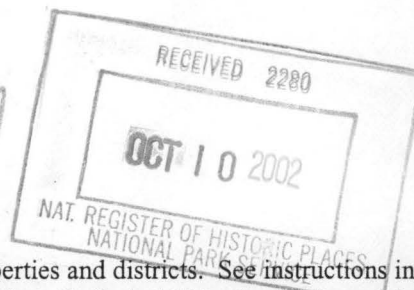


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1347



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name : **Fuller Park**

other names/site number : **Square No. 4**

2. Location

street & number: **331 W. 45th Street** (mailing address) _____ Not for publication

city or town : **Chicago** _____ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county : **Cook** code : **031** zip code: **60609**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William C. Wheeler / SHPO
Signature of certifying official

10-2-02
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

Fuller Park
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	<u>Bell Roland</u>	<u>11/20/07</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District

Fuller Park
Name of Property

Cook County, Illinois
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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/ park
RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE/ sports facility
OTHER/ field house

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/ park
RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE/ sports facility
OTHER/ field house

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Beaux Arts Classicism

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: **CONCRETE**

Roof: **ASPHALT TILES**

Walls: **CONCRETE**

Other: **EARTH**
VEGETATION

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Fuller Park
Name of Property

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Fuller Park is a 10.5-acre site located at 4500 south and 300 west in Chicago, Illinois. Conceived as part of a revolutionary system of 14 parks in 1903, Fuller Park was originally known as Square No. 4. While the first ten parks opened to the public in 1905, Fuller Park's development was delayed for several years due to problems with land acquisition. Fuller Park's development was delayed for several years due to problems with land acquisition. As final land purchases were made in 1908, the South Park Commissioners decided that Fuller Park should have a larger field house than any of the earlier parks. D.H. Burnham & Co., the prominent architectural firm that had created the nation's earliest field houses for the South Park Commission's first ten neighborhood parks a few years earlier, was asked to develop revised plans for a more commodious complex of buildings. The Olmsted Brothers, the nationally renowned landscape architects who had collaborated with D.H. Burnham & Co. on the original neighborhood parks, had developed preliminary plans for Square No. 4. Due to the enlargement of the site and its architectural complex, however, these plans were not executed. Instead, South Park Commission in-house staff members created new plans based on the Olmsted Brothers prototype.¹

Over the years, Fuller Park has continuously adapted to the frequently changing needs of the surrounding community while retaining a very high level of integrity. The property retains more original fabric than most other early South Park Commission neighborhood parks. The park is primarily composed of contributing features. In order to clearly describe Fuller Park and show that it retains sufficient integrity to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, two corresponding plans are submitted as part of this nomination: the original plan prepared by the South Park Commission in 1909 entitled Park Number Four [A], and a current plot plan [B]. In addition, reference will be made to John C. Olmsted's Sketch for a 10-Acre Playground [C].

Fuller Park is bounded on the north by S. 45th Street, on the south by 46th Street, on the east by Princeton Ave., and the west by the Pittsburgh and Ft. Wayne Railroad. The site lies in a neighborhood of frame houses, brick two-flats, and vacant lots known as the Fuller Park community area. Of Chicago's 77 official community areas, Fuller Park is the smallest, stretching across only a four-acre section of the city. Historically, the neighborhood expanded farther to the east, however, the construction of the Dan Ryan expressway eliminated about one-third of the original community.

Although the Olmsted Brother's preliminary plan for Fuller Park was not executed, the revised plan developed by the South Park Commission [A] generally followed the prototype for a 10-acre park that was created by John C. Olmsted in 1903 [C]. This plan divided a site into two halves, with a sunken ball field comprising one half of the park, and the architectural components, outdoor gymnasiums, and swimming pool comprising the other half of the park [C]. This approach was generally followed, with the playfields placed on one side of the park and the architectural components on the other side. To accommodate a larger field house complex and provide for formality and symmetry in the park's layout, however, the South Park Commission designers divided the landscape into six components. One side of the park was comprised by the playfield divided into two sections,

¹ John C. Olmsted, Sketch for a 10-Acre Playground, 30 December, 1903, in the collections of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.

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and the swimming complex. The other side of the park included the field house and gymnasium complex, and men's and women's outdoor gymnasiums.

The larger playfield field, designated tennis lawn, was edged by formal walkways radiating from the field house complex. The South Park Commissioners had believed that the two small fields could provide space for softball, football, and lawn tennis, and ice-skating in the wintertime.² Over the years, however, the two divided fields proved to be inadequate. The eastern walkway that divided the two lawn areas was removed in 1949 to create one large field.³ At the same time, an original balustrade and stairway leading into the west playfield from the concert grove was also removed to further enlarge the single playfield [1]. The field area was also filled at that time to bring the grade up to the same level as the field house. The Chicago Park District also installed paved tennis courts [2] on the southeast end of the field in the late 1930s.

The South Park Commission in-house designers placed the swimming complex at the southwest side of the park on a higher level than the adjacent play field and men's open air gymnasium. In the Olmsted Brothers prototype plan [C] the swimming pool was placed adjacent to the field house. The Olmsted Brothers had followed this recommendation in the design of several earlier squares (such as Armour, Davis, and Cornell Squares) where the field house and gymnasium complexes surrounded a center outdoor swimming pool. In order to accommodate a larger swimming facility, the designers placed Fuller Park's bathhouse and pool in the alternative location [3,4].

Edward H. Bennett of D.H. Burnham & Co. designed Fuller Park's bathhouse [3]. The rectangular building has a flat roof. It is composed of exposed aggregate concrete, a material that is sometimes referred to as "marblecrete." Unlike many structures that were originally constructed by the South Park Commission of this material, the bathhouse building retains its original surface and has never had exterior paint or gunite applied. The building has a double hung windows. Between the groupings of windows there is a pattern of cross-hatched details molded into the surface of the concrete. There is a simple cornice, with a string course of dentils below it. Above the cornice line is a parapet with a series of oval-like details and roundels that are placed above the cross-hatched pattern. The west façade, which faces the swimming pool, has a loggia edged by a series of paired Doric columns. The building originally housed bathrooms, showers, and 200 changing booths. The changing booths were later removed. The Chicago Park District rehabilitated this structure in the 1990s to include offices for park personnel. During that project the bathrooms and showers were also improved.

Historically, the swimming pool [4] varied in depth from one to eight feet. The tank was originally composed of reinforced concrete with an enamel lining and surrounded by classically-inspired ornamental concrete wall. The wall was removed in the 1930s to allow for the use of the surrounding outdoor deck area. The outdoor pool has been used continuously since it opened to the public in 1911, and has been rehabilitated several times.

² Minutes of the Board of the South Park Commissioners, Jan 9, 1912, 338 (in the Chicago Park District Special Collections).

³ General Rehabilitation and Planting Plan, Chicago Park District, Jan 25, 1949.

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At the north side of the bathhouse the ground slopes down. Following this slope, there is a concrete parapet wall [5] that abuts the railroad embankment. This portion of the wall forms a ziggurat shape. The wall continues to extend north and south along the entire west side of the park. North of the swimming complex is the original men's open-air gymnasium. It is located on the edge of the park in a manner similar to Olmsted's prototype plan [C]. The open air gymnasium includes a grandstand [6], running track [7], and basketball court [8].

The grandstand [6] offers a clever use for the area adjacent to the railroad embankment. It is composed of exposed aggregate concrete and provides a seating area for spectators viewing the running track. At the extreme north and south ends of each of the stepped benches is a console ornament, however, some of these elements are missing. This console ornamentation was also used on the semi-circular bench next to the wading pool [17,19]. At the upper level of the grandstand, adjacent to the concrete wall that extends along the entire west side of the park, is a series of honey locust trees in a formal row.

The running track [7] was originally composed of a black cinder material. While the track retains its historic configuration, it was recently resurfaced with light-colored gravel. Within the oval configuration of the track there are basketball courts [8] on an asphalt play slab. The slab and basketball courts were added in 1949.⁴

Just north of the running track is a service yard and boiler house [9]. Like the bathhouse [2], the boiler house retains its original exterior surface. It is a rectangular building with a flat roof, and a chimney-stack on its northwest corner. Constructed for utilitarian purposes, the building is devoid of any architectural detail or ornamentation. The adjacent service yard is surrounded with chain-link fencing. Both the service yard and boiler house are still functional today.

Symmetrically placed on the north side of the park, between the men's and women's open air gymnasium is the field house [10] and gymnasium [11] complex. Completed in 1911, the Fuller Park complex was then the largest such facility in the South Park Commission. The buildings retain good integrity, however, like many other exposed aggregate concrete structures that were original to the South Park Commission, they were subsequently painted. Fuller Park's buildings are a light tan color that is similar to the color of the original concrete. The field house and gymnasium originally had a green Spanish clay tile roof, however, it was later replaced with asphalt shingles.

⁴ Ibid.

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The field house [10], located on the south side of the complex, provides the entryway to the building complex. Historically, there was a concert grove in front of the field house, and formal fountain basins flanking each side of the building. The concert grove was removed in the late 1940s to provide an enlarged play field, and parking spaces in front of the field house. Also during this period, the two fountains were removed and replaced with volleyball courts⁵. The volleyball court on the west side of the field house was later removed and replaced with lawn, however, the asphalt play slab on the east side remains.

The two-story field house is rectangular in plan, measuring 80' x 100'. It has a gable roof, with the ends of the gables located on the east and west facades. The field house has 3 monumental arched windows at its south façade. They are flanked by pairs of fluted pilasters and capped with a simple keystone symmetrically placed above each of the arches. Each of the 3 large arched openings has a balcony that divides the first and second stories. Paired double brackets extend below the balcony. The brackets are fluted and have scroll-like details near the capital, and cartouches at the base. Below the center arched window is the front stairs, ramp, and doorway. Under the other two balconies are three double hung windows. The north and south facades each have a single monumental arched opening. These are similar to the fenestration of the south façade, except that here they are Palladian arches with sidelights. The balcony and brackets are also repeated on these facades. The north façade has a symmetrically placed gabled dormer with three double hung windows. There are the only windows on this façade. The pergola that lines the courtyard meets the first story of the field house façade. It includes an archway above the doorway of the north façade of the field house.

The field house includes many classical interior details including pilasters, moldings, roundels, and dentils. In the front hallway, adjacent to the south entrance doors, there are two niches (one on the east wall and one on the west wall). These have decorative iron grillwork. There is also a pair of ornamental iron staircases leading from the first level hallway to the auditorium and clubrooms on the second level. The auditorium itself is quite impressive. The room has three arched panels, of which the center one includes a large round clock above a doorway. In 1913-14, artist John Warner Norton painted nine murals for the Fuller Park auditorium. They are located within the three arched panels, and six smaller panels. The murals are characteristic of Norton's work. They are painted in dark earthy tones and depict the historic figures in beautiful landscape scenes. Tim Lennon, painting conservator, treated the murals in the early 1990s. Adjacent to the long wall with the arches is a built-in wooden bench. The auditorium also includes massive wooden trusses.

⁵ Ibid.

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North of the field house building is the gymnasium complex [11]. This is a u-shaped two story building with the gymnasiums located on the east and west sides and the locker and shower room building on the north side. The north façade of the building measures 250' 11" and the outer east and west facades measure 142'9". The men's gymnasium is on the west side, the women's gymnasium is on the east side, and the locker and shower rooms are in the north side of the complex. In the 1930s, the Chicago Park District renovated the interior, shortening the space devoted to the men and women's locker rooms in order to add a workshop, two arts and crafts rooms, and a store room.⁶ Today, the work and one of the crafts rooms are used as a boxing studio, which facilitates one of the park's most popular programs.

Each of the three components of the building has its own gable roof, and the locker and shower room building roof engages with the roofs of the two gymnasiums. The men's and women's gymnasiums have identical exterior facades. At the gable end, there is a large segmental arched opening with windows composed of panes in a union jack motif. In the pediment area surrounding the arched opening is a cross hatched motif which is repeated in the ornamentation of the field house and the bathhouse. Adjacent to this is a pair of double pilasters that extend from the ground to the second story. Beneath the arched opening and between the pilasters is a string course. Below this element is a decorative course that extends only along the area beneath the arched opening. Under the decorative course there are five double-hung windows. The long facades (east and west sides) of both the men's and women's gymnasium buildings are fairly simple. There are a series of windows with union jack panes, areas with cross-hatched details, and pilasters. Along the east façade of the men's gymnasium and the west façade of the women's gymnasium are pergolas that join with the pergola [12] that extends along the north façade of the field house.

The three-sided pergola [12] is composed of double pairs of octagonal concrete columns with a wooden rafter extending across each of the column pairs. Above the rafters is a wooden canopy that allows the pergola to have an enclosed flat roof. There is a broad walk beneath the pergolas. This walk retains its original concrete and brick fabric. The three-sided pergola meets with the south façade of the locker and shower room building, forming an inner courtyard space [13]. In the center of the exterior wall of the locker and shower room building, facing south into the exterior courtyard, the façade includes an applied semi-circular arch. This decorative element includes a keystone in the form of a sculptural lion's head. The arch serves as the setting for an adjacent limestone pedestal [14]. Historically, the pedestal was the site of the bust of Melville W. Fuller that was a bronze replica of an original work in marble that was sculpted by William Ordway Partridge. As the bust is currently receiving conservation work, there is an urn that has temporarily been placed on the pedestal. The bronze bust will be reinstalled in the near future.

⁶ Gymnasium Building First Floor Plan, Chicago Park District, Sept. 2, 1937.

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The courtyard [13], which measures 110' x 116', was conceived as an inner garden. Originally, it had a central walk symmetrically placed between the doorway at the north façade of the field house and the center of south façade of the locker and shower room building. In addition to the central walk, there is another x-shaped walk that extends across the four corners of the courtyard. The original design also included a classically-designed concrete fountain [15] in the very center of the courtyard, where the walkways converge. Between the sections of walkway, the South Park Commission designers created lawn areas planted with shrubs and trees. There were also a series of concrete benches. Sometime between the late 1930s and 1949, the original walkways, lawn, shrubs and all but eight trees were removed and the courtyard was paved.⁷ The courtyard remained a foreboding paved space for over forty years. In the early 1990s, the Chicago Park District carried out a rehabilitation project in which many of the courtyard's historic elements were replicated. New walks were installed. These are composed of concrete pavers in squares that create the appearance of the original walks, although they do not follow the exact footprint of the original walks. The historic fountain was reconstructed using a modified concrete material [15]. Lawn, trees and shrubs were planted and today, the courtyard is a lush, green space that is frequently used for park programs and events.

The original women's outdoor gymnasium [16] lies on the northeast side of the Fuller Park. In planning for the original ten south side neighborhood parks, the Olmsted Brothers always placed the children's playground and wading pool [17] near the women's outdoor gymnasium. The South Park Commission designers followed this precedent. Historically, both the women's and children's areas had a variety of gymnastic and playground apparatus including a giant stride, jumping pit, jumble gym, swings, teeter-totters, etc.⁸ This equipment was updated several times throughout the years, however, the playground was in deteriorated conditions by the 1980s. In 1989, the Chicago Park District removed the existing equipment and replaced it with a soft-surface playground, which is located on the northeast side of the park in the original women's outdoor gymnasium area [16].

The children's wading pool [17] sand courts [18] and semi-circular bench [19] were features that were also included in the earlier ten south side neighborhood parks.

The original wading pool had a circular concrete basin that allowed children to splay in shallow water. This was later converted to a spray pool. Although the original concrete was removed, the spray pool was configured within the original footprint of the wading pool. The Chicago Park District is currently renovating and updating the spray pool. The new spray pool will fit within the original 36' diameter circular configuration, but will have a soft surface and the spray mechanism will have a seahorse motif.

⁷ Although the plan entitled Fuller Park Removal of Trees and Shrubs as Indicated, Chicago Park District, May 12, 1939, shows the vegetation intact, and does not specify its removal, the plan entitled General Rehabilitation and Planting Plan, Chicago Park District, Jan. 25, 1949 shows an existing condition in which the courtyard has been paved and only eight trees remain.

⁸ Henry H. Sloan, "Description of Parks in the Former South Park System," Commissioners Office Division Statistical Records & Data Section, Chicago Park District, Jan. 1. 1936.

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Between the spray pool and the benches is a semi-circular concrete platform [18]. This platform has three cut-outs that are filled with sand. These sand courts and the surrounding concrete platform are original elements. Along the edge of concrete platform and sand courts is a series of concrete benches that form a semi-circular configuration [19]. The semi-circular bench is composed of exposed aggregate concrete. Between each bench section there is a concrete post with a square cap at the back portion, and a second smaller concrete rectangular post located between the seating areas. These smaller posts each have a rectangular cap, and on this cap is a console ornament that is identical to the ornamentation on the ends of the grandstand [6].

Historically, a pergola was located within the inner ring of the semi-circular bench. This included removal poles from which a cloth awning was attached to provide shelter for the sitting area adjacent to the sand courts and wading pool. Although the pergola no longer exists, Fuller Park's wading pool [15], sand courts [16], and bench [17] retain more original fabric than any of the other early South Park Commission neighborhood parks.

Throughout its history, Fuller Park has continuously provided recreational, cultural, and educational programs while still retaining a strong degree of historic integrity. Today, the park's numerous and diverse programs include boxing, swimming, after school care, Cubs Care Rookie Baseball, basketball, Senior Citizens Club, musical events, and conditioning classes in the fitness center. Despite all of the modern pressures placed on this historic property, the park continues to convey its historic character. Its buildings represent some of D.H. Burnham & Company's finest park work, and its landscape clearly shows the influence of the Olmsted Brothers neighborhood park prototype on South Park Commission in-house designers. Fuller Park retains more original fabric than other early south side neighborhood parks. It also conveys most of its original layout, spatial characteristics, grading, design, feeling, location and setting. Improvements such as the rehabilitation of the courtyard in the 1990s were done in a manner that is sensitive to the park's historic character. Other projects, such as the conservation of the murals and sculptural bust have preserved some of the park's most significant elements. Overall, the small 10.5-acre site represents one of the most intact historic parks within the Chicago Park District.

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LIST OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Contributing Features

Buildings

Field house
Gymnasium Building
Boiler House
Pool House

Sites

Landscape

Structures

Running track
Sand Courts and Platform
Parapet Wall
Grandstand

Non-contributing Features

Basketball Court
Tennis Courts
Swimming Pool
Spray pool
Soft surf. playground

Objects

Semi-circular bench
Sculpture and base

Fountain

Fuller Park
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8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Entertainment/ Recreation

Period of Significance: **1910-1914; 1910- 1952**

Significant Dates: **N/A**

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above): **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **D.H Burnham & Company**
South Park Commission

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Fuller Park meets with Criterion A and Criterion C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The property is nationally significant as part of the revolutionary plan by the South Park Commission in 1903 to provide breathing spaces with recreational programs and social services to the densely populated tenement districts within its jurisdiction. While the first ten parks opened in 1905, Fuller Park's development was postponed due to community disputes about the proposed location. The delay allowed the South Park Commissioners and staff to evaluate the success of the first ten parks and refine the design concepts for this site. The result was the largest D.H. Burnham & Co. field house complex built at that time which, along with outdoor features, provided important services to the community. The park's landscape had preliminary plans by the Olmsted Brothers. Although in-house South Park Commission designers modified the original plans because they were able to acquire a larger site than had previously been anticipated, they based their new plan on an Olmsted Brothers prototype, and asked Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. to approve the revised plan before it was executed.

Fuller Park qualifies for listing on the National Register under the multiple documentation form, "The Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District." The property is nationally significant during a period of significance spanning from 1910 when construction commenced to 1914 when the field house murals were completed. The property also has local significance spanning from 1910 to 1952, the current fifty-year cut-off date for the National Register of Historic Places.

The South Park Commission was one of three park systems established in 1869 to create a series of parks and boulevards that would encircle Chicago. As explained in section E (page 3) of the multiple property nomination form "The Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District," the South Park Commission served a geographic region spanning from the Chicago River south to 138th Street and from Lake Michigan west to Cicero Avenue. Its jurisdiction included the towns of South Chicago, Lake, and Hyde Park. Its original parkland consisted of South Park (later renamed Jackson and Washington Parks and the Midway Plaisance) and boulevards linking the park to downtown and the West Park System.

By the late 1890s, the South Park Commissioners were concerned that the existing parkland could no longer satisfy the needs of all of the people they served. The city had experienced tremendous industrial growth and the population was surging. In 1869, when Chicago's original park commissions were formed, the city's population was 300,000. By 1900, that figure had increased to 1.7 million, and at that time nearly 750,000 people a mile away or farther from any park.⁹

⁹ Dwight Heald Perkins, *Report of the Special Park Commission to the City Council of Chicago on the Subject of a Metropolitan Park System*. Chicago: 1904, 39.

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Aware of the deplorable living and working conditions and lack of open spaces in the tenement districts within its jurisdiction, the South Park Commission drafted a bill that would empower it to build new parks for the first time in 30 years. The act, approved by the State Legislature in 1899, allowed for the creation of a new park if it were contiguous to an existing park or boulevard. The following year, the South Park Commission acquired a 34-acre site adjacent to a boulevard, Western Avenue, and near the Union Stock Yards. Providing ball fields, swimming and wading lagoons with changing rooms, and playgrounds, the experimental McKinley Park proved to be an immediate success. This prompted the commissioners to begin efforts to create a whole system of neighborhood parks that would provide beautiful landscapes, recreational programs and social services to the densely populated neighborhoods throughout their district.

The South Park Commission secured enabling legislation in 1901 that would allow it to issue bonds to acquire and improve new parks. This law stipulated that the proposed parks could not be more than ten acres in size. In 1902, the commissioners brought the proposal before public referendum, receiving strong public support. The following year, the South Park Commission went to the State Legislature to amend the 1901 act. The amendment, known as the Lundberg Act, removed the size limitation, allowed the park commissioners to locate the new parks anywhere in their district, and authorized the issuance of bonds. With the legal authority and funding in place, the commission began to plan the new parks.

As explained in the multiple property form, South Park Commission Superintendent, J. Frank Foster, was largely responsible for conceiving the neighborhood park concept (FIII, p. 11). Foster believed that the new parks could function as neighborhood centers and uplift and improve the lives of the residents of the overcrowded tenement districts. He suggested that in addition to the ball fields, swimming facilities, and playgrounds that had been tested in McKinley Parks, the new parks should also a variety of features. These included separate outdoor gymnasiums for men and women, running tracks, children's sand courts, and a new type of building, the field house. Based on the precedent of Chicago's settlement houses, these innovative parks buildings "would provide athletic, educational, recreational programs and social services throughout an entire year."¹⁰ This was particularly useful because Chicago's cold climate had traditionally limited the use of the parks between the late fall and early spring.

The South Park Commission hired the Olmsted Brothers landscape architects and D.H. Burnham and Company architects to design the innovative system of fourteen parks. Both firms had a long tradition of designing for Chicago's South Park System. The Olmsted Brothers were successors to Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903). Designer of many of the nation's premier parks and landscapes including New York's Central Park and the town of Riverside Illinois, Olmsted created the original plan for Chicago's South Park in 1871. In 1875, his stepson and nephew, John Charles Olmsted (1852- 1920) went into practice with him. Frederick Law Olmsted laid out the gleaming campus of the World's Columbian Exposition that opened in Jackson Park 1893. After the fair, the firm, then known as Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot transformed the site to back to parkland.

¹⁰ Julia Sniderman Bachrach, *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks*, Center for American Places, Harrisonburg, VA: 2001, 12.

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In 1898, John Charles and his younger stepbrother, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. formed the Olmsted Brothers firm. The brothers went on to produce plans and landscape designs for thousands of sites throughout the nation.

Daniel H. Burnham (1846 – 1912), Chicago's renowned architect and planner, helped inspire the City Beautiful Movement throughout the nation and the world. Burnham formed an 18-year partnership with John Welborn Root in 1873, and the two produced hundreds of buildings and helped develop the Chicago School of Architecture. Burnham & Root designed several buildings for the South Park Commission including the stables and refectory buildings in Washington Park. Root died suddenly in 1891, while deeply involved in planning the World's Columbian Exposition. Burnham took over preparations for the fair and his firm became known as D.H. Burnham and Company. Burnham and architect Edward H. Bennett (1874- 1954) authored the seminal *1909 Plan of Chicago*. Burnham's firm also produced city plans for Cleveland, San Francisco, and Manila.

Early in 1904, both the Olmsted Brothers and D.H. Burnham and Company entered into contracts with the South Park Commission to collaboratively design the 14 parks. At the time, Burnham was awaiting the arrival of a young designer from New York, Edward Bennett, joining the firm specifically to work on this project. Therefore, the landscape design proceeded ahead of the architecture, with the Olmsted Brothers submitting preliminary plans on March 1, 1904, even before Bennett arrived and began designing the buildings.¹¹

The original plan for a system of fourteen new parks included seven considered squares because they were less than ten acres in size and seven known as small parks because they were larger than ten acres. The design for each of the fourteen parks was to include the program components conceived by Superintendent Foster. In the Olmsted Brothers initial recommendations of the design of the squares and small parks, they expressed a strong feeling that most, if not all, of the properties should be designed in a formal idiom. Having designed beautiful large romantic landscapes along side their father, Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., they were afraid that informal designs on such small sites would become "a petty rendering of what can be far better accomplished in parks many times as large."¹²

The need to fit in all of the program requirements was most challenging in the design of the squares. In order to create a unified and attractive composition that would incorporate such extensive programming, the Olmsted Brothers drew ideas from the emerging fields of city planning and zoning which were particularly taking shape in Europe. A 1903 sketch of a prototypical square reflected the Olmsted Brothers approach to organizing the functions within the small sites. In this sketch:

¹¹ William W. Tippens and Julia Sniderman, "The Planning and Design of Chicago's Neighborhood Parks," *A Breath of Fresh Air: Chicago's Neighborhood Parks of the Progressive Reform Era 1900-25*, Chicago: The Chicago Public Library and the Chicago Park District, 1989, 22.

¹² Correspondence from Olmsted Brothers to Henry C. Foreman, President of the South Park Commission. December 7, 1903, 11 Library of Congress, Manuscript Division..

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All park activities were divided by type of facility needed and placed in different zones of the park. Women's activities were separated from men's. Facilities requiring supervision were clustered along a single edge of the park. The front entry court, children's playground area, running track, wading pool, men's and women's open air gymnasiums, swimming tank, and changing booths were symmetrically arranged around the field house. The remaining portion of the park was devoted to a ball field and areas for passive pursuits.¹³

Walkways edged with trees and shrubbery bordered the ball field and smaller lawn areas, and a concert grove with formally planted trees and a bandstand flanked the entry to the fieldhouse.

Conceived as an approximately eight-acre square, Fuller Park was originally considered Square No. 4. In 1903, the South Park Commission made a careful study of possible park sites including a parcel located between 42nd Place and 43rd Street, bounded by Butler Street on the east and Wallace Street on the west. The proposed square was meant to serve a neighborhood of frame buildings that housed railroad workers and laborers of the nearby Union Stock Yards. When the Valuation Committee of the Chicago Real Estate Board appraised the value of the land at a cost much higher than the commissioners had anticipated, however, so they decided to select an alternative location a little farther to the south, between 44th and 45th Streets. The South Park Commission began efforts to acquire the alternative site, however, they soon received protest from the community. Among those who objected to the site were the Patrons and Parents Club of the Henricks School, and delegations of nearby property owners.¹⁴ Due to these objections, the South Park Commission agreed to identify a third site for the park.

Due to the controversy surrounding the proposed location, the design for the park was delayed. The Olmsted Brothers and D. H. Burnham and Company had developed detailed plans for ten parks, Cornell, Armour, Russell, Davis, Mark White (now McGuane Squares and Bessemer, Ogden, Sherman, Hamilton, and Palmer Parks. All of the plans and specifications for these first ten parks were completed by mid September 1904. For various reasons, the other designs for the four parks, Square No. 4 (Fuller) and No. (Hardin Square, which is no longer extant) and Parks No. 10 (Marquette) and No. 11 (Calumet) were officially postponed.¹⁵

¹³ William W. Tippens, "The Olmsted Brothers in the Midwest," *Midwestern Landscape Architecture*, University of Illinois Press, Urbana: 2000, 169.

¹⁴ Daniel Breen, ed. Historical Register of the twenty-two Superceded Park Districts, Works Progress Administration and the Chicago Park District, 1941, 326.

¹⁵ Visit by JC Olmsted, "Orders to Architect" August 23, 1904, 3, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

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In the fall of 1904, the South Park Commission identified another alternative site for park development. The new site was located between 45th Place and 46th Place, and between Princeton Avenue on the east and the Pittsburgh and Ft. Wayne Railroad on the west. The Olmsted Brothers developed a plan for the new 7.8-acre site, and land acquisition began in 1905. By the end of the following year, some frame buildings on the park's site were moved, and other frame and brick structures were removed. The plan for the new park was published in the South Park Commission's annual report of 1906, however, improvements did not begin due to efforts to enlarge the site. Final land purchases were made in 1908, enlarging the site between 45th Place and 45th Street. The additional land brought Fuller Park's site to a total of 10.5 acres, making it just slightly larger than the South Park Commission's definition of a square.

By the end of the summer in 1905, while Fuller Park's land acquisition was still underway, the South Park Commission had opened the first ten new parks to the public. The pioneering neighborhood park concept met with immediate approval. The new parks provided an array of services to their surrounding communities including English lessons, vocational training, inexpensive hot meals, and public bathing. Several of these parks even included the earliest branches of the Chicago Public Library. At the dedication of Davis Square, South Park Commission President Henry G. Foreman made a speech before very large audience, asserting his belief in the new park system and its moralistic influences:

...When you people who live in this part of Chicago come home tired at night, or when you have a holiday, or when you are tempted to do something wrong, come over here and listen to the music. Come and see your children work in the gymnasium; come and take a bath or swim, or see the trees and flowers. When you are hungry you can buy what you want to eat at what it costs us. If there is anything about this district that you don't like, call a meeting in this room and talk it over. Use this assembly hall freely for any good purpose, except for religious or political meetings."¹⁶

By the end of 1906, the branch libraries in the new neighborhood parks had an annual attendance of more the 600,000; the lunch-rooms served over 425,000 meals; the bathing facilities had been used more than 800,000 times, and the ten new parks had served more than 5 million people in congested south side districts.¹⁷

It was quickly apparent that the new south park prototype would soon provide a national model for park development. Descriptions of the new parks were published in many popular and professional magazines. The Olmsted Brothers promoted the concept through city planning groups and conferences. Daniel H. Burnham and Edward Bennett incorporated the concept in their 1905 San Francisco Plan,

¹⁶ "Chicago Has been Slow in Park Development—Recent Vital Awakening—Plans for a Wonderful System—Small Parks Already Established and Models of What a Park Should Be," Chicago Tribune, May 14, 1905.

¹⁷ *Annual Report of the South Park Commissioners for the Fiscal Year 1906*, Chicago: 1907, 59-61

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“and in the 1907 St. Louis City Plan, the published report of which contained illustrations of Chicago’s small parks.”¹⁸ When the Playground Association of America was planning its first annual conference that would take place in the summer 1907, the organization selected Chicago as the site of its meetings because of the example offered by the new South Park Commission sites. President Theodore Roosevelt, an honorary member of the organization, issued a national statement asking delegations to attend “...to gain inspiration” and “to see the magnificent system that Chicago has erected in its south park section, one of the most notable civic achievements in any American city.”¹⁹

An article published in 1907, describing Chicago’s neighborhood parks as “models for the country,” suggested that:

Each succeeding year serves to demonstrate more strongly than the last, the usefulness of the remarkable system of small public-service parks in the South Park district of Chicago.²⁰

Explaining that efforts were then underway to improve two sites that were originally conceived as part of the system of fourteen parks (Squares No. 4- Fuller and No. 1-- Hardin Square), the article included the Olmsted Brothers revised plan for Square No. 4.

In 1908, as the final land acquisition for the enlarged Square No. 4 site was underway, the South Park Commission in-house designers developed a revised plan for the park, to accommodate a much larger field house complex.

After observing the success of the first ten parks, the commissioners decided that this new park should have a much larger field house complex. In describing the need for larger facilities in 1910, the commissioners asserted that:

Five years’ experience has demonstrated that the field house and gymnasium facilities provided in the new parks, so far from being too elaborate as was first predicted by some adverse critics of the new venture, in most cases are inadequate to meet demands.²¹

Many of the buildings of the first ten neighborhood parks had been configured in complexes, often with the field house as the dominant structure and the gymnasium buildings behind it or flanking it on each side. “In several instances, the swimming tank was then placed within the outdoor complex,”

¹⁸ Joan E. Draper, “Park Planning in Chicago: Art and Science. The South Park District’s Small Parks of 1902-1905 and Park Planning in the United States,” *Planning the Twentieth Century American City*, Christopher Silver and Mary Corbin Sies, eds, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996, 102.

¹⁹ As reprinted in South Park Commission, *Report of the South Park Commissioners For a Period of Fifteen Months from December 1, 1906 to February 29, 1908, inclusive*. Chicago: 1908, 62.

²⁰ “Year’s Record of South Park System, Chicago,” *Park and Cemetery*, vol. XVII, no. 5, Chicago: July, 1907, 119.

²¹ South Park Commission, *Report of the South Park Commissioners for a period of Twelve Months from March 1, 1909 to February 28, 1910 inclusive*, Chicago: 1910, 11.

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evoking on a much smaller scale, the image of the White City's renowned Court of Honor.²²

In the early plans for Fuller Park, the buildings were configured in this manner, around the outdoor swimming pool. When the commissioners decided to build more commodious facilities, however, South Park Commission in-house designers created new schematic plans, with a large outdoor swimming complex on the southwest corner of the park. Placing the field house in the center of the park, the gymnasium building was located on the north edge of the park, creating an outdoor courtyard garden with a fountain and sand courts for children in the space between the field house and the gymnasium buildings. The plan also included all of the other elements that had been in the earlier square.

The South Park Commissioners sent their "modified plan for the improvement of Square No. 4" to the Olmsted Brothers for their review, and it was approved by Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. in 1908.²³ The following year, the commissioners authorized D. H. Burnham & Co. to prepare plans for the park. Like the pioneering ten field houses that preceded Fuller Park, its architecture was composed of exposed aggregate concrete. From this material, which was also known as "marblecrete" or popcorn concrete," buildings could be constructed quickly, relatively inexpensively, and ornamentation could be molded directly into facades.

Following the precedent of the earlier field houses, Fuller Park's buildings were rendered in a classical style. Through Burnham's plans for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, classically inspired architecture had received popular attention throughout the nation. Although Bennett had not been involved in the World's Fair, he had been classically trained at the Ecole des Beaux in Paris, and he fit in well at Burnham's firm.

At the time of Fuller Park's construction, its buildings provided "a recreation plant larger than in any other park."²⁴ The field house included a grand entranceway, large auditorium, clubrooms, a lunchroom and kitchen, bathrooms, and a branch of the Chicago Public Library. South of the field house, the gymnasium complex contained separate indoor gymnasiums for men and women, shower and locker rooms and bathrooms. In the interior courtyard space between the two building, a pergola extended along the inner facades joining and unifying the buildings. A terra cotta and concrete fountain was symmetrically placed in the center of the courtyard.

Despite the large amount of space devoted to the field house complex, the South Park Commission was also able to accommodate most of the outdoor activities included in the other neighborhood parks. By placing the swimming facilities on the southwest corner of the park, the designers were able to create a

²² William W. Tippens and Julia Sniderman, 1989, 24.

²³ Minutes of the Board of the South Park Commissioners, July 15, 1908, 246 (in the Chicago Park District Special Collections).

²⁴ South Park Commission, *Report of the South Park Commissioners for a period of Twelve Months from March 1, 1909 to February 28, 1910 inclusive*, Chicago: 1910, 11.

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large outdoor pool and a pool house with 200 changing booths, shower and bathrooms. Just north was the men's running track, an open-air gymnasium with apparatus. As this was located next to the raised railroad embankment, the designers created an ornament concrete grand stand that allowed for spectators while also providing a buffer for the unsightly raised tracks.

Fuller Park was constructed between 1910 and 1912. The field house was opened to the public at the end of December of 1911, and in early February the branch of the public library was established. The swimming pool was completed and available for use in August of the following year. By this time, the park also had a children's playground and wading pool, a playfield for softball, football, and lawn tennis, men's and women's outdoor gymnasiums, the running track and an area for lawn tennis.²⁵ In the winter, the commissioners flooded the playfield for ice-skating (which had been done for several years even before the parks was improved).

The South Park Commissioners officially named Square No. 4 to honor Melville Weston Fuller (1883-1910). Fuller, who held degrees from Northwestern University, Bowdoin College, and Harvard University, practiced law in Chicago from the 1850s until 1888, when President Cleveland appointed him Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes described Fuller as "the best presiding judge that he had ever known."²⁶ A leader of the Chicago Bar, Fuller served as counsel for the City of Chicago in riparian rights disputes related to parkland development on the lakefront and was a member of the South Park Commission Board from 1882- 1887.

In 1913, a bust of Melville W. Fuller was installed in the courtyard between the field house and the gymnasium building. Sculptor William Ordway Partridge had created a marble bust of Fuller for the Supreme Court building in Washington DC.²⁷ The South Park Commissioners had a replica bust cast in bronze and placed on a base next to a niche on the north end of the courtyard. Some years earlier, Partridge had won a competition to sculpt the Shakespeare Monument that was exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition and permanently installed in Lincoln Park.

One of Chicago's pre-eminent muralists, John Warner Norton, painted a series of nine murals for the Fuller Park field house auditorium between 1913 and 1914. Judge John Barton Payne, an avid collector, patron of the arts, and member of the Municipal Arts League commissioned the murals.

Upon his appointment to the Board of the South Park Commissioners in 1909, Payne devoted his \$3000 annual salary from the park commission to establish a fund for art in the parks. Barton's fund adorned

²⁵ Minutes of the Board of the South Park Commissioners, Jan 9, 1912, 338 (in the Chicago Park District Special Collections).

²⁶ Ira J. Bach and Mary Lackritz Gray, *A Guide to Chicago's Public Sculpture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983, 214.

²⁷ Ibid.

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several park field houses with murals, including Hamilton Park with works also by Norton, and Sherman Park, in which seven artists produced 18 mural panels.

The South Park Commissioners believed that the field house murals could provide lessons in American history for the recent immigrants who they served. Therefore, the field house murals depicted traditional themes in our nation's history. The Fuller Park murals "depict such sixteenth- and seventeenth French and Spanish explorers as Daniel Duluth, Jean Ribault, Rene-Robert de La Salle, and Alvar Cabeza de Vaca, who explored the New World and went westward. ... La Salle is pictured at Starved Rock in Illinois as he gazes across the prairie."²⁸

Throughout its early history, Fuller Park received intensive use from the public. At the end of 1912, the park's first full year, the commissioners calculated that its facilities had been used a total of 483,700 times over the course of the year.²⁹ A decade later, the park's annual attendance for the year of 1922 had surged to 679,000.³⁰ By the late 1920s, there were numerous clubs and organizations that used Fuller Park, often formed with the help of the park's director. These included the Fuller Park Dramatic, Athletic, and Social clubs, which raised money and presented special events. There were also Boy and Girl Scout Troops who met at the park and a social club for widows and widowers between the ages of 45 to 75 years old.³¹ There were also parties and pageants for holidays, gym demonstrations, outdoor movies, stunt nights, and health shows.

By the early 1930s, there were 22 separate park districts operating simultaneously in Chicago, including the South Park Commission. The Great Depression rendered all of these independent agencies financially insolvent. To gain access to federal funding through President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, voters approved the Park Consolidation Act of 1934, through which all 22 agencies were unified into the Chicago Park District.

Over the years, Fuller Park has continuously provided a variety of athletic, recreational, social, and educational programs and services to the community. Although it has adapted to modern needs, unlike many other historic parks in Chicago, the park has experienced few physical changes. In the past, the landscape and some of the structures have experienced some deterioration, however, the park retains much original fabric and has received recent improvements.

²⁸ Mary Lackritz Gray, *A Guide to Chicago's Murals*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001, 158.

²⁹ South Park Commission, *Report of the South Park Commissioners for a period of Twelve Months from March 1, 1912 to February 28, 1913 inclusive*, Chicago: 1913, 58.

³⁰ South Park Commission, *Report of the South Park Commissioners for a period of Twenty-four Months from March 1, 1922 to February 29, 1924 inclusive*, Chicago: 1924, 97.

³¹ Marian Lorena Osborn, "The Development of Recreation in the South Park System of Chicago," Unpublished Master's Thesis submitted to The Graduate School of Social Service Administration, The University of Chicago, 1928, 65-67.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: **10.5 acres**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	447377	4629156	3	16	447377 4628897
2	16	447377	4629146	4	16	447210 4628902
___						See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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Burnham & Co., architects. Furniture and Fixtures Entrance Hall, Lunch and Reading Rooms, approved Feb. 24, 1911.

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South Park Commissioners. Plan for Park Number Four, August 6, 1909.

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South Park Commissioners. Detail of Seat Garden, Park No. 4, May 4, 1911.

South Park Commissioners. Pattern for Walks Inner Garden. June 5, 1912.

South Park Commissioners. Fuller Park Entrance on 45th St., July 30, 1912.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is bounded on the north by the south curb-line of W. 45th Street, on the south by the north curb-line of W. 46th Place, on the east by the west curb-line of S. Princeton Avenue, and on the west by the eastern portion of the Pittsburgh and Ft. Wayne Railroad right-of-way.

Boundary Justification

This is the plot of land historically associated with the park during its periods of significance.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: **Julia Sniderman Bachrach**

organization: **Chicago Park District**

date: **June 5, 2002**

street & number: **541 N. Fairbanks**

telephone: **(312) 742-4698**

city or town: **Chicago**

state: **IL**

zip code: **60611**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name **David Doig, General Superintendent, Chicago Park District**

street & number **541 North Fairbanks**

telephone

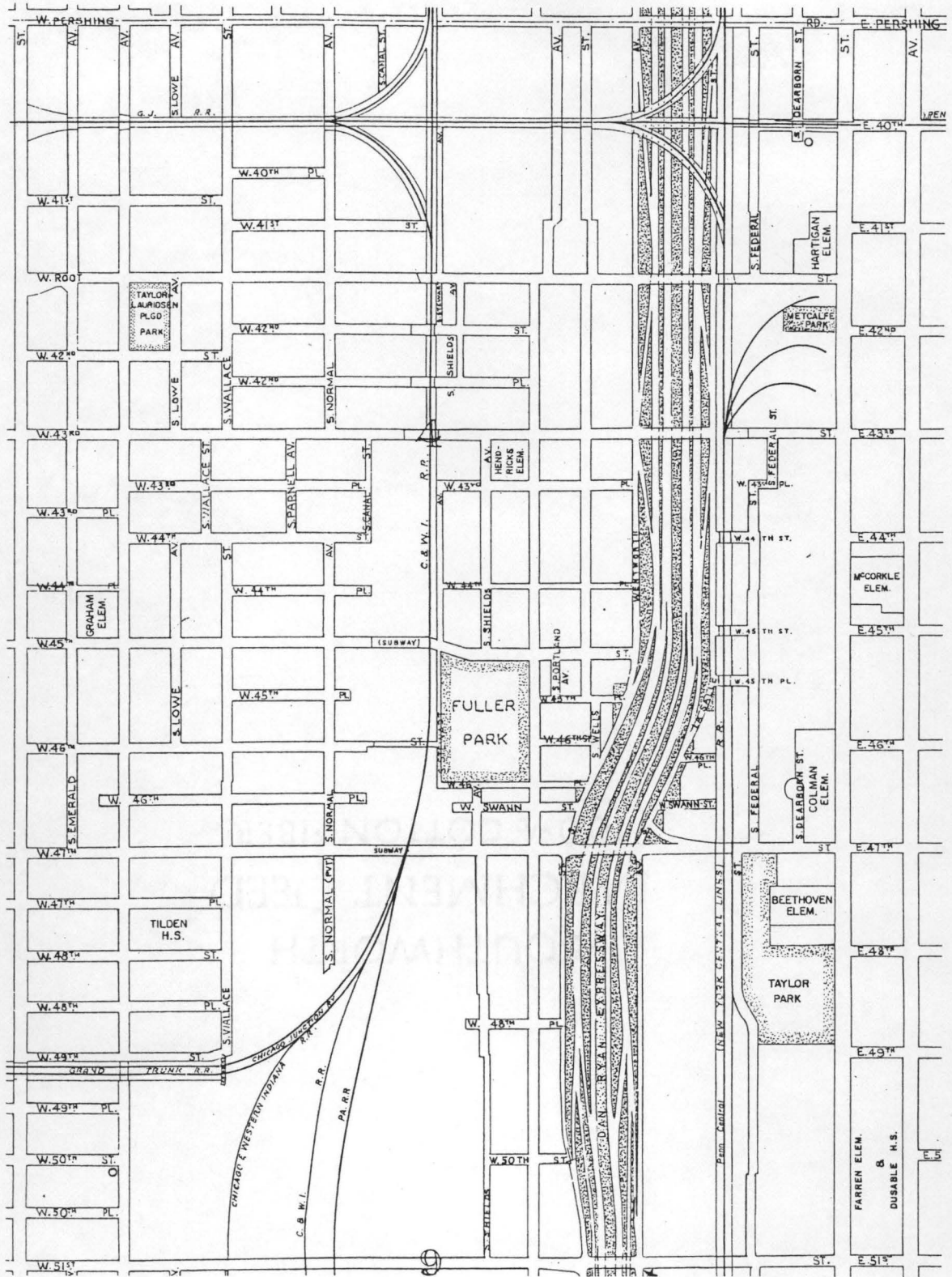
city or town **Chicago**

state **IL**

zip code **60611**

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



Fuller Park, Chicago

Fuller
Park

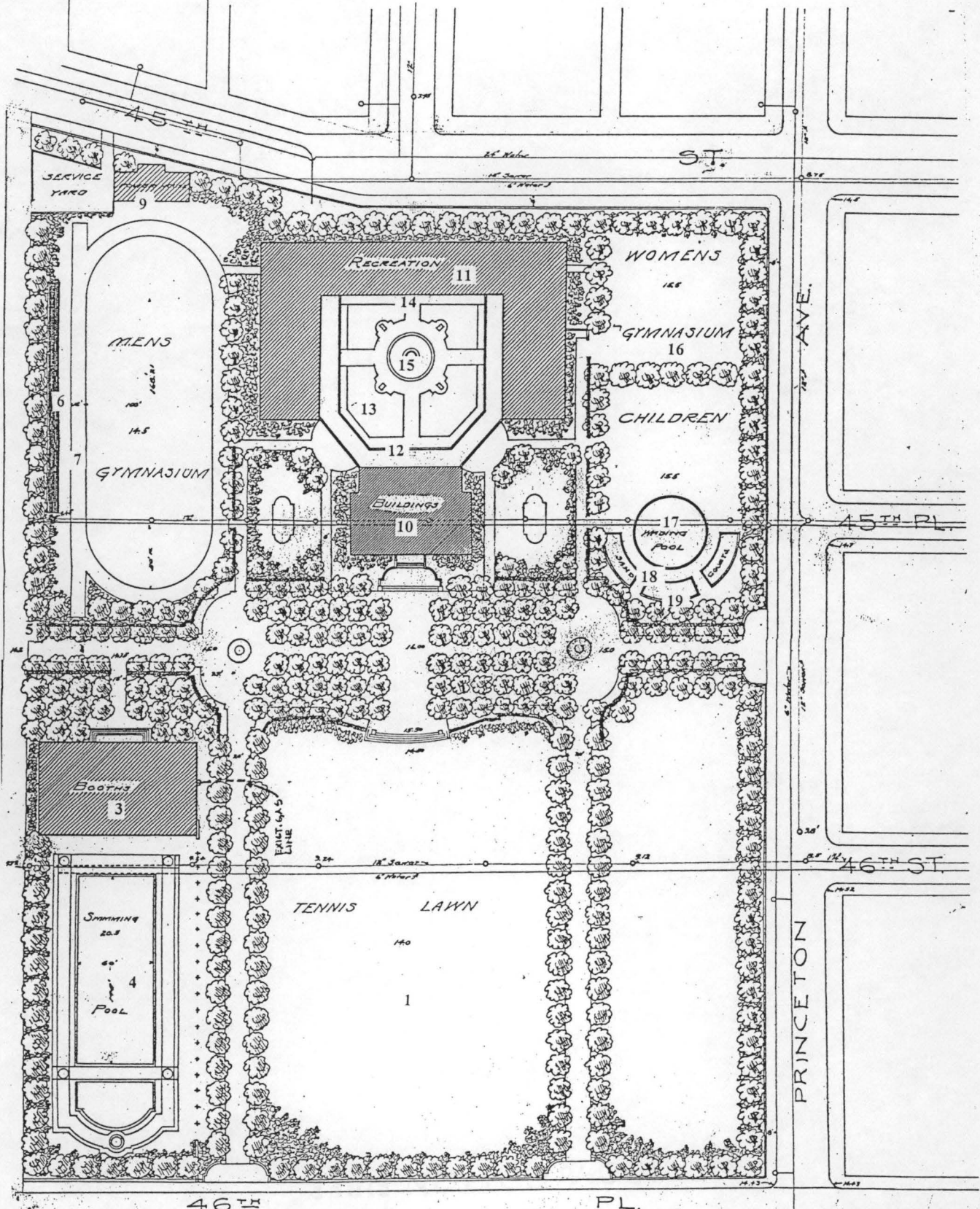
PARK NUMBER FOUR
SOUTH PARK COMMISSIONERS
CHICAGO

A

SCALE 50' = 1" AUG 6. 09.

CORRECT.....ENGR.

APPROVED.....SUT I.



46TH

PL.

GOLDER & BROWN
Eng'rs & Architects

Fuller Park

145

S. PRINCETON AVE

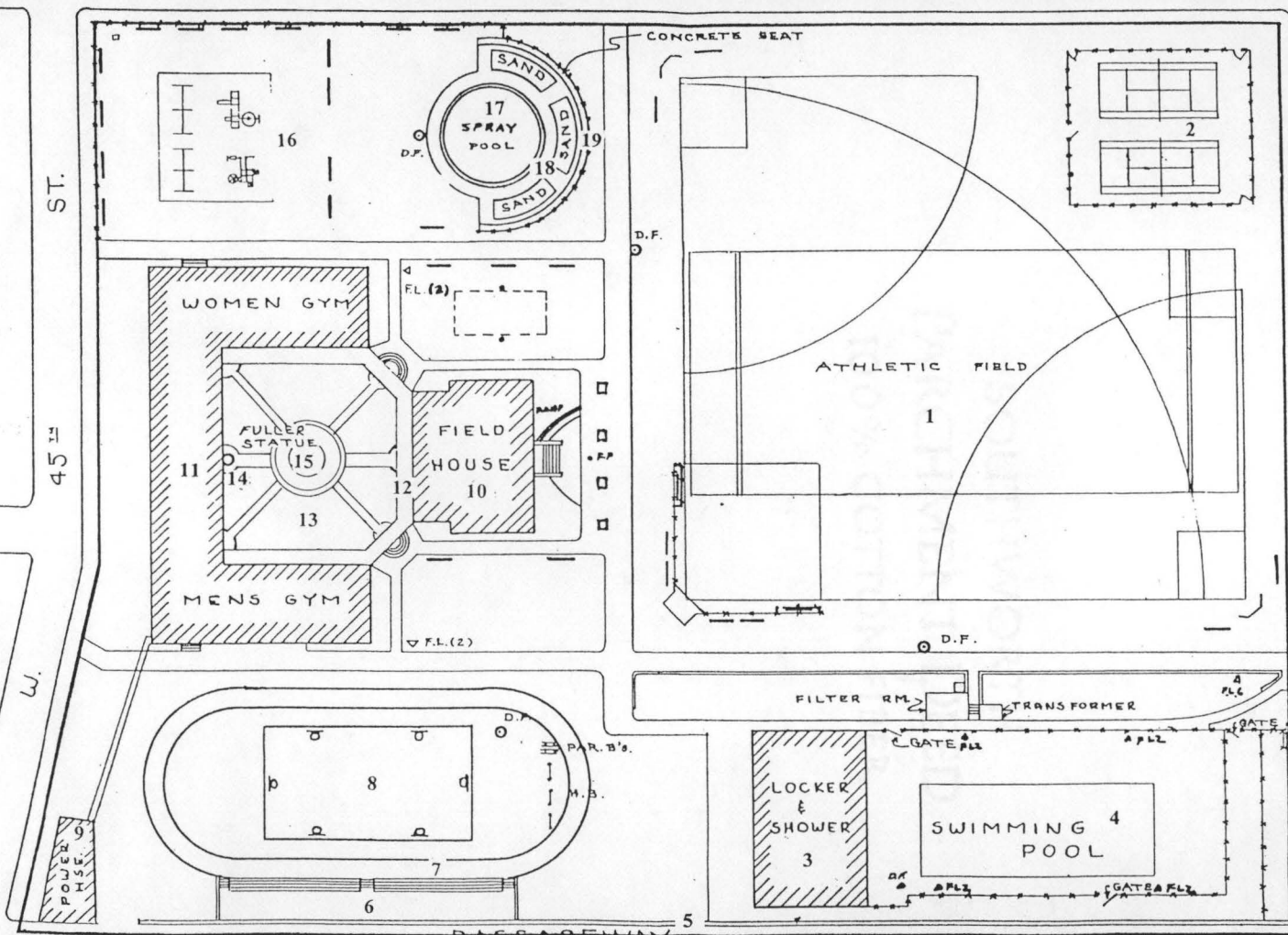
AVE

B

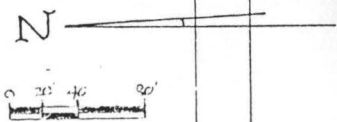
ST.

45TH

W.



PLACE



11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3

PARK NO. 4
COMM. NO. 32A

R. R. WALL

S. STEWART AVE.

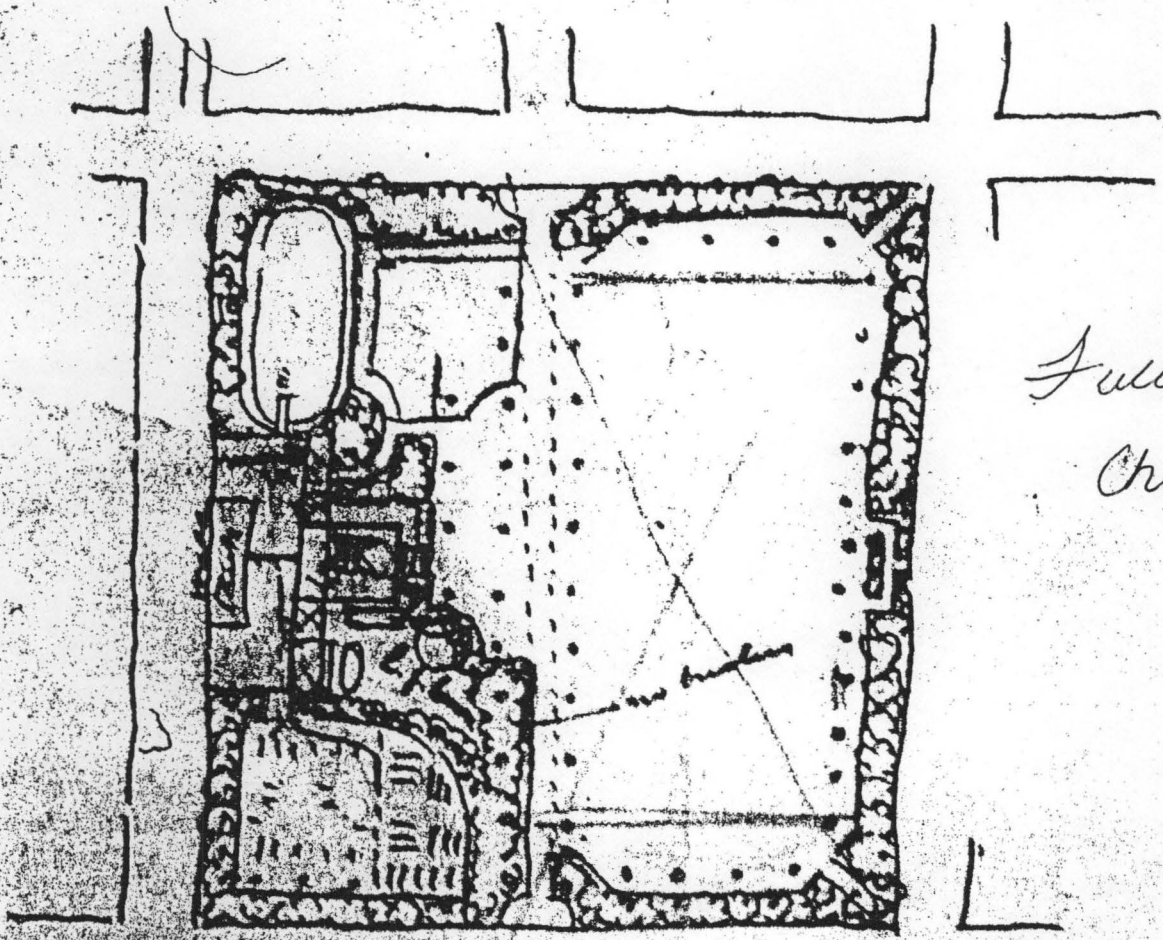
PENN. R. R.

331 W. 45TH ST.

PLOT PLAN
FULLER PARK
SCALE 1" = 80'
CHICAGO PARK DIST.

CKD. BY R.W. SEPT. 12, 1985

Chicago.



Fuller Park
Chicago

C

Sketch for 10 acre playground
to G.C. Dec. 3rd 1903.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fuller Park
NAME:

MULTIPLE Chicago Park District MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Cook

DATE RECEIVED: 10/10/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/01/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/17/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/24/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02001347

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: Y NATIONAL: N Y
N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Has potential to be a NTH under Criteria #1 & #4,
However, it needs to be evaluated in conjunction w/ other Chicago
parks listed as part of the MPS.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept-A&C

REVIEWER Boled DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 11/20/02

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



Fuller Park

Cook County, IL

Julia Bodrach

April 24, 2002

Chicago Park District

View of playfield & fieldhouse facing North

Photo 1, features nos 1, 10



Fuller Park Bathhouse & Swimming Pool

Cook County, IL

Julia Bachrach

April 24, 2002

Chicago Park District

View of pool & bath house facing north

Photo #2 - feature NOS 3,4



Fuller Park Bathhouse
Chicago Park District

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachman

4/24/02

bathhouse south facade
looking N

Photo #3, feature 3



Fuller Park Bathhouse

Cook Co. IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park District
North facade looking S
4, feature 3



POOL OPENED
ONLY WHEN
LIFEGUARDS
ON DUTY
(REGULATIONS WILL BE POSTED)
CALL 911
TO REPORT
UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY

Fulton Park Bathhouse

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachrach

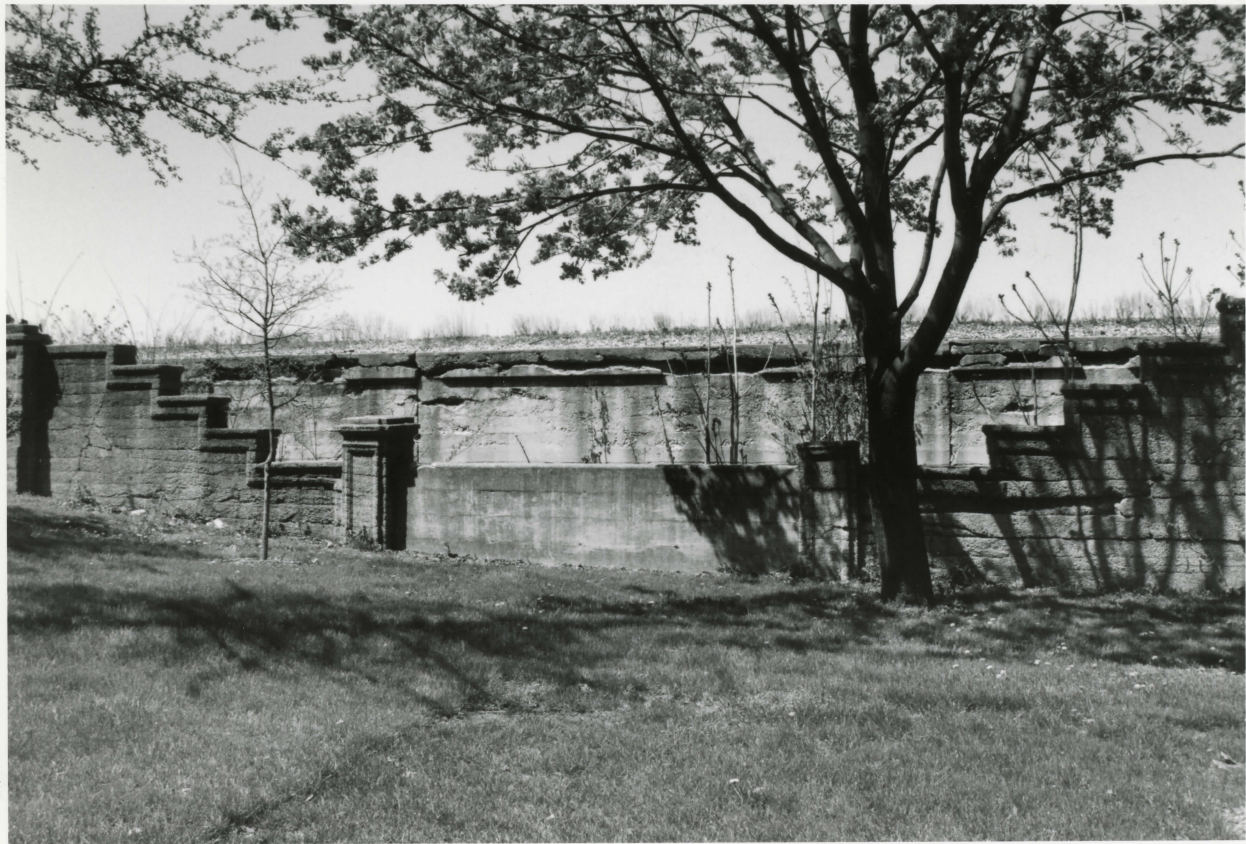
4/24/02

Chicago Park District

Bathhouse South Facade

looking N

#5, feature 3



Fuller Park

Cook Co. IL

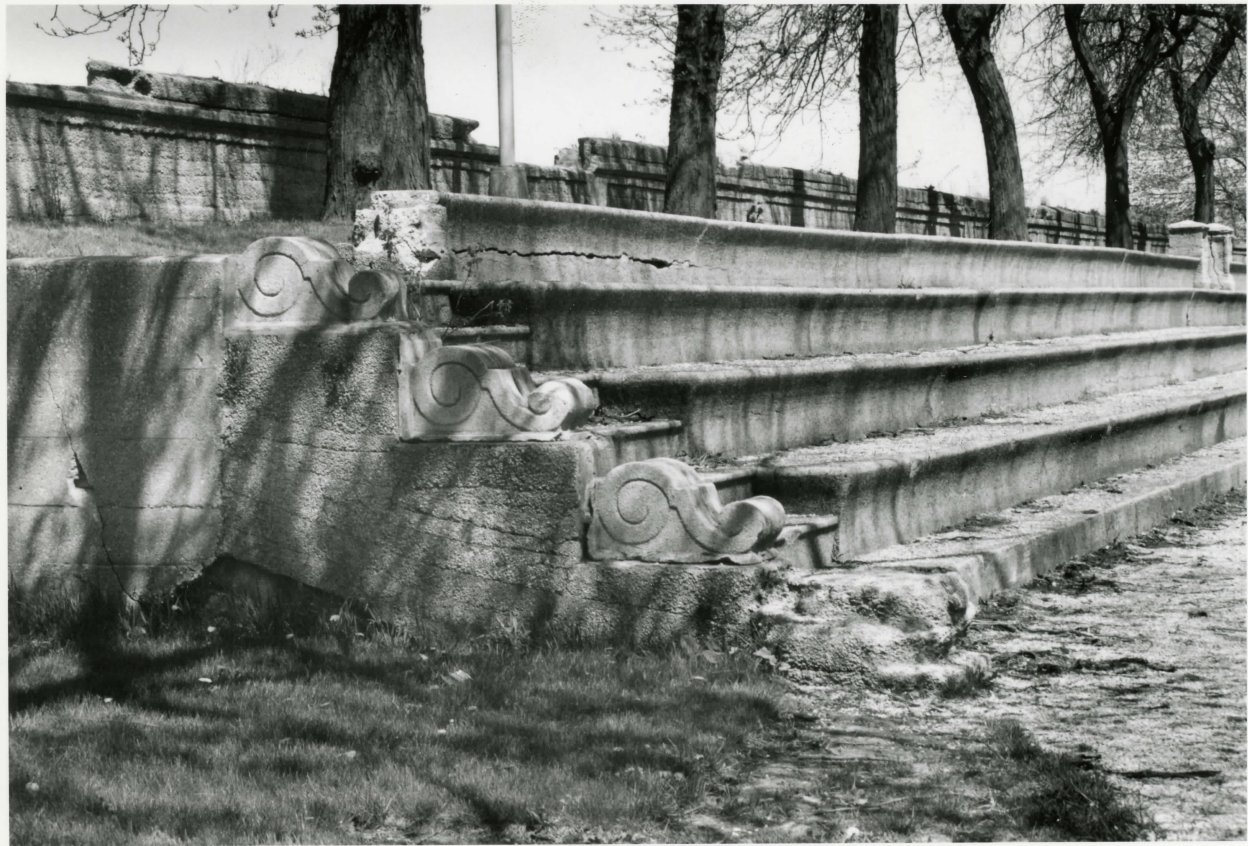
J. Bachroch

4/24/62

Chicago Park Dist.

parapet wall looking W

#6, feature 5



Furner Park Grandstand

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachroch

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist

looking NW

7, feature 6



Fulton Park

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist

running track; part of basketball
court looking NE

#8, feature 7, 8



Fuller Park

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist

Boiler House + yard looking W

Photo # 9, feature 9



Fuller Park

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/62

Chicago Park Dist

Gymnasium + Pergola looking NE

10, feature 10, 11, 12



Fuller Park

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist

field house looking NW

11, feature 10



Fuller Park Fieldhouse

Cook Co. IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

East Facade looking W

#12, feature 10



Fuller Park Fieldhouse

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

East Niche looking E

#13, feature 10



Fuller Park Fieldhouse
Cook Co, IL
J. Bachroch

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

Auditorium mural

& bench look. N3 E

#14, Lecture 10



Fuller Park Fieldhouse

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

Lobby Interior looking W

#15, Feature 10



Fuller Park

Cook Co. IL

J Bachrock.

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

Pergola looking NE

#16, feature 12



Fuller Park

Cook Co. IL

J. Bachroch

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist

North facade field house
courtyard

#17, elevations 10, 13, 15



Fuller Park

• Cook Co, IL

J. Bach rock

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist

Symposium & Locker
Bldg & Pedestal

#18, fixtures 11, 12, 13, 14



Fuller Park
Cook Co, IL
J. Bechnock
4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

Gymnasium, Locker Bldg
south facade

#19, lectures 11, 12, 13, 14, 15



Fuller Park

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

Women's Gym - South Foose

#20, feature 11



Fuller Park Gymnasium Bldg
Cook Co, IL

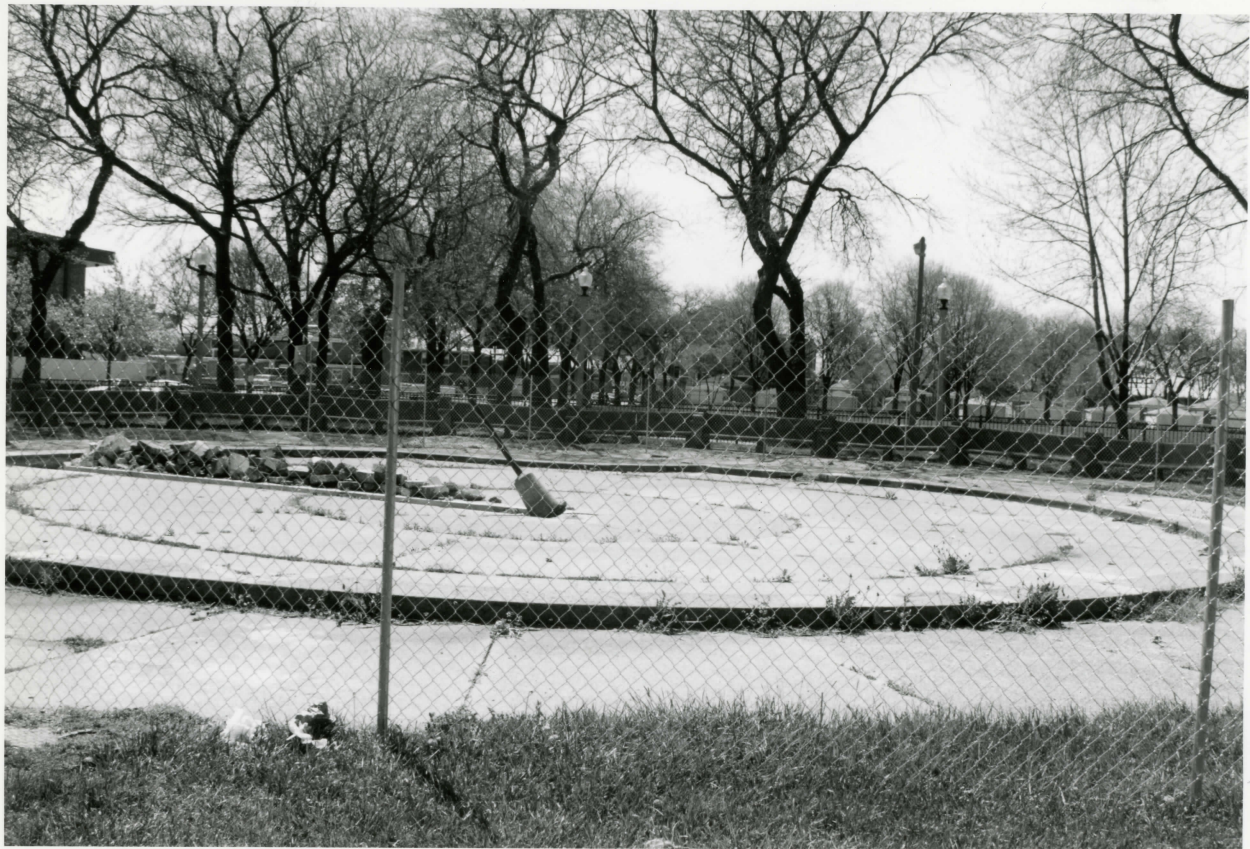
J. Bachroch

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

Interior looking N

#21, feature 11



Fuller Park
Cook Co, IL

J Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

Spray pool, sand cruts, semi
circular bench looking S

#23, features 17, 18, 19



Fuller Park

Cook Co, IL

J. Bachrach

4/24/02

Chicago Park Dist.

Semi-circular bench looking SE

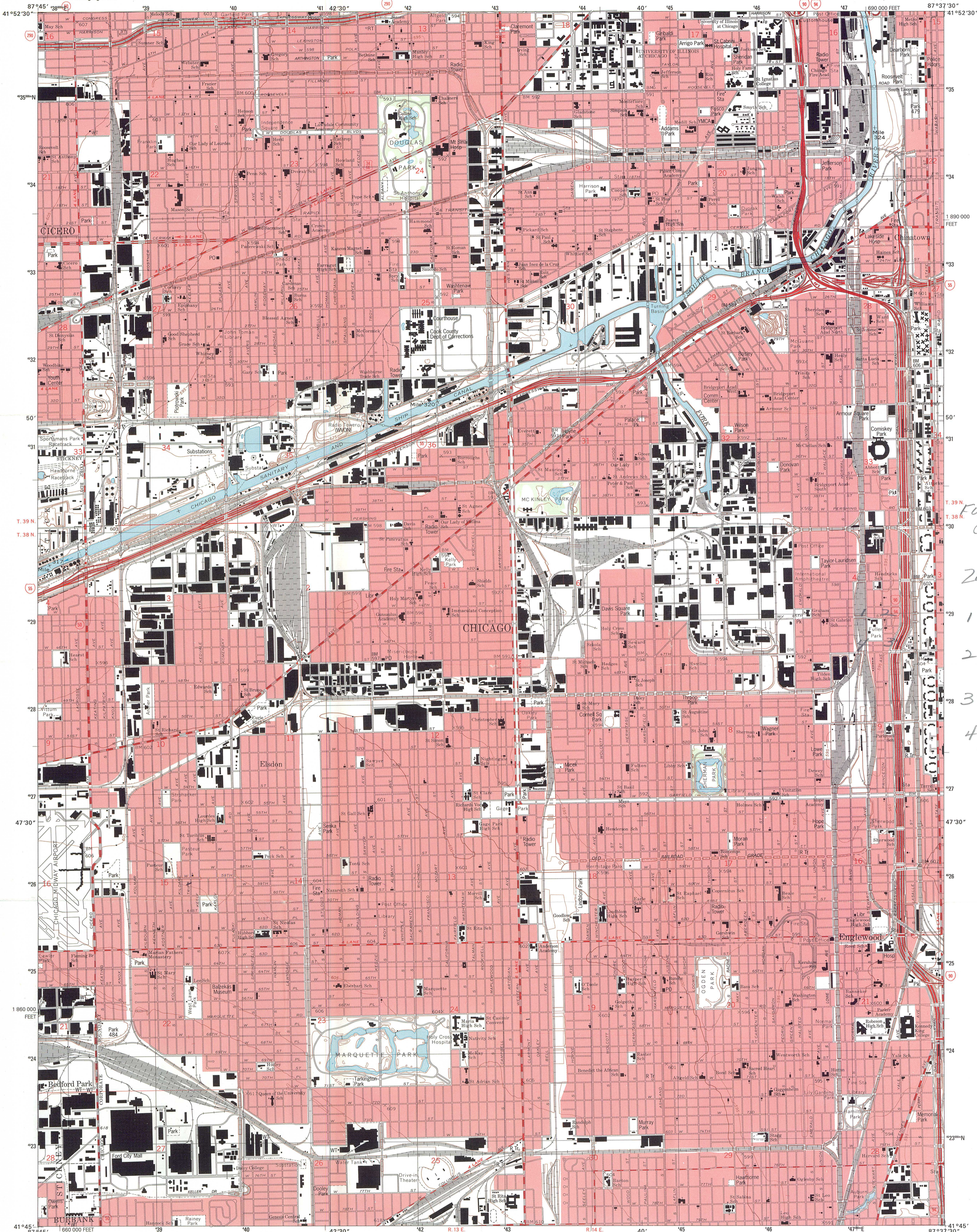
#23, lecture 18, 19

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Chicago Park District MPS, Fuller Park	Cook, Illinois	02001347

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

- Nomination Form
- Photographs (Photo #22)
- USGS Map



Fuller Park Cook Co IL Zone 16 1 E 447210 N 4629156 2 E 447377 N 4629146 3 E 447377 N 4628897 4 E 447210 N 4628902

Produced by the United States Geological Survey Derived from imagery taken 1988 and other sources. Photospected using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. PLSS and survey control current as of 1992 Boundaries, other than corporate, verified 1999 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: Illinois coordinate system, east zone (transverse Mercator) 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

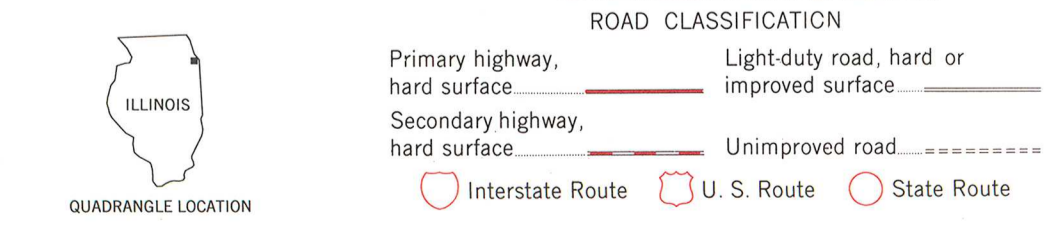
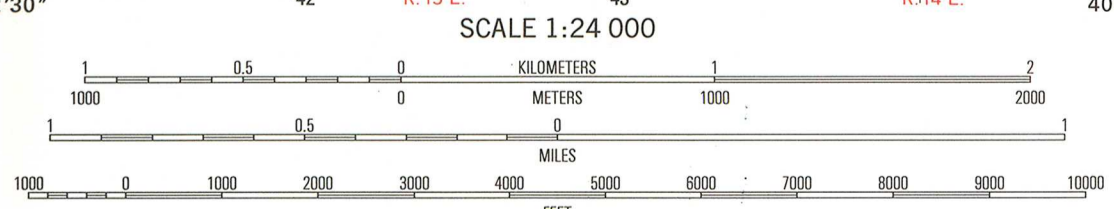
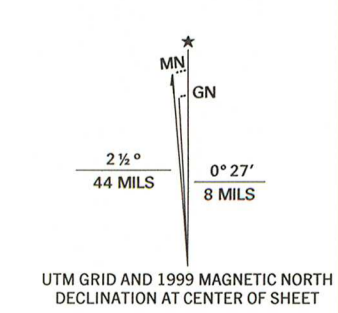


Table with 8 columns and 2 rows for adjoining 7.5' quadrangle names and a legend for Englewood, IL 1997.

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 AND ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61820 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





**Illinois Historic
Preservation Agency**

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • (217) 782-4836 • TTY (217) 524-7128

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Richard M. Daley, City of Chicago
Brian Goeken, Landmarks Division, Department of Planning and Development

FROM: Tracey A. Sculle, Survey and National Register Coordinator *TAS*

DATE: June 12, 2002

SUBJECT: Preliminary Opinion on Fuller Park, 331 West 45th Street, Chicago, Illinois

Fuller Park located at 331 West 45th Street (mailing Address), is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Documentation Form, entitled "The Historic Resources of the Chicago Park District." Fuller Park bounded on the north by South 45th Street, on the south by 46th Street, on the east by Princeton Avenue, and the west by the Pittsburgh and Ft. Wayne Railroad meets Criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The park is nationally significant as part of the revolutionary plan by the South Park Commission in 1903 to provide breathing spaces with recreational programs and social services to the densely populated tenement districts within its jurisdiction. The Olmsted Brothers designed the park's preliminary landscape plans. Although in-house South Park Commission designers modified the original plans because they were able to acquire a larger site, they based their new plan on the Olmsted prototype and asked Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. to approve the revised plan before it was executed. The park has very good physical integrity from its period of significance which is from 1910, when construction commenced, to 1952, the fifty-year cutoff for National Register significance. Fuller Park retains sufficient integrity to convey both its historic and architectural importance.



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Planning
and Development

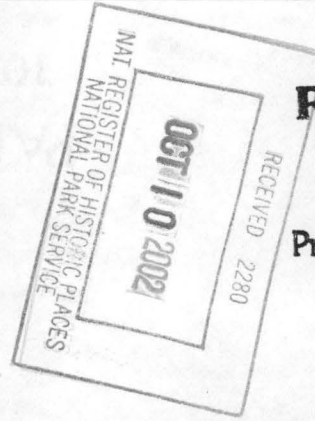
Alicia Mazur Berg
Commissioner

Suite 1600
33 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 744-3200
(312) 744-9140 (FAX)
(312) 744-2578 (TTY)

<http://www.cityofchicago.org>

August 6, 2002

Tracey A. Sculle
Survey & National Register Coordinator
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62702



RECEIVED
AUG 16 2002
Preservation Services

Re: **Chicago nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for**

- the Automatic Electric Company Building, 1001 W. Van Buren St., Fuller Park, 331 W. 45th St.,
- the Motor Row Multiple Property Documentation Form,
- the Motor Row District, and
- the Maxwell-Briscoe Automobile Co. Showroom, 1737 S. Michigan Ave.

Dear Ms. Sculle:

This is in response to your letters of June 10, June 12, and July 23, 2002, to the Commission on Chicago Landmarks asking for the Commission's comments on the nominations of the properties referenced above to the National Register of Historic Places. As a Certified Local Government (CLG), the City of Chicago is given the opportunity to comment on local nominations to the National Register prior to being considered by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council.

At its regular meeting of August 1, 2002, the Commission voted unanimously to endorse the National Register listings for all five nominations. The Commission found that:

- the **Automatic Electric Company Building** met Criterion A for communications and invention as the building most closely associated with the company that developed, refined and disseminated the automatic dial telephone system;
- **Fuller Park** met Criteria A and C for its national significance as part of the innovative plan by the South Park Commission in 1903 to create small neighborhood parks with recreation programs and social services in working-class Chicago neighborhoods;
- the **Motor Row Multiple Property Documentation Form** documents Chicago's "Motor Row," roughly centered on S. Michigan Ave. between 14th and 24th Streets, as the largest, most intact early "motor colony," or group of buildings associated with the automobile sales and service industry, in the United States, and establishes the historic contexts or themes for evaluating the buildings historically associated with Motor Row, including the history of automobile-related businesses, the development of the auto showroom as an important building type, and the architects that designed the buildings;
- the **Motor Row District** documents the core area of Motor Row, centered on S. Michigan Ave., between Cermak Road and 24th Place, as significant under Criteria A for commerce and C for architecture for its associations with the historic contexts documented in the Motor Row Multiple Property Documentation form; and
- the **Maxwell-Briscoe Automobile Co. Showroom**, as a significant automobile showroom building, meets Criteria A for commerce and C for architecture for its associations with the historic contexts documented in the Motor Row Multiple Property Documentation form.

Please contact Terry Tatum of my staff at 312-744-9147 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Goeken
Deputy Commissioner
Landmarks Division

cc: Susan Baldwin
Julia Bachrach
Linda Peters

