criterion C** in the areas of **Architecture** and **Art** for representative park architecture and art of the pre-World War II Works Progress Administration (WPA) including the romantic rustic picturesque style, and the later trend towards simplification coinciding with the emergence of the modern International style movement, as well as for an 8 ft. x 12 ft. WPA Federal Art Project artwork mural.

The period of significance begins in 1928 with the dedication of "Fairview Community Park" and ends with the installation of a Federal Art Project Mural in 1943. Park architecture within the Fairview Community Park Historic District includes a community cabin, mural, stone staircase and retaining walls, a wishing well, four stone bridges, shower basins and a shelter house.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Pre-World War II Park Architecture

Rustic picturesque architecture was the predominant style for pre-World War II park architecture between 1916 and 1942. The Federal Public Works Administration (PWA) was formed in 1933 as part of the National Industrial Recovery Act and charged with responsibilities including the award of grants to various Federal agencies for the construction of roads, water and sewer systems, buildings and other physical infrastructure improvements. The object was to stimulate both industrial production and the employment of skilled labor. (Tweed, Roosevelt's Emergency Programs 1977, 2) When the PWA invited federal agencies to present project proposals in 1933, the National Park Service submitted major portions of each park's six year master plan. In response, in July & September 1933, the first PWA projects awarded included 164 major building projects in the western national parks and monuments.

Park buildings were designed by Tom Vint and his staff at the National Park Service Landscape Division following a philosophy of non-invasive design, overruling historic style, with each structure individually designed for a particular site. Rustic log cabins were designed for deep woods settings, using logs from the surrounding forest to seek oneness with the environment through the use of native materials. On other park buildings, steeply pitched side gabled roofs and overhanging eaves, often with dormers, exposed rafter tails, rough hewn lap siding and a faintly Swiss style provided rustic appeal and also protection against heavy snows. (Tweed, Roosevelt's Emergency Programs 1977)

With the onslaught of PWA financed projects, Vint's staff became overwhelmed with the demand for park architecture, and by 1936 his office was expanded from 16 to 220 professional employees. He could no longer personally instruct his staff on park architecture. In response, the National Park Service published a text on park architecture entitled *Park and Recreation Structures*, edited by Albert H. Good, published in 1935 and later increased to a three volume treatise in 1938 entitled *Park Structures and Facilities*. This design of park architecture followed certain precepts and "rustic style" park architecture was described as:

> *Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past.*

Rustic architecture also served to separate the parks as distinct entities from the architecture of the rest of the nation. (Tweed, The Decline: 1935-1942, 1977, 9) Good defined various essential concepts of the rustic style. Buildings were to seek harmony with their surroundings though sensitive use of native and planted vegetation and though the use of natural colors into the building exterior. Foundations styled as rough rock footings or natural outcrops were popular. Stone could be used for walls, and battered or buttressed walls were preferred as giving a more natural appearance. Stones, logs and other construction materials were to be carefully proportioned to the natural setting. Irregular roof lines were preferred to precision straight lines and rustic structures were overall to appear in harmony with other buildings in the same park. Park amenities complimented the rustic approach with for example shelter houses, bridges and walls designed with the same emphasis on the use of native materials in sympathy with the natural surroundings. (Tweed, The Decline:1935-1942, 1977)

Toward the end of the 1930s rustic architecture was falling out of favor. The International style was introducing new materials and building techniques, and cleaner lines, with some architects feeling that rustic buildings had too much of a "Hansel-and-Gretel" feeling. A new park architecture movement began believing that harmony through nature could best be achieved through modest functional design, simple honesty and modern realism versus romanticism. In addition, funding for the work-relief programs diminished by World War II, and the abundant supply of men to peel logs, haul boulders and do skilled artisan work dwindled. The labor-intensive aspects of rustic construction gave more reason to look toward less expensive methods of building in the future. (National Park Service, 2001)

Park Architecture of Fairview Community Park

The park architecture within Fairview Community Park Historic District includes rustic picturesque style resources as well as later simpler WPA park architecture style of the late pre-War II period.

Originally, the Village of Fairview chose the rustic picturesque style log cabin style for their first community building constructed in 1937 as Mayor's Bain's community "mountain cabin" using WPA labor and traditional log cabin construction methods, on a foundation using recycled sandstone. Fairview Community Park Historic District now includes a new WPA community cabin constructed in 1939 based upon the design of the earlier cabin, but constructed with less flammable material and the cleaner lines of later pre- World War II park architecture style. (See Historic Images, Figures 4&5)

WPA architect John Justin Carr designed the first 1937 Fairview community cabin in the romantic rustic picturesque high style as a pioneer log cabin with hand hewn recycled telephone/utility pole logs, a sandstone stone foundation and wood shingled roof. The second 1939 community cabin was drawn by architect J. Ellsworth Potter based largely upon the earlier design with the addition of a dormer over the north one and one-half story wing. (See Historic Images, Figures 4&5) The choice of brick, sandstone and slate by Potter as construction material reflected the overriding concern of fire. As reported by the *Plain Dealer* on February 9, 1938,

> *While similar to the mountain style cabin of the first, the new cabin will embody several construction changes. Walls would be of brick instead of the lengths of telephone poles which while providing attractive building material, made splendid fuel for the fire that nearly broke the village's heart.*

Skintled brick was originally specified by Potter, the use of which would have created a more rustic appearance. The cabin building was instead executed in a red hard burnt common brick in a running bond pattern on the north and south wings. This choice of brick was likely influenced by his work with

Mayor Bain and their construction of red hard burnt common brick masonry homes throughout Fairview, many of which were certified by the Cleveland Clay League. The community cabin also received League certification as evidenced by the bronze brick embedded in the front elevation wall of the north wing. This recognition was awarded to buildings constructed of masonry materials made in Cleveland and certified "that the materials which go into the walls are fire safe, attractive, provide adequate strength and long life and are such as not to be a constant source of repair and upkeep expense." (*Plain Dealer*, 27 May 1928)

Elements of the rustic form are still evident in the overall design of the 1939 community cabin including triangular brackets, false exposed rafter tails, a Swiss chalet feeling at the gable ends, corbelled stone detailing and use of natural dark red and brown colors, however the use of brick and slate changes the exterior. However, the effect of masonry brick and sandstone walls, instead of logs, transformed the original rustic style cabin exterior into a style more reflective of the simplicity and modern look of the International style and late pre-War II WPA park architecture and away from the high style form of the earlier cabin building.

Although the rustic pioneer feeling was softened on the exterior of the 1939 community cabin, it has been largely retained on the interior of the building with a large sandstone fireplace at the south end of a main commons room, dark stained wood pine planked interior walls, a built in bench seat, and a vaulted half timbered ceiling with dark wood trusses and balconies with dark stained decorative diagonal plank balusters overlooking the commons room with wood chandelier light fixtures. The south wing library features another smaller sandstone fireplace and hearth, with sandstone detail at the door surround, bookcases with hammered hardware, Dutch style batten doors and original composition flooring. The north wing kitchen, pantry and serving area have also retained the rustic dark wood styling with batten cupboards.

Fairview Community Park Historic District also includes a stone staircase and retaining walls constructed at the same time as the community cabin in 1937. (See Historic Images, Figure 7) The sandstone staircase and battered retaining walls lead into the Fairview Community Park Historic District from North Park Drive and are designed and scaled to blend into the natural topography of the hillside to the north of the community cabin with rockface sandstone capped retaining walls incorporated into the staircase structure. The material, scale and design of the stairs and retaining walls reflect elements representative of the rustic picturesque style. The recycled sandstone from the Lorain road bridge rebuilding in 1935 and slum clearance projects was not reused in the foundation materials or chimney/fireplaces of the 1939 cabin. (Potter 1938) It may, however, remain in the sandstone staircase and retaining walls built at the same time as the 1937 cabin, characterized by a tooled ashlar sandstone in comparison to the ashlar sandstone walls of the 1939 community cabin exterior front elevation wall.

The wishing well is another rustic style park structure built ca. 1935-37 within the Fairview Community Park Historic District. The work of skilled masonry artisans is evident in the construction of the wishing well with coursed rubble stone masonry walls capped with cobblestones and stacked river stone piers supported a wood plank side gabled roof. It has a largely similar appearance to the design seen in *Park and Recreation Facilities* published by Albert Good in 1938 and considered the authoritative text on rustic park architecture. (Good, 113) (See Historic Images, Figures 8&9) The wishing well does not appear on the 1935 Planning Department of Works CCERA Fairview Community Park plans or on the 1940 WPA Fairview Village Park proposed WPA project plans. A 1937 photo of the wishing well shows the first community cabin under construction in the background. The wishing well is clearly rustic park

architecture style, but there is no confirmation that WPA labor and PWA money were used for construction.

Four stone bridges located within the Fairview Community Park Historic District were constructed and reconstructed in 1940, reflecting elements of the rustic park architectural style using natural random ashlar sandstone materials, graduated railings and an arched bridge design blending with the surrounding wooded area and Coe Creek river stone. However, the simpler lines of the later style are evident in the flat sandstone caps and ashlar sandstone walls, in contrast to the rockface caps and tooled sandstone of the stone staircase and retaining walls. The arched stone style is similar in appearance to the bridge design seen in the rustic park architecture of *Park and Recreation Facilities* published by Albert Good in 1938. (Good 1938, 113) (See Historic Images, Figure 10)

As an example of a simpler WPA park architecture of the late pre-War II period designed by engineer J. R. Cloyd, the southern portion of the Fairview Community Park Historic District, north of Eaton Road, features a shelter house constructed in 1940. This shelter building uses the simpler fire proof design and lines of the later pre-World War II park architecture, blending with the architecture of the 1939 community cabin building. Also located in this section of the park are concrete shower basins with copper sprinkler head fountains created as an alternative to children's wading pools to greatly reduce the chance of children drowning. They were installed as part of the 1940 WPA park improvements.

Fairview Community Park Historic District contains representative pre-World War II park architecture including the rustic style expressed in the stone staircase, retaining walls, wishing well and elements of the stone bridges; and, the later trend towards a more modern simpler style reflected in the 1939 community cabin, shelter house and shower basins.

Pre-World War II WPA Art & Fairview Community Park Cabin Mural

The Federal Art Project (FAP) was another Works Progress Administration program. FAP artists created primarily posters, murals and paintings, among other types of art. The program began as the Public Works of Art Program (PWAP) in December 1933 under the Federal Civil Works Administration. In 1934, the PWAP program was widely recognized as a success and reorganized as part of a larger arts program under the Works Progress Administration and renamed the Federal Art Project (FAP) Under the FAP program more than 5,000 artists created 108,000 easel paintings, 17,700 sculptures, 11,000 print designs and 2,500 murals. (Dean 2006, 13) The leaders of the FAP looked to shape the style and message of the imagery produced, avoiding depiction of the present poverty and hopelessness. For example, murals were to portray neutral, historical topics that were perceived as accepted public fact. (Dean 2006, 14) American scene painting and social realism became the pervasive style. William Milliken, Director of the Cleveland Museum of Art, went one step farther and lobbied for a regional painting style encouraging local artists to interpret their immediate surroundings in ways that "contributed toward a rapport with the public and a definition of the character and perceptions of Northeast Ohio." (Dean 2006, 16)

Other widely recognized federally sponsored programs included the Treasury Department Section of Painting and Sculpture (the "Section") formed in 1934 and the Treasury Relief Art Project (TRAP) formed in 1935. These programs commissioned art specifically for existing federal buildings, most often post office mural projects where approximately 3,000 murals were installed across the United States with 71 in Ohio with 19 in the Cleveland area. (Dean 2006, 18-19, 23, 24) Mural art is perhaps the most recognized of the artwork produced under the Federal Art Project

An 8 ft. x 12 ft. wood framed oil on canvas Federal Arts Project mural is the central feature of the Fairview Community Cabin interior installed in 1943 and prominently displayed on the east wall of the commons room. It is an outstanding example of well preserved WPA Federal Art Project mural art. Local Village of Fairview resident Earl Neff designed the mural for the 1939 community cabin interior. (Trainer 1993, 4) Painted in the Depression era style of social realism, also known as American Scene painting, it shows the local trend of the era towards a regionalist style by portraying the character and perseverance of the people of Fairview Village.

The Cleveland Artist Foundation has cited several of the most important works produced by the WPA for public spaces in Cleveland including: the mural at (Fairview Community Park) Bain Park Cabin; a series of 16 mural lunettes located at Cleveland Public Auditorium; and sculpture at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. (Cleveland Artists Foundation)

Representative Work

Included within the Fairview Community Park Historic District are representative examples of the work of the following local architects, engineers, builders, building organizations and artists:

John Justin Carr, Architect

John Justin Carr was born in Cleveland and graduated from Shaw High School in East Cleveland in 1928, receiving his bachelor's degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology. He began his career with the firm of Small & Rowley. In 1931 he graduated from the School of Fine Arts in Fontainebleau, France where he painted extensively working primarily on landscapes and watercolors. In the 1930's he returned to the United States and found work with the Cuyahoga County Works Progress Administration architectural department. As part of his WPA work at the "Planning Department of Works Division of CCERA," he designed the plans for the 1937 rustic log Fairview community cabin. He also specialized in zoo designs, reviewing zoo construction in Cincinnati, Toledo, Detroit and Chicago and is credited with the WPA design of Monkey Island and the sea line pool at the Cleveland zoo. (*Plain Dealer*, 21 October 1986; *Plain Dealer*, 7 April 1968)

In 1946, he established the architecture firm of Carr and Cunningham designing public and private institutional projects as well as residential and commercial projects. His best known church projects include the First Congregational Church in Kent, Mount Zion Congregational Church in University Circle, and SS Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Churches in Cleveland Hts. In 1948 and 1949 he served as president of the Cleveland American Institute of Architects and last worked at the firm of Flynn, Dalton, vanDijk & Partners until his retirement in 1974. He passed away in 1986. (*Plain Dealer,* 21 October 1986; *Plain Dealer,* 7 April 1968)

David R. Bain, Contractor

David R. Bain was not only the Mayor of the Village of Fairview from 1932-1943, but owned David R. Bain, Inc. a building company specializing in masonry brick residential home construction operating extensively in Fairview, Lakewood and Rocky River. David R. Bain was born in Cleveland and educated in the public schools and at Spencerian Business College. (*Plain Dealer*, 9 November 1953) His Scottish father was a stonecutter who helped erect the Soldiers and Sailors monument, the Society for Savings and the old Arcade, passing on the trade to his son. He joined his father's contracting business in 1910 and continued with the exception of 21 months of service in the army during World War I, serving overseas. He lived at 21684 Woodlawn Ave. in Fairview in a house he built with his wife and son David. (*Plain Dealer*, 1 February 1932) He often appeared in the *Plain Dealer* newspaper promoting smaller brick home construction.

J. Ellsworth Potter, Architect
J. Ellsworth Potter came to Cleveland in 1912 from Pierpont, Ohio where he was born in 1888. At the age of 16 years, he became the youngest engineer in Ashtabula county. At 18 years of age he was a practicing architect. He became a resident of Fairview and formed his own firm, Potter & Bremmer located in Cleveland. His earlier work was in masonry brick house design where he was often the architect for Mayor David R. Bain's masonry residential construction company with many of their homes certified by the Cleveland Clay League. He was also known for his work designing churches including St. Colman's, St. John Cantius', St. Benedicts and Ss. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Churches and St. Andrew's Abbey. He designed the buildings for his own parish, St. Angela Merisi's Catholic Church on Lorain Road., Fairview Park. (*Plain Dealer*, 25 May 1958)

Cleveland Clay League
The Cleveland Clay League was organized in Cleveland in 1927 with Glenn W. Bittel as manager. The League became affiliated with the Ohio Brick Tile Association and the Common Brick Manufacturers Association of America both of which were headquartered in Cleveland. (*Plain Dealer*, 3 April 1927) The purpose of the organization was to "to encourage home ownership, fire-safe construction, erection of permanent and more attractive wage-earners houses' and the widest possible use of Cleveland-made building materials, such as brick and hollow building tiles." (*Plain Dealer*, 3 April 1927) The organization became known for their official bronze hollow brick which was awarded to houses constructed with masonry walls from material made in Cleveland. An inspection by the executive committee was required in order to obtain a bronze hollow brick, which was placed in the exterior wall at the time of construction. (*Plain Dealer*, 18 March 1928) The Cleveland Public Library worked in cooperation with the League to provide books and materials promoted masonry construction. Advertisements by the Cleveland Clay League listed the virtues of brick to include: fire safe, maximum loan value, low depreciation, minimum upkeep and everlasting attractiveness. (*Plain Dealer*, 29 May 1927)

In 1928, the Cleveland Clay League won national recognition from the Common Brick Manufacturers Association of America located in Boston, which approved plans for making the bronze brick the official mark of certification for the territories they served. (*Plain Dealer*, 11 November 1928)

John R. Cloyd, Engineer
In 1942, John R. Cloyd was municipal engineer for communities in the western suburbs of Cleveland including Rocky River, the Village of Fairview, North Olmstead, Olmstead Falls, Parkview, Westlake and West View. (*Plain Dealer*, 19 July 1942) He later formed his own engineering firm, John R. Cloyd & Associates. He served with the Army Engineers in World War II. He was also a resident of Rocky River, retired in 1960 and moved to Florida in 1965 where he passed away in 1968. (*Plain Dealer*, 28 February 1968)

Earl Neff, Artist
Earl Neff was a WPA artist and for a short time served as Director of the Federal Art Project in Cleveland in 1937. His most well known works of art include the "History of Railroading," a 15 panel mural created in 1937 for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and trainmen measuring 101 ft. wide by 4 ft. in height, which was not a WPA commission (Dean 2006, 50) His other murals are located in the Cleveland Public Library, Brownell School and Lakeview Terrace Nursery in the City of Cleveland. He later became a teacher, illustrator and award winning fine artist. His fashion art appeared in the *Plain Dealer* newspaper.

He also served as art director of Standard Oil of Ohio and exhibited at the 1930 May Show at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

In more recent years he became known as the founder of the Cleveland Ufology Project in 1958, hosting a national radio show on the topic of UFO's. He passed away in 1993 at age 90. (*Plain Dealer*, 29 November 1992: Van Tassel 1996)

Conclusion

Fairview Community Park Historic District is a significant and intact representation of pre-World War II park architecture and artwork including the rustic style and the later trend towards a more modern style, predominant in Works Progress Administration park projects between 1935 and 1943. All of the contributing Fairview Community Park Historic District resources were financed with PWA monies, with the exception of the wishing well.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 34 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17N Easting: 428085 Northing: 4587796
2. Zone: 17N Easting: 428707 Northing: 4587796
3. Zone: 17N Easting: 428707 Northing: 4587041
4. Zone: 17N Easting: 428085 Northing: 4587041

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

Fairview Community Park Historic District, (also known as Bain Park) is situated in the City of Fairview Park, County of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio and further described as Cuyahoga County Parcel Number 321-36-001 bounded by: North Park Drive to the north; West 210th Street & South Park Drive to the east; South Park Drive and Seabury Avenue to the south; and West Park Drive to the west.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the Fairview Community Park Historic District are based upon the boundaries of the property originally acquired by the Village of Fairview as park land and dedicated as Fairview Community Park in 1928.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Wendy Hoge Naylor, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization: The Naylor Company
street & number: 92 East Washington Street
city or town: Chagrin Falls state: Ohio zip code: 44022
e-mail: whn@naylorcompany.com
telephone: 440-247-8319
date: March 18, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

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

Photographs
Photo Log

Name of Property: Fairview Community Park Historic District
City or Vicinity: City of Fairview Park
County: Cuyahoga County State: OH
Photographer: Wendy Hoge Naylor, the Naylor Company
Date of Photographed: November, 2012

CONTRIBUTING:

Northeast Section

1a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0001)	Community Cabin	camera facing SE
1b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0002)	Community Cabin	camera facing NE
1c. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0003)	Community Cabin	camera facing SW
1d. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0004)	Community Cabin	camera facing NE
2a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0005)	Community Cabin	camera facing S
2b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0006)	Community Cabin	camera facing E
2c. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0007)	Community Cabin	camera facing E
Int. a of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0008)	Community Cabin	camera facing NE
Int. b of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0009)	Community Cabin	camera facing NW
3a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0010)	Staircase & Ret. Wall	camera facing SE
3b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0011)	Staircase & Ret. Wall	camera facing S
3c. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0012)	Staircase & Ret. Wall	camera facing S
3d. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0013)	Staircase & Ret. Wall	camera facing E

3e. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0014)	Staircase & Ret. Wall	camera facing NW
4a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0015)	Retaining Wall	camera facing W
5a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0016)	Wishing Well	camera facing SW
5b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0017)	Wishing Well	camera facing NW

North of Eaton Road

6-1a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0018)	Bridge 6-1	camera facing E
6-1b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0019)	Bridge 6-1	camera facing NE
6-1c. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0020)	Bridge 6-1	camera facing W
6-2a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0021)	Bridge 6-2	camera facing NW
6-2b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0022)	Bridge 6-2	camera facing NE
6-3a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0023)	Bridge 6-3	camera facing N
6-3b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0024)	Bridge 6-3	camera facing S
6-3c. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0025)	Bridge 6-3	camera facing SW
6-4a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0026)	Bridge 6-4	camera facing NW
6-4b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0027)	Bridge 6-4	camera facing NE
6-4c. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0028)	Bridge 6-4	camera facing SE

South of Eaton Road

7a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0029)	Shower Basins	camera facing NW
7b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0030)	Shower Basins	camera facing SW
8a. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0031)	Shelter House	camera facing SW
8b. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0032)	Shelter House	camera facing NW
8c. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0033)	Shelter House	camera facing NE
8d.of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0034)	Shelter House	camera facing NE
8e.of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0035)	Shelter House	camera facing E

NONCONTRIBUTING:

Northeast Section:

A1. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0036)	Bain Park Gazebo	camera facing NE

North of Eaton Road

B1. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0037)	Culvert	camera facing SE
B2. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0038)	Culvert	camera facing S
C1. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0039)	Toilets	camera facing NE

South of Eaton Road

D1. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0040)	Warming Hut	camera facing SW

OTHER VIEWS

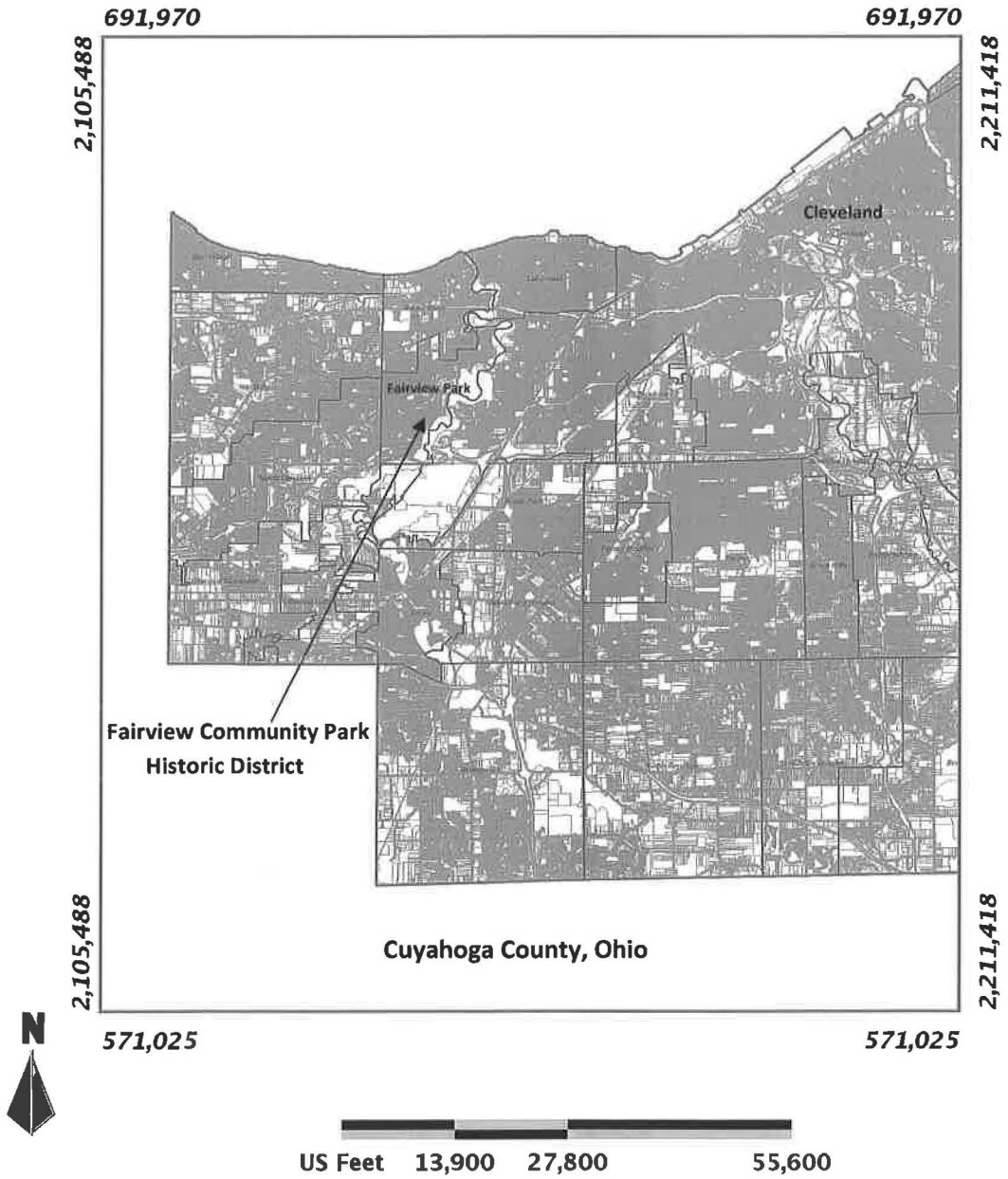
Northeast Section:

V1. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0041)	Parking Lot	camera facing SW

North of Eaton Road

V2. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0042)	Play Area	camera facing NW
V3. of 44 (OH_Cuyahoga_Fairview Comm. Park HD_0043)	Play Area	camera facing SW

Locator Map – Fairview Community Park Historic District, City of Fairview Park, Cuyahoga County, Ohio



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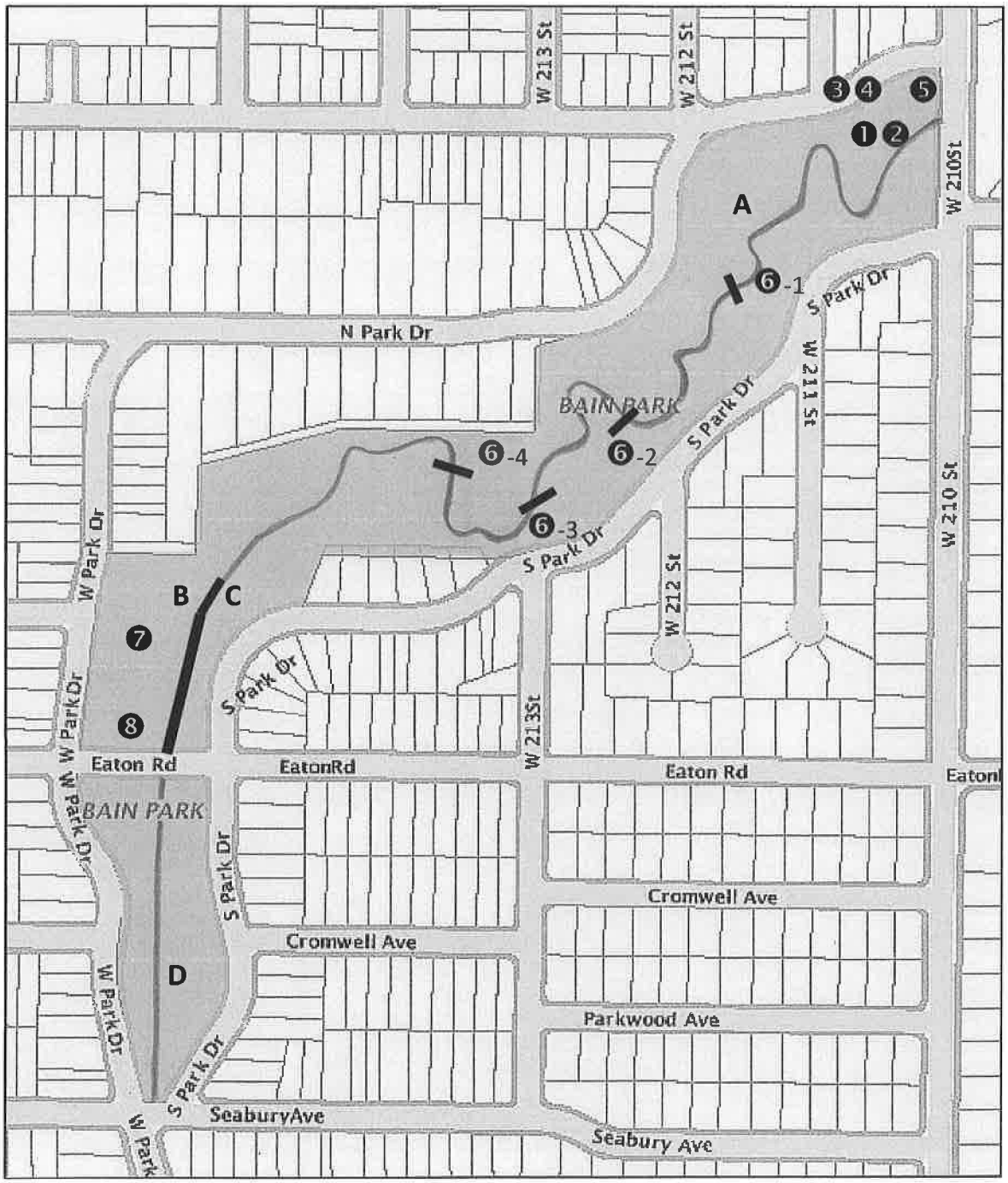
SKETCH MAP - Boundaries of Fairview Community Park Historic District indicted by Shaded Area



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SKETCH MAP KEY

Contributing Resources:

❶ Community Cabin

❷ Community Cabin Mural

❸ Stone Staircase

❹ Retaining Walls

❺ Wishing Well

❻-1 Bridge #1

❻-2 Bridge #2

❻-3 Bridge #3

❻-4 Bridge #4

❼ Shower Basins

❽ Shelter House

Non- Contributing Resources:

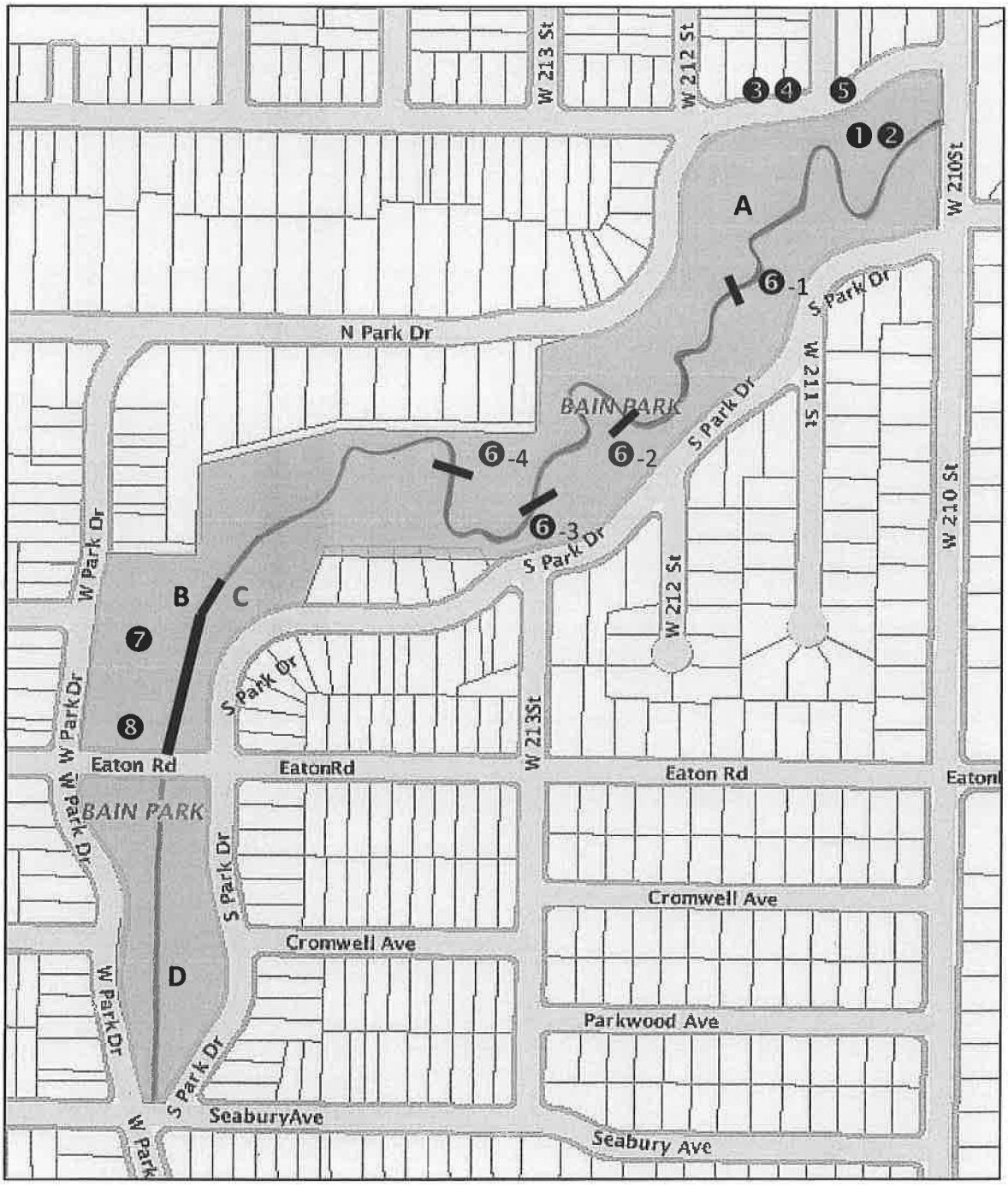
A. Bain Park Gazebo

B. Stream Enclosure/Underground Culvert

C. Toilets

D. Warming Hut

PHOTO KEY (Sketch Map) - Boundaries of Fairview Community Park Historic District indicted by Shaded Area



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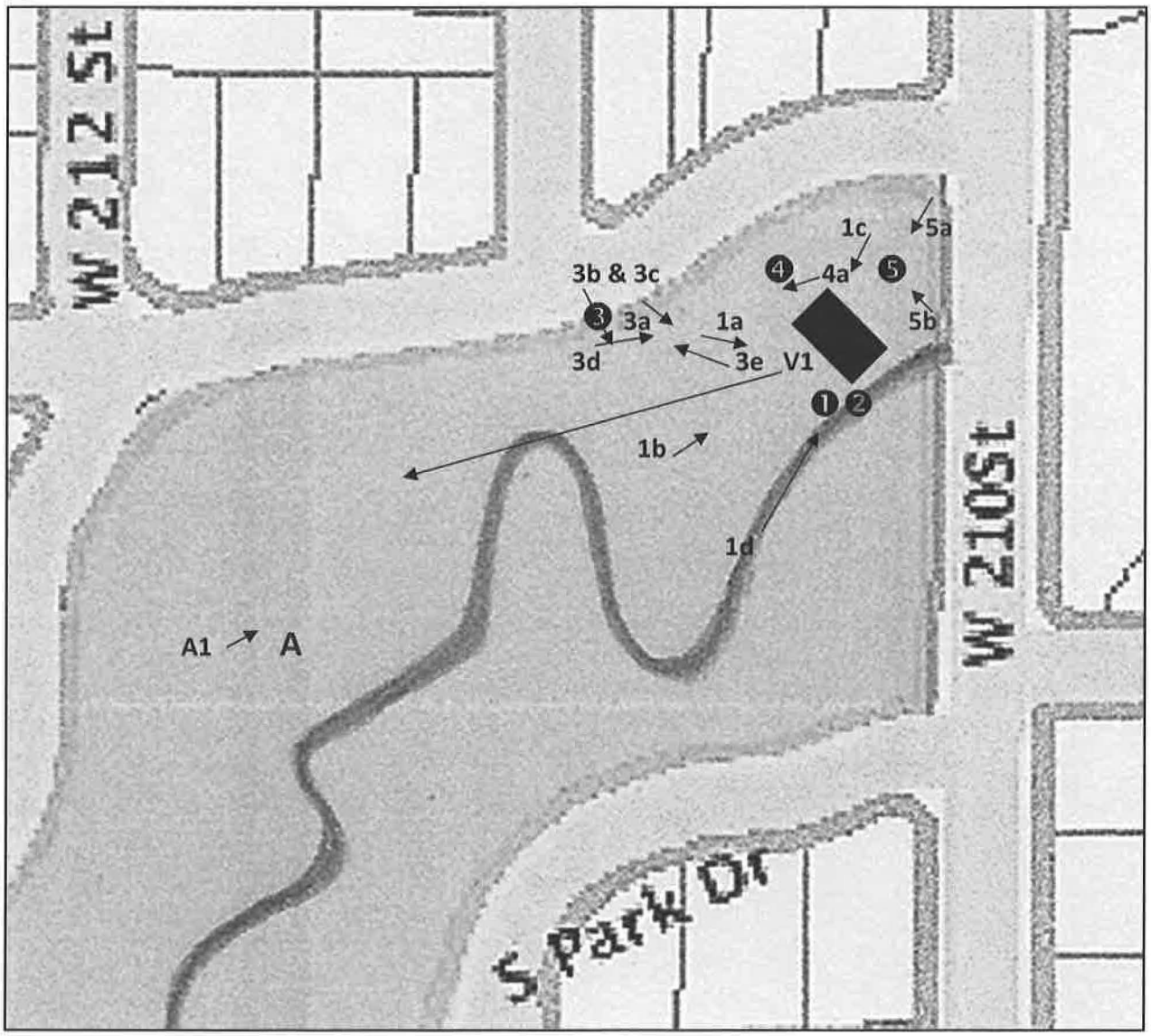
FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT- NORTHEAST SECTION



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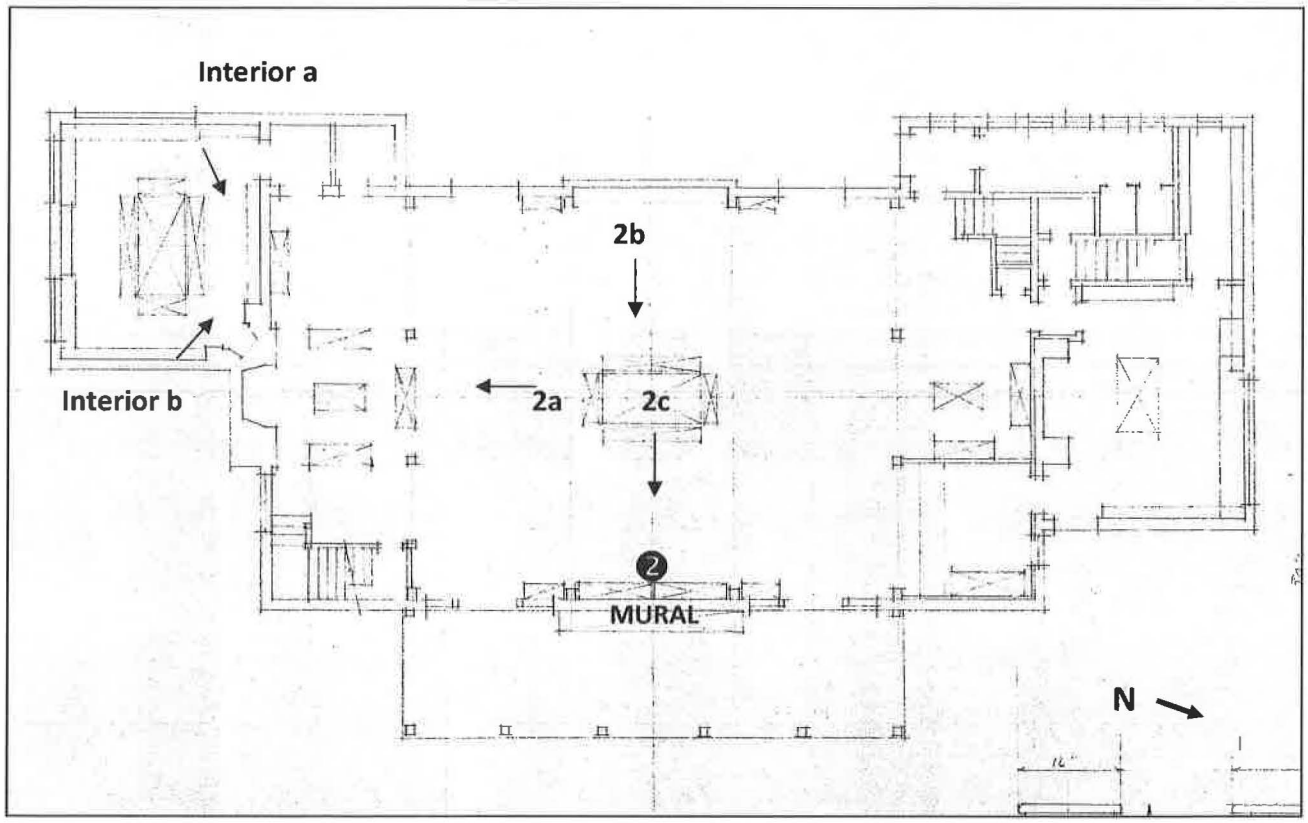
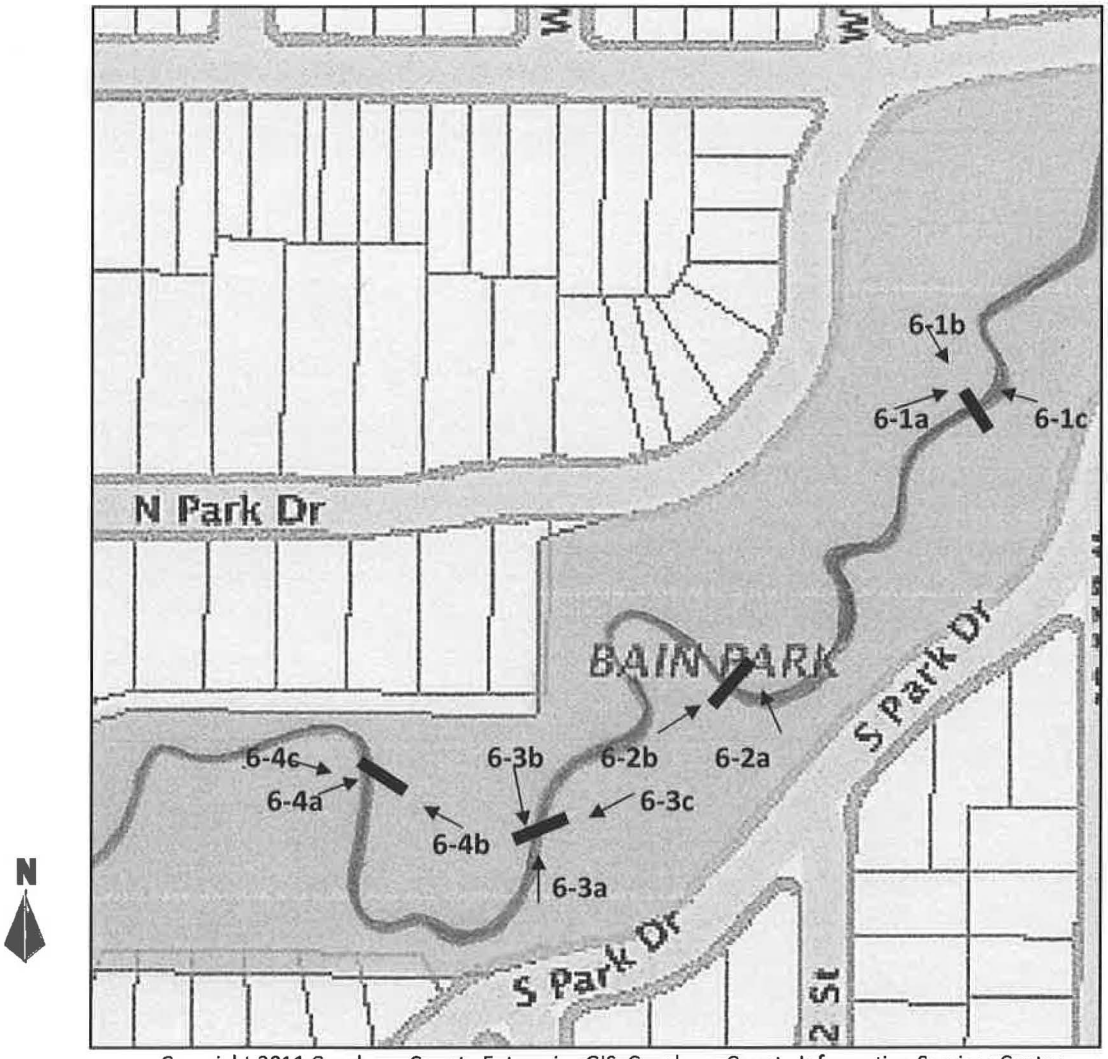
Map Not To Scale

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT – NORTHEAST SECTION COMMUNITY CABIN INTERIOR



First Floor - Community Building for the Village of Fairview, OH
Potter & Bremmer Architects, Cleveland, OH - February 25, 1938 Revised

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT MIDDLE SECTION – NORTH OF EATON ROAD



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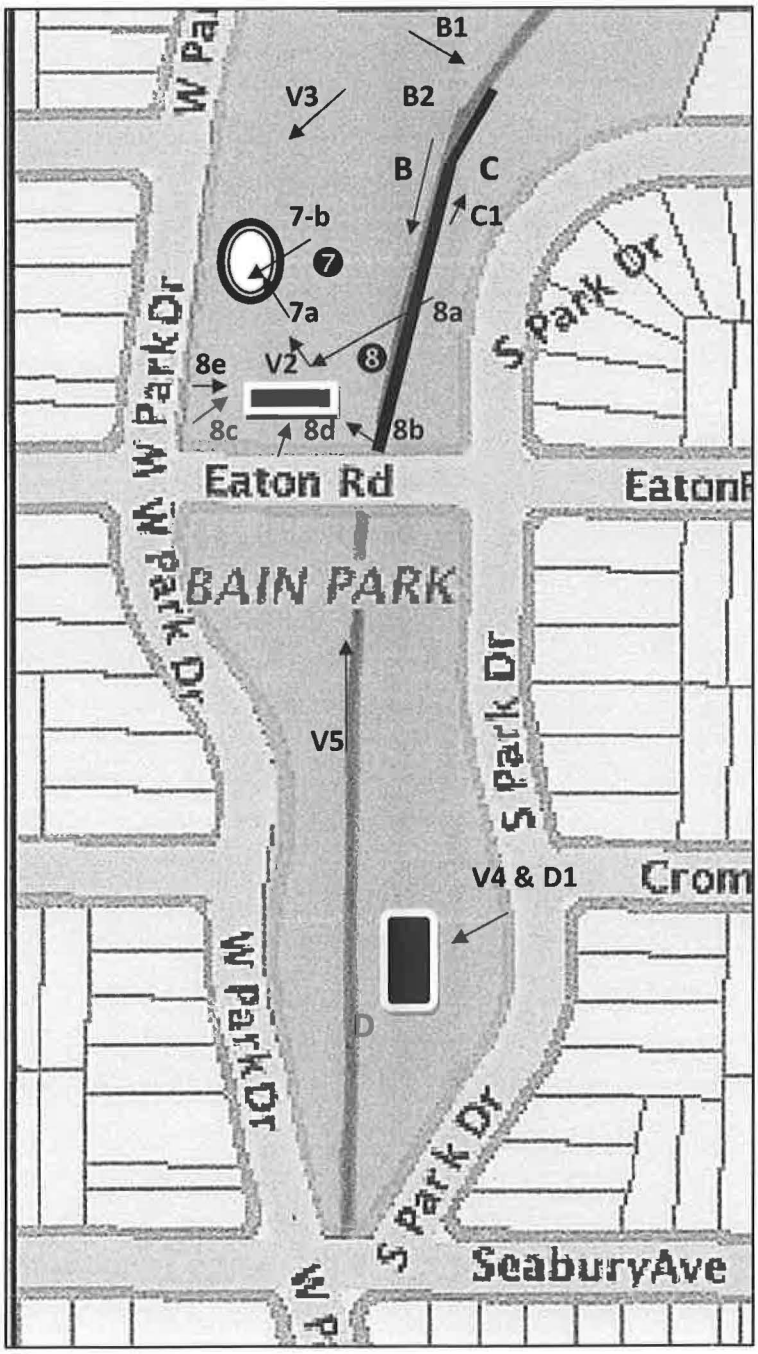
FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT - SOUTH OF EATON ROAD



N

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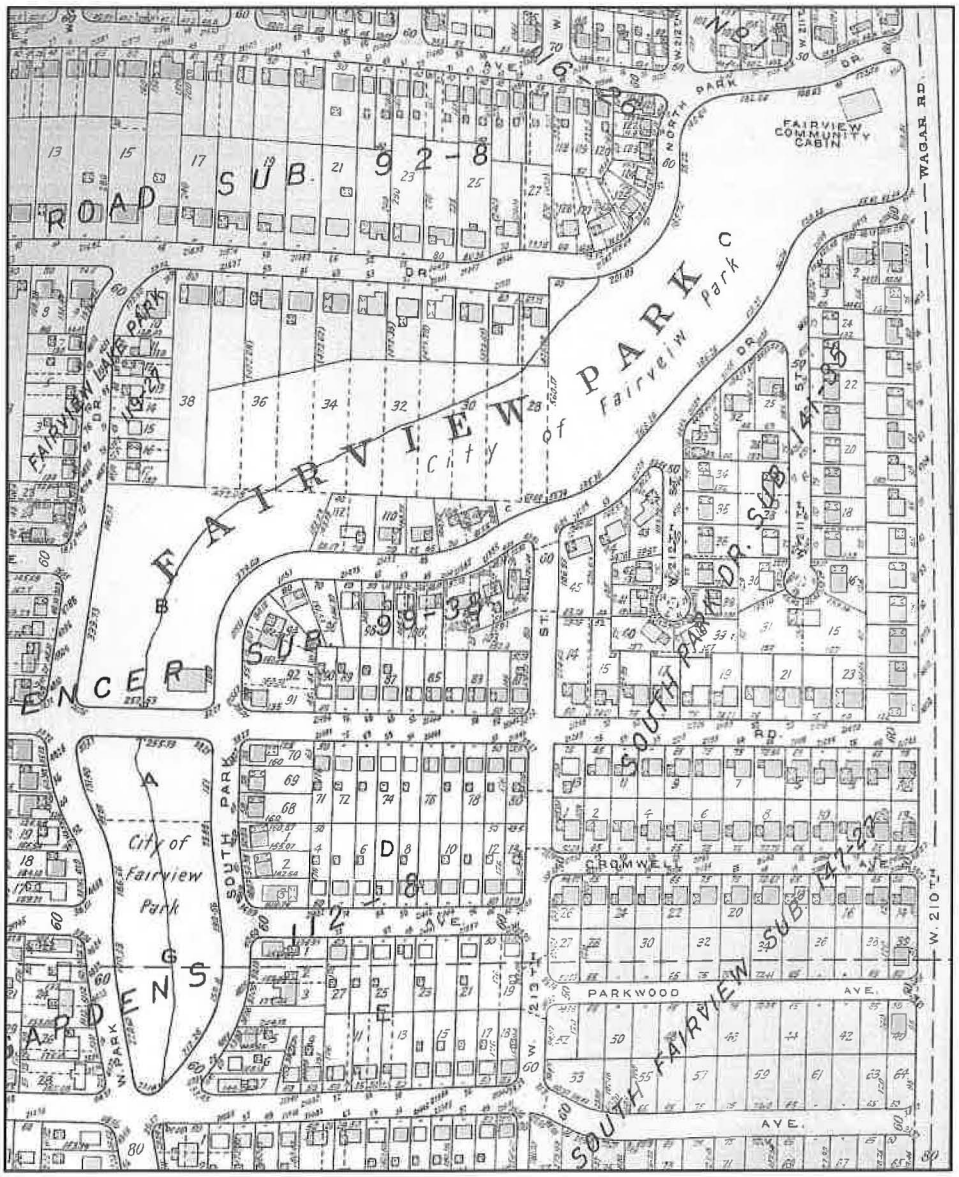
Map of Fairview Community Park
Showing Ownership Blocks C, B, A, G
Figure 1



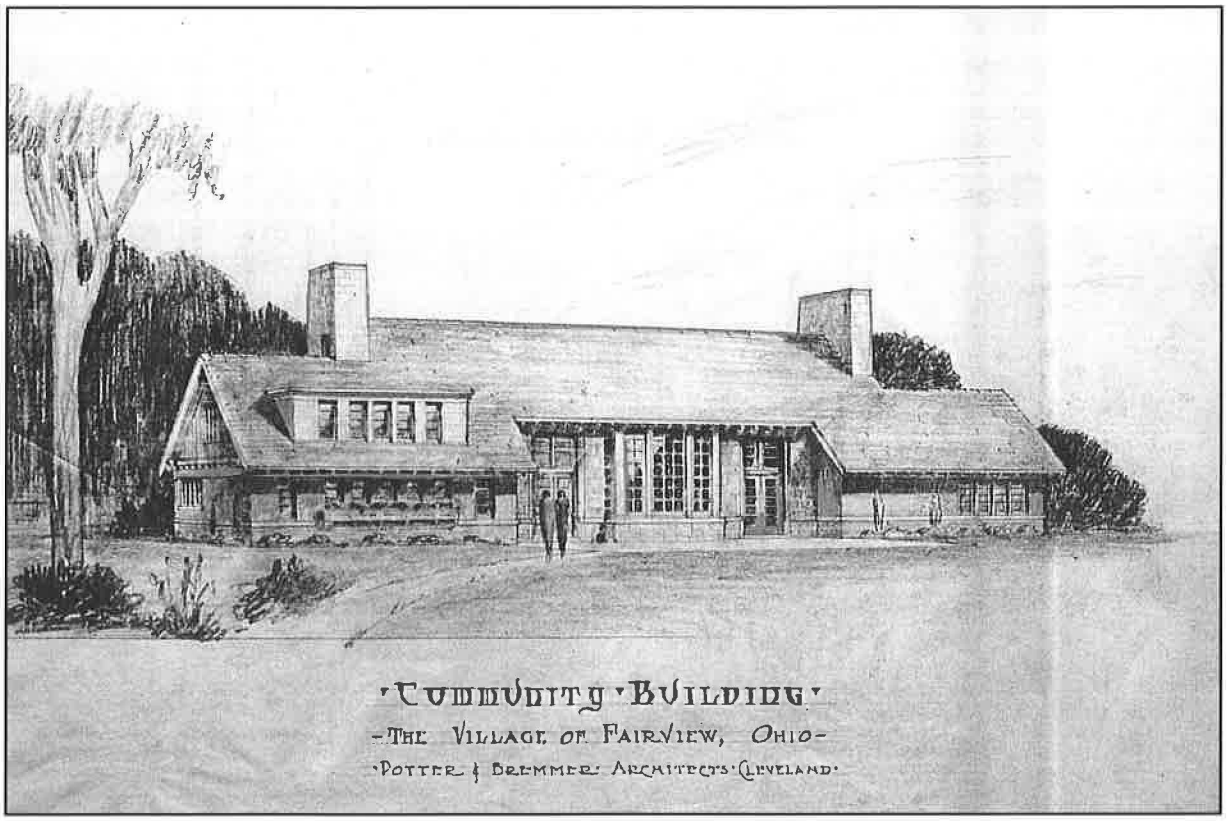
Plat Map Book of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Vol. 5, G.M. Hopkins Co., 1941-1957. Western Reserve Historical Society.

Fairview Community Cabin, 1937
(Lost to fire, 1937)
Figure 2

Views looking southeast

Photos, Fairview Park Historical Society Archives, 1937

Fairview Community Cabin Rendering, 1938
by Architect, J. Ellsworth Potter
Figure 3



Potter, J. Ellsworth. Architectural Plans: Community Building for Village of Fairview, OH, February 25, 1938. City of Fairview Park and Fairview Park Historical Society Archives.

Fairview Community Cabin, 1937
(Log Cabin lost to Fire in 1937)
Figure 4

Photo, Fairview Park Historical Society Archives, 1937

Fairview Community Cabin, 1939
(Reconstructed using same design)
Figure 5

Photo, Fairview Park Historical Society Archives, ca. 1941

Laying the Cornerstone for the Fairview Community Cabin of 1939
March, 1939
Figure 6

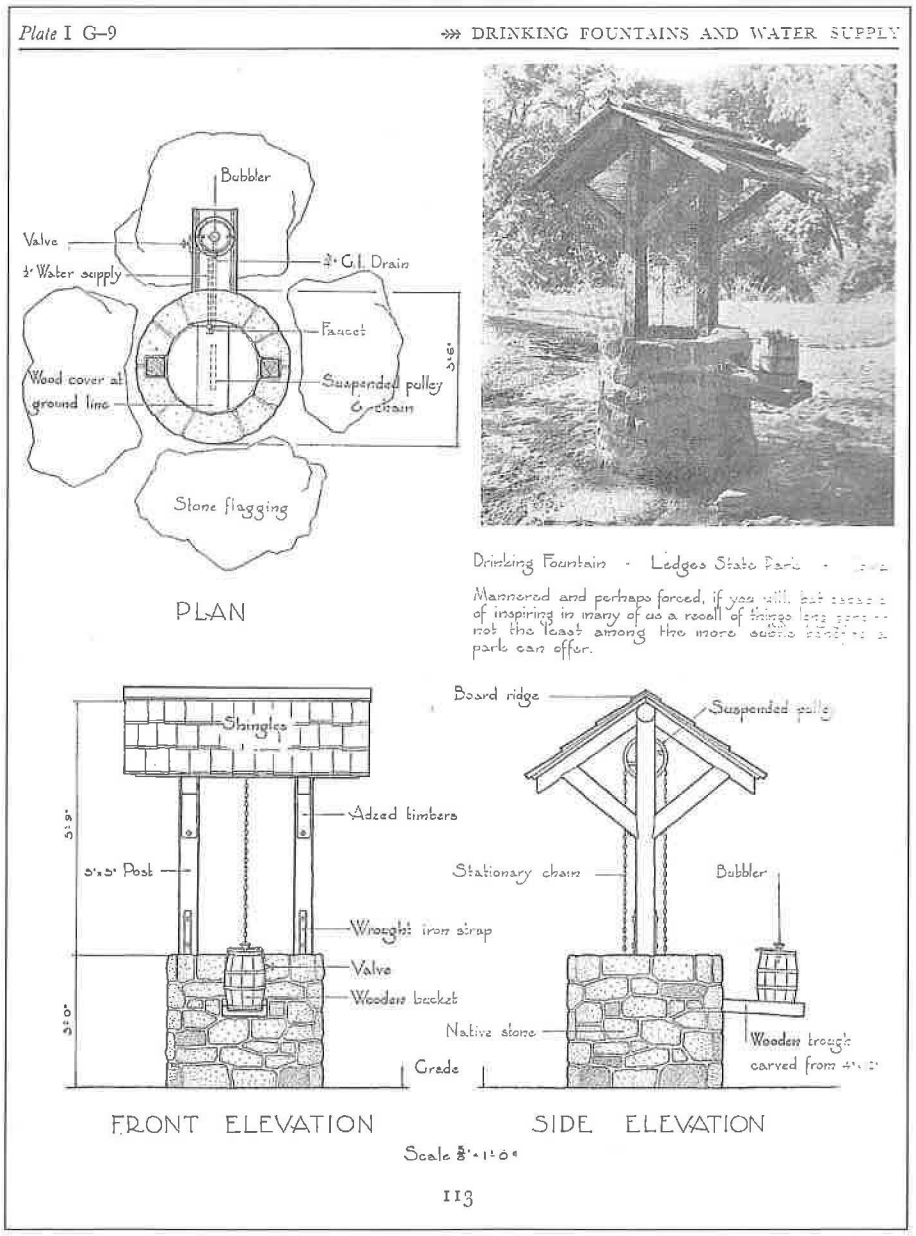
Included in photo from left to right: Conrad J. Miller, Guy R. Wheeler, Mayor David R. Bain, F.J. Schreiber, Rev. M.L. Stevenson, D.L. Bishop .

Photo, March 21,1939, *Cleveland Press* Archives, Cleveland State University, Michael Schwartz Library Special Collections.

Fairview Community Cabin, 1937
Stone Staircase,
Figure 7
View looking northwest with Community Cabin, 1937 in foreground

Photo, 1937, Cleveland Press Archives, Cleveland State University

Park and Recreation Facilities
Drinking Fountains and Water Supply, *Plate I* G-9
Figure 8



Good, Albert H. *Park and Recreation Structures*. United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, Government Printing Office, Drinking Fountain and Water Supply, 1938, 113.

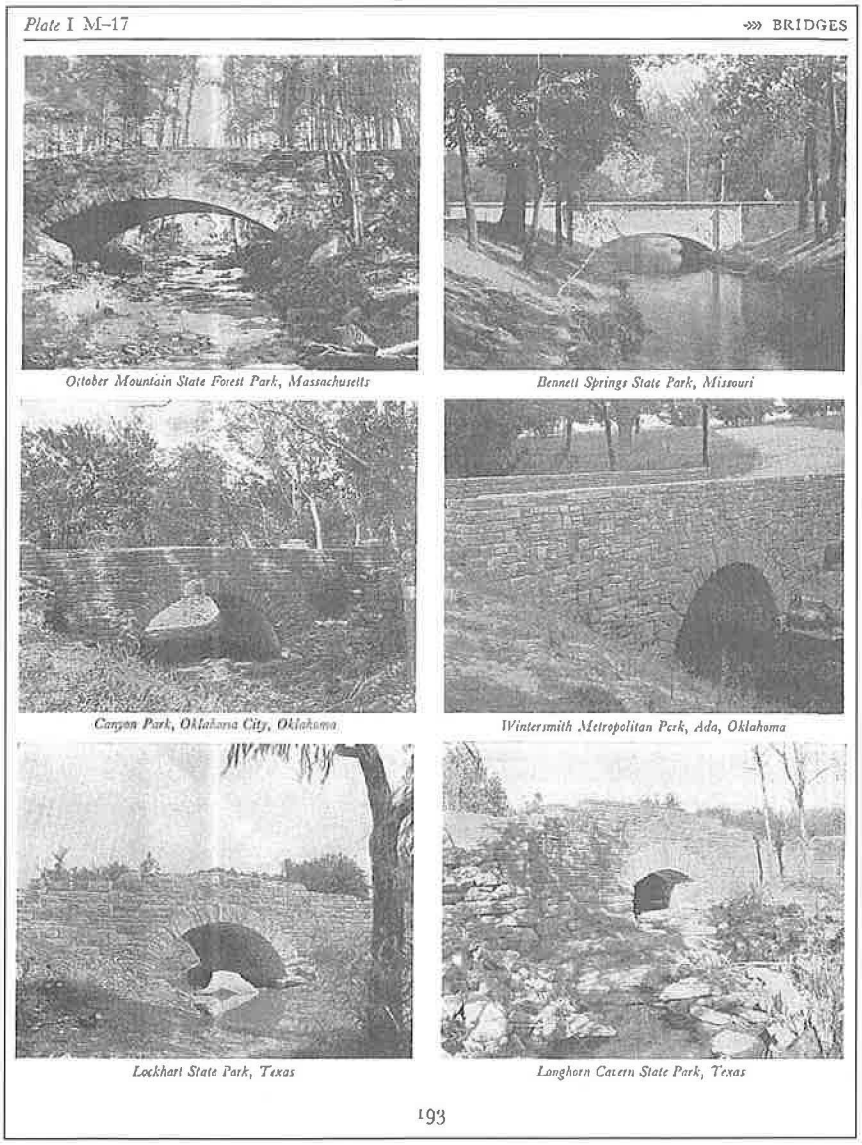
Wishing Well

Figure 9

View looking southwest with Fairview Community Cabin, 1937 in background

Photo 1937, Fairview Park Historical Society Archives

Park and Recreation Facilities
Bridges, *Plate I* M-17
Figure 10



Good, Albert H. *Park and Recreation Structures*. United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, Government Printing Office, Bridges, 1938, 193.

Fairview Community Park, ca. 1937
Bridge No.1
Figure 11
View looking northeast with Community Cabin, 1937 in background

Photo ca. 1937, Fairview Park Historical Society Archives

EXIT
EXIT

EXIT
EXIT

MAYOR
OF THE
VILLAGE OF
FAIRVIEW
OHIO
SEAL

BUCKEYES

Bain Park Pavilion
Residents Only!
Permits Must Be Obtained
at Group Center

WOMEN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fairview Community Park Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Cuyahoga

DATE RECEIVED: 5/03/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/30/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/14/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/19/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000388

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 6.14.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on April 24, 2013
For nomination of the Fairview Community Park Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places:

✓ Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

____ Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document

____ Multiple Property Nomination form

✓ Photographs (1-44)

✓ CD with electronic images

✓ Original USGS map(s)

✓ Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)

✓ Piece(s) of correspondence (2)

____ Other _____

COMMENTS:

____ Please provide a substantive review of this nomination

____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

____ The enclosed owner objection(s) do ____ do not ____
Constitute a majority of property owners

____ Other: _____

OHIO HISTORY

RECEIVED 2280
MAY 03 2013
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 23, 2013

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Keeper of the
National Register
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find four (4) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submission.

NEW NOMINATION	COUNTY
Chagrin Falls East Side Historic District	Cuyahoga
Fairview Community Park Historic District	Cuyahoga
Mayfield Theatre Building	Cuyahoga
Templin-Bradley Company Building	Cuyahoga

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

for Barbara Power

Burt Logan
Executive Director and CEO
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
800 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211 ph: 614.298.2000 fx: 614.298.2037
www.ohiohistory.org

Fairview Park Historical Society

P.O. Box 26143

Fairview Park, OH 44126

24 February 2013

Ms. Susan Tietz
National Register Survey Manager
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Society
800 East 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2474

Re: Fairview Community Park Historic District National Register Nomination
City of Fairview Park, Cuyahoga County

Dear Ms. Tietz:

The Fairview Park Historical Society supports nomination of the Fairview Community Park Historic District for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Fairview Community Park, now known as Bain Park, is an important historic resource with Works Progress Administration (WPA) art and architecture spanning the entirety of the WPA from 1935 to 1943. In addition, Bain Park Cabin, located within the Historic District, was awarded an Ohio Historical Marker in 2002 located on the edge of Bain Park at W. 210th St. and North Park Dr.

This nomination will bring community pride and recognition to the important history and perseverance of the citizens of Fairview Village and Mayor Bain who worked hard to make the community park a reality during the Depression years. Listing of the Fairview Park Historic District on the National Register will also provide a basis for seeking funding to ensure the continued maintenance of this 36 acre park property which includes the WPA Bain Park Cabin, a Federal Arts Project 8x12 ft. mural depicting the history of Fairview Village, stone staircase, stone retaining walls, a stone wishing well, four stone bridges, shower basins and a shelter house.

The Fairview Park Historical Society was founded in 1960 and has 61 individual and 46 family memberships. Our mission is to advance and encourage the investigation and study of the origin and past and present history of Fairview Park, Fairview Village, and Rockport Twp.
We thank you for your consideration for listing of the Fairview Community Park Historic District the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Leah Trainer

Leah Trainer, Trustee, Fairview Park Historical Society

Deborah R. Shell

Deborah R. Shell
Curator/Archivist, Fairview Park Historical Society Museum/Archives

CITY OF FAIRVIEW PARK

20777 Lorain Road
Fairview Park, Ohio 44126-2018
– Established in 1910 –

Eileen Ann Patton, Mayor

REC'D BY OHPO FEB 25 2013

February 19, 2013

Ms. Susan Tietz
National Register Survey Manager
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Society
800 East 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2474

RE: Fairview Community Park Historic District National Register Nomination - Cuyahoga County

Dear Ms. Tietz:

I am writing to support the nomination of the Fairview Community Park Historic District for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The preservation of Fairview Community Park, known now as Bain Park, for future generations is of the utmost importance to the Fairview Park community.

Bain Park (which encompasses Bain Park Cabin, a WPA structure built within the boundaries of Bain Park) is a beloved landmark in the City of Fairview Park. Its historic architecture serves as a reminder of the city's past, and its natural aesthetics provide residents an attractive backdrop for leisurely strolls and recreational activities. In addition, numerous community organizations and residents utilize the park as a venue for meetings and special events.

This nomination will allow us to apply for funding to maintain the historic resources located within the 36 acres of Bain Park. Furthermore, it will bring additional recognition to the important history and architecture of the former Fairview Community Park.

I urge those tasked with reviewing this nomination to vote in favor of listing the Fairview Community Park Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Eileen A. Patton

Eileen Ann Patton
Mayor, City of Fairview Park