

★ ★ ★

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

New Designation     X      
 Amendment of a previous designation             
 Please summarize any amendment(s) \_\_\_\_\_

#12-06 Date received 2/12/06  
H.P.O. staff [Signature]

## United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Twin Oaks Playground and Field HouseOther names/site number: Twin Oaks Community Garden; Twin Oaks Youth Garden

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

**2. Location**Street & number: 4025 14TH ST NWCity or town: Washington State: DC County: N/ANot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

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

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

\_\_\_national \_\_\_statewide \_\_\_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

---

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

---

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐  
Public – Local ☐  
Public – State ☒  
Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐  
District ☐  
Site ☒  
Structure ☐  
Object ☐

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

2

Noncontributing

2

buildings

sites

structures

objects

2

2

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

SPORTS FACILITY

AGRICULTURE

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OUTDOOR RECREATION

AGRICULTURE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL/Colonial Revival

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE (foundation), WOOD (walls), ASPHALT (roof)

### Narrative Description

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

#### Summary Paragraph

The Twin Oaks Community Playground and Field House, now the Twin Oaks Community Garden, occupies a 9,820 sq. ft. site at the SE intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> and Taylor streets. The playground historically consisted of a similarly sized parcel north of Taylor Street, but that acreage is not included in this application.<sup>1</sup> In addition to containing community gardens, Twin Oaks contains a 1-1/2 story field house built in 1934 and located on the east central portion of the property, a greenhouse built in 1970 and located to the south of the field house on the southeastern portion of the property, a non-contributing cinderblock storage building to the north of the field house on the northeastern portion of the property, and a non-contributing shade structure to the north of the field house. The property's 1 -1/2 story field house was built in 1934, adapted from plans developed by Municipal Architect Albert Harris in 1931. The field house's overall design is that of a Colonial Revival dwelling. This building is of wood frame construction sheathed in wood clapboards upon a red brick foundation. It includes second floor gables and dormers. The field house is located on the east central portion of the property.

---

<sup>1</sup> While the northern playground site has been associated with Twin Oaks since its creation in 1920, its separation from the southern site by Taylor Street has caused it to function more as an auxiliary site, with the southern playground used at the primary playground. Furthermore, a review of Baist's Real Estate Atlases covering the period between 1920 and 1960 consistently identify only the southern playground as the formal Twin Oaks site.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

The property also contains two newer buildings. To the south of the field house is a greenhouse built upon a cinderblock foundation. The entrance to the greenhouse is at the north end of the structure, and is of wood frame construction sheathed in wood clapboarding. A cinderblock storage shed is to the north of the field house. The storage shed is unremarkable and as such, is a non-contributing structure.

---

## Narrative Description

### General Description:

#### Site:

The Twin Oaks playground, now the Twin Oaks Community Garden, is located south of Taylor Street between Fourteenth Street and a public alley (originally Cedar Street), NW (Lot 0803 in Square 2823). The property is bounded on the south by residential row dwellings.

### General Description:

The Twin Oaks playground, now community garden, is located on a rectangular parcel that is approximately a quarter of an acre. The entire lot is currently enclosed by an 8 ft. high chain link fence. The entrance to the garden is via a gate located at the mid-point of the fence along Taylor Street.

Along the perimeter of the northern (Taylor Street), western (14<sup>th</sup> Street), and southern (abutting row dwellings) sides of the property are small garden plots, shrubs, and trees. There is also a compost structure located along the southern perimeter, of center toward the alley side of the property. The eastern third of the property, abutting the alley, contains a tool shed, shade structure, field house, and greenhouse. The playground field house is centrally located along the eastern edge of the property. Directly north of the field house, in the north east corner of the site, is a cinderblock storage shed. To the west of the storage shed, and directly north of the field house, is a shade shelter providing shelter to picnic tables. Directly south of the field house is a greenhouse. Neither the storage shed or shade structure are contributing.

The central area of the remaining site is subdivided into 21 individual garden plots of roughly equal size. The southernmost garden plots contain three stackable bee hives in addition to garden plots.

### Twin Oaks Field House

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

The Twin Oaks Playground Field House is a 1 ½-story brick building of wood frame construction that is rectangular in plan. The building is set upon a low brick foundation which contains a basement beneath the northern third of the building. The building is covered with a steeply pitched gable roof featuring three gabled dormers on the west façade, a substantial exterior end brick chimney on the north end wall, and a single-story porch spanning the west elevation. The porch is covered by a pent roof that is integrated into the main roof and extends from it as a catslide. 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows are located in the east and west side walls and dormers. There are no windows on the north side and the south side contains three smaller three pane windows.

The Twin Oaks Playground Field House is characterized by its 1 ½-story Colonial-Revival-style building form.

### Exterior Description

The entire building is a solidly constructed wood frame structure sheathed in wood clapboarding. The western elevation is dominated by a single-story porch spanning the length of the building. It is punctuated by a centrally located double-hung window (six over six) which is flanked by two entrance doors evenly placed to the north and south. Three gabled dormers are located on the steeply pitched roof directly above. The dormers are clad with vertically laid wood siding. Plywood currently covers the dormer windows, which remain intact beneath.

The northern elevation consists of a substantial single-story and gable consisting of wood frame construction clad in wood clapboarding. A brick chimney is located in the center of the elevation. The porch is to the west and is similarly clad in wood clapboarding.

The east elevation consists of a single-story built in wood frame construction beneath a steeply pitched half-story roof. The wood clapboarding is punctuated by three windows and a door. The windows are at equal intervals dividing the space into quarters, with the door further dividing the space between the southern window and the south end of the structure. The window openings are double hung six-over-six sash windows. The entry door is on the southern end of the structure.

The south elevation continues the wood frame construction covered in wood clapboarding. To the west the porch roof area continues with wood clapboarding. The first-story is divided symmetrically into thirds by small rectangular three pane casement windows. The gable is similarly pierced by a small rectangular three pane window.

### Interior Description

The interior floor plan generally resembles that of the Hall-and Parlor House (Hall-and-Chamber). In the case of the field house, the large northern room rises to the full height of the structure. It contains a four-log fireplace in the center of the northern wall and scissor trusses

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

supporting the roof. A smaller single-story room is located immediately south of the large northern room, with two restrooms located at the southern end of the interior.

### **Twin Oaks Green House**

Rectangular in plan along a north/south axis, the Twin Oaks Green House is a single story structure composed of two elements, both set upon a common cinderblock foundation. The northern third of the structure is a wood frame construction building covered with a steeply pitched gable roof. The northern elevation is void of windows and terminates in a gable. The eastern elevation contains a small rectangular window centrally located near the top of the elevation. The western wall contains the entry door to the greenhouse shed, through which access is also provided to the greenhouse. The south wall abuts the greenhouse proper, the southern wall of which is a flat wall of glass. The east and west walls of the greenhouse rise from the foundation with an incline of approximately 60% toward the center of the structure. Approximately three-quarters of the way up, the incline changes to 30% until both the east and west walls meet creating a ridge.



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

## 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 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

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

---

---

---

---

---

**Period of Significance**

1920-1970

---

---

**Significant Dates**

1920, 1934, 1953, 1962

1970

---

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

---

---

---

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

---

---

**Architect/Builder**

Harris, Albert L.

---

---

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

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

The Twin Oaks Playground qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion A because it is associated with historical periods, social movements, groups, institutions, or patterns of growth and change that contributed significantly to the heritage, culture or development of the District of Columbia. Namely, the Twin Oaks Playground was associated with a local movement that began in 1947 and ended in 1954 to end segregation at the city's public playgrounds. The integration of Twin Oaks in June 1953 was a contributing factor leading to the resignation of District Recreation Board chairman Frank H. Collins, who ardently fought to maintain Washington's segregated playground system. Collins' resignation resulted in a Board favorable to integrating all Washington playgrounds, which quickly followed when segregation ended on May 19, 1954.

The Twin Oaks Playground additionally qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion A because it is associated with a local movement by the District Recreation Department and the Youth Garden Council to expose city children to gardening while developing in them a sense of civic pride. The Youth Gardens Project was inaugurated in 1962 at Twin Oaks Playground. As the program developed and included additional sites, the Twin Oaks Garden Center served as a training center for volunteers and as a demonstration area for the various types of garden projects. By 1964, the Washington Youth Garden program involved nearly all of the Recreation Department's 100-odd centers and spread in influence to include adult gardeners. The Twin Oaks Garden Demonstration Center was a key component of the Washington Youth Garden program. Twin Oaks continues as an active community garden center today.

The Twin Oaks Playground field house qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as a good example of the city's recreational buildings, designed according to an established building type during the tenure of Municipal Architect Albert Harris (1921-1933). The field house, designed in the Colonial Revival style followed a standard plan for field houses from that period. The Twin Oaks Playground field house remains a notable example of its type with its design being adapted from that established by Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris, whose work is closely identified with civic architecture in Washington, D.C. Furthermore, it is one of two examples of this type constructed as a Civil Works Administration project in 1934, and the only example known to contain a basement level.

The Twin Oaks Playground field house retains its integrity of location, setting, design, craftsmanship, materials, feeling and association. The field house is a purpose-built recreational structure of the District of Columbia; it was constructed according to an established design model and embodies characteristics illustrating the evolution of recreational architecture in the District; it stands on its original site; and it retains its original building massing and materials.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

---

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

### **Summary Paragraph:**

The Twin Oaks Playgrounds, bisected by Taylor Street, NW, was created on land originally part of the grounds of the tuberculosis hospital to the north. It was formally organized in 1920 to better support the recreational needs of the District's growing suburban community in the area along 14<sup>th</sup> Street at the northern edge of the city. The playground was opened on September 16, 1920, and popular in its early years. At the time it was established, Twin Oaks included a small portable shelter house and a play station.<sup>2</sup> The property was developed as a formal playground in the District's growing network of municipal playgrounds. Amenities included a clay tennis court – established and in active use as early as 1926 – on the northern playground, and the construction of a 1-½ story field house in 1934 on the southern playground. The field house was built as part of the Civil Works Administration's efforts to provide work to the city's unemployed. Twin Oaks Playground's 1-½ story field house is a direct result of those efforts and its design follows the Colonial Revival design developed by municipal architect Albert L. Harris after the vernacular Hall-and-Parlor houses of the Tidewater region. This type was regionally appropriate to the Mid-Atlantic States, less formal, and appropriate for recreation areas. Originally established as a white playground in Washington's segregated playground system, Twin Oaks was officially "opened" to all children in 1953, a year before all District playgrounds were integrated. In 1962, a small youth garden was established on the southern playground. This was expanded to the north playground in 1966. Twin Oaks became the demonstration center and lead facility for the Recreation Department's Washington Youth Garden program.

### Establishment of Twin Oaks Playground

During the early Twentieth Century, there was growing support for dedicated playground space in the District of Columbia. Often times, parks, school grounds, and empty lots provided opportunities for unofficial recreation areas throughout the city. However, many of these areas proved to be temporary solutions with those not owned by the District of Columbia unable to support improvements such as buildings or equipment. Prior to 1954, the District's playgrounds were also racially segregated, further restricting access to the precious few playgrounds in existence prior to 1920. Acknowledging the need for a much improved system of dedicated playgrounds, the United Citizens Playground Committee studied the issue and in August 1921

---

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, Year Ended June 30, 1921. Vol. I: Miscellaneous Reports.* Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1922, p. 290.

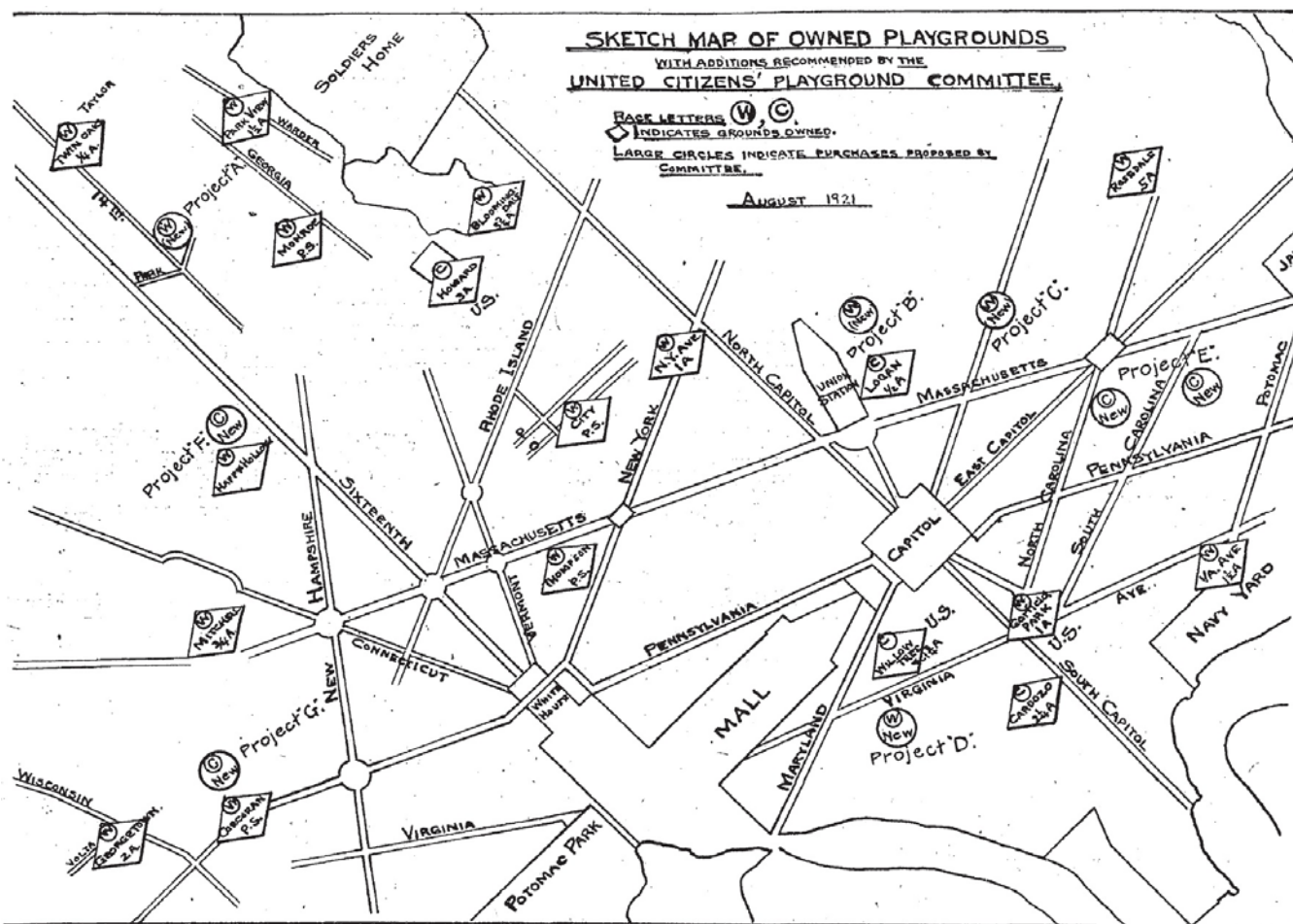
Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

recommended that the District Commissioners adopt a system of equitable distribution of playgrounds throughout Washington. Their report urgently advocated that three new white and two new "colored" playground sites be created – in addition to the purchase of two playgrounds already in use but unowned by the District. To better serve the black community, the report noted the importance of purchasing Rose Park Playground, establishing a playground in the vicinity of the Wilson School at 17th Street between Euclid Street and Kalorama Road, NW, and establishing a new playground in southeast Washington. It was particularly noted that there were no playgrounds in southeast Washington then in existence open to the black community, and that the creation of one near Lincoln Park be adopted. To accomplish this plan, the United Citizens' Playground Committee requested \$330,000 be dedicated for the purchase of seven playground sites as part of a total request of \$455,000 that also funded playground improvements,



Map showing location of both existing, and projected, District playgrounds, divided by race, in 1921, clearly showing Twin Oaks as an established playground in the District system. (Map from the *Washington Post*, Aug. 14, 1921, p. 2)

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Name of Property

maintenance, and staffing.<sup>3</sup>

Washington, D.C.

County and State

The twin playgrounds at 14<sup>th</sup> and Taylor streets, NW, were established and opened to children the week of August 2, 1920,<sup>4</sup> with an official opening date of September 16, 1920. There is no documentation indicating why the name "Twin Oaks" was chosen, though it may have alluded to the fact that the property is composed of 'twin' playgrounds on either side of Taylor Street.

As with many District playgrounds of the 1920s, the playground was largely a flat open space devoted to playing fields with a portable shelter house and a play station. The playground at Twin Oaks was one of the scarce municipal playgrounds providing recreational space for Washington's children. By 1921 Washington had more than 125,000 children and young people under 20 years of age. Yet, the city's established playgrounds only were able to accommodate about 15,000 children. When the nearby Columbia Heights playground – located between Kenyon Street and Park Road to the west of 14<sup>th</sup> Street – was lost due to development, an estimated 1,000 children no longer had a safe place to play. The closest playground available to the children of Columbia Heights which they could go to without great inconvenience and danger was the smaller Twin Oaks playground to the north – it being the only playground north of Macklin playground at 14<sup>th</sup> and V streets and the Happy Hollow playground at 18<sup>th</sup> and Columbia Road in the section west of Georgia Avenue. Columbia Heights children choosing to go to a playground other than Twin Oaks were required to cross a street car line in almost any direction they set out.<sup>5</sup>

One of the early activities that children at Twin Oaks engaged in was the making of toys during the summer and fall of 1922. They were also busy bringing in old toys for repair which they could then give to boys and girls whose parents could not afford to buy them toys.<sup>6</sup> Other typical activities available to children at Twin Oaks included basketball tournaments and tennis championships. The Twin Oaks playground included a clay tennis court on the north playground.

In 1934 a small field house was constructed at Twin Oaks – a result of the Civil Works Administration which also built a field house at the Lincoln Playground. The CWA also began developing plans for the large Banneker and Takoma Recreation Centers. Permits were issued for construction of the Twin Oaks and Lincoln playground field houses during the week of December 25, 1933, which were issued to the United States Government to construct a 1-½ story wood frame field house at Twin Oaks costing \$1,500 and a 1-½ story brick field house at Lincoln at an expense of \$2,000. Both structures were completed and follow the design developed by municipal architect Albert Harris in 1931 for Mitchell Park and subsequently constructed at Park View and Happy Hollow. Also, by originally including a wading pool in the plans for Happy Hollow, Twin Oaks, and Lincoln, these playgrounds followed the pattern of the

<sup>3</sup> "Playground Plans Cover Entire City." *The Washington Post*, Aug. 14, 1921, p. 2; "Adopt \$455,000 Playground Plan." *The Evening Star*, Aug. 12, 1921, p. 2.

<sup>4</sup> "New Playgrounds to Open This Week," *Washington Herald*, Aug. 2, 1920, p. 6.

<sup>5</sup> "Play Sites Dire Need." *The Washington Post*, July 10, 1921, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> "Mend Children's Toys," *The Evening Star*, Dec. 12, 1922, p. 38.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

"modern playground" first created at Park View Playground in 1932. Unfortunately, the wading pool planned for Twin Oaks was never constructed.<sup>7</sup>

The Tidewater-style field houses at Twin Oaks and Lincoln playgrounds are the only Civil Works Administration playground projects of this type completed in the District of Columbia. The two larger Civil Works Administration projects – Banneker and Takoma Recreation Centers – were begun as part of the CWA but completed through subsequent programs.

### Albert Harris-designed Field Houses

The Twin Oaks Playground Field House, built in 1934 concurrently with the Lincoln Playground Field House, was built according to plans drawn up by Municipal Architect Albert L. Harris<sup>8</sup> originally in 1931 to replace the storage shacks then found on most municipal playgrounds. The first structure of this type was constructed at Mitchell Park (1931). Other examples include those built at Park View (1932), Happy Hollow (1933 – since razed), Lincoln Playground (1934), and Chevy Chase (1936), for a total of six. The field house at Palisades (1936) incorporates the 1-½ story Colonial-Revival-style structure as a wing of the much larger structure. Among this field house type, The Twin Oaks field house is notable – along with the structure at Lincoln Playground – for being one of two field houses constructed as a result of the short-lived Civil Works Administration. Lastly, the Twin Oaks field house was uniquely constructed with a partial basement.

Harris' development of the 1-½ story Colonial-Style field house was an extension of his attempt to find appropriate Colonial-style types for the District's municipal buildings. More formal Colonial types were well established for public schools and firehouses when Harris turned his attention to playground structures. Rather than embrace a formal Colonial style, Harris drew inspiration from Colonial domestic architecture which, presumably, he considered more appropriate for the less formal activities of play, rest, and recreation.

While Harris's development of a vernacular field house type to support the informal activity of recreation may seem to be an obvious development, there was likely more behind this choice than is apparent. Some of the city's larger contemporaneous recreation facilities were designed in the more formal Colonial Revival architecture akin to public schools – examples include the buildings at Anacostia (1925) and Banneker (1934). Harris's decision to design a small vernacular Colonial structure likely had more to do with the small size of the playgrounds where they were built and a strong association between Mitchell Park – site of the first field house of this type -- and President Herbert Hoover. By extension, the association with President Hoover also would have called to mind the strong association between Hoover and outdoor recreation; the Presidential Rapidan Camp in the Blue Ridge Mountains; and the creation of Shenandoah National Park – all of which were frequently in the news while Harris designed the 1-½ story

<sup>7</sup> "D.C. Real Estate Ends Hectic Year." *The Evening Star*, Dec. 30, 1933, p. B-6.

<sup>8</sup> "New Type House for Playgrounds." *The Evening Star*, Oct. 4, 1930, p. A-16.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

field house for Mitchell Park in 1931. While the general form of the Mitchell Park field house type is in keeping with many examples of Appalachian cabins, Harris's design is more in keeping with Colonial Hall-and-Parlor house types from the 18th century.

Prior to becoming President, Mr. and Mrs. Hoover lived across the street from Mitchell Park at 2300 S Street, NW, during his service as Secretary of Commerce. The Hoovers resided on S Street from 1921 until 1929. The S Street house's close proximity to Mitchell Park was noted and among the reasons why Mrs. Hoover was invited to plant a tree at Mitchell Park – in her honor – on October 23, 1931. The selection of Mitchell Park for the ceremonial tree planting was entirely due to Mrs. Hoover's former residence.<sup>9</sup>

Most early Hall-and-Parlor Houses were timber frame and clad in weatherboards. The field house type developed for Mitchell Park and subsequently built at Happy Hallow and Twin Oaks conformed to this aesthetic. However, most surviving examples of Hall-and-Parlor Houses were the less typical but more durable brick houses. The Lincoln Playground Field House adapted Harris' design by constructing a brick variant. This house type is closely associated with the mid-Atlantic Tidewater region and is also known at the Virginia house.

#### Architect of the Field House

Albert Lewis Harris (1869-1933) Municipal Architect (1921-1933)

Albert L. Harris was born in Abergynolwyn Wales in 1869 and emigrated to America with his father Job Harris in 1873. He was in the Washington area by 1890 when he began attending the Arlington Academy for three years. He left without graduating to work for Henry Ives Cobb in Chicago for five years on residential buildings. In 1898 Harris moved to Baltimore where he worked for Wyatt & Nolting until 1900 when he relocated to Washington. He was employed by Hornblower & Marshall from 1900 until 1917, noting that he worked on the firm's two most important public commissions, the Baltimore Custom House (1908) and the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum (1901-1911) while in that office. While employed by Hornblower & Marshall Harris began receiving his formal education at George Washington University, earning a B.S. in architecture in 1912. The same year Harris was appointed assistant professor of architecture at the university; by 1915 he was a full professor, a part-time position he held until 1930. In 1924 he prepared a quadrangular plan for the university's campus and with Arthur B. Heaton also designed Stockton and Corcoran Halls.

From 1917 to 1920 Harris worked for the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks where he was principally employed writing specifications. He began working for the Municipal Architect's office in 1920 and was named Snowdon Ashford's successor the following year; as members of the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the two had served on a 1911 committee with Waddy B. Wood condemning bay windows as not being "in accord with the

---

<sup>9</sup> "Tree in Playground Will Be Planted to Honor Mrs. Hoover." *The Washington Post*, Sept. 28, 1931, p. 18.



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

dignity of architecture which the Capital should maintain.” In 1914 he served with the same men, as well as Glenn Brown, on the local AIA chapter’s committee that first proposed licensing architects. Harris submitted the first application for architectural registration in the District and was the first to be registered on April 6, 1925.

As was true with his predecessors, Washington’s schools occupied a major part of the municipal architect’s design output during Harris’s tenure which ended with his sudden death in February 1933. Harris responded to suggestions made by the Commission of Fine Arts about the appropriateness of the Colonial Revival style for Washington’s neighborhood municipal buildings with the majority of his school designs and public buildings. His 1931 Gothic Revival additions to the Park View School were a notable exception. In the case of Park View School, Harris closely adhered to the style of the 1916 building designed by his predecessor, Snowdon Ashford.

Not surprisingly, Harris not only developed types for Colonial Revival-style schools, firehouses, and municipal buildings, but also adapted the style in developing a field house type for Washington playgrounds. In the case of the field house, however, Harris modeled his building type after the vernacular Hall-and-Parlor houses of the Tidewater region. This type was regionally appropriate to the Mid-Atlantic States, less formal, and appropriate for recreation areas. The open interior plan made them adaptable to multiple activities and their small scale made them better suited to smaller playground lot sizes. Lastly, as playgrounds’ primary functions were to support outdoor recreation activities, the small scale field house complemented the primary outdoor playground functions appropriately.

While Snowdon Ashford predicted greater sophistication of the District’s buildings to keep apace with developments in the city’s federal architecture, Harris balanced fine-quality Colonial Revival buildings scaled and styled for Washington’s neighborhoods with appropriately urban-scaled ones for the city’s governing center adjacent to the heart of Washington’s monumental core.

### The Civil Works Administration and Recreation Projects

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) was a short-lived U.S. job creation program established by the New Deal during the Great Depression to rapidly create manual labor jobs for millions of unemployed workers. The jobs were merely temporary, for the duration of the hard winter of 1933–34. President Franklin D. Roosevelt unveiled the CWA on November 8, 1933, and put Harry L. Hopkins in charge of the short-term agency. Roosevelt was convinced that jobs were much better for everyone than cash handouts.

President Roosevelt formally created the new CWA by Executive Order on November 9, 1933. He diverted \$400 million from the Public Works Administration budget to finance short-term, light construction and named Federal Emergency Relief Administration head, Harry Hopkins, in charge of the operations through his state and county relief organization. The CWA would employ 4 million on public projects. Conceived as an emergency stop-gap, the CWA was an

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

uneasy hybrid of social-work compassion and engineering know how. Initiated by welfare reformers, it stood out as the most advanced federal work relief experiment ever undertaken.<sup>10</sup>

From the beginning, the CWA was different. Hopkins assured applicants that the procedures for employment rather than those for dispensing relief would be followed. Earlier work programs accepted only heads of families with dependents, automatically turning away single youths, and examined the family budget for "relative needs." In contrast, CWA applicants were classified solely on the basis of skill, training, and experience. Several persons from one family could be signed on, while others with many dependents might be passed by.<sup>11</sup>

Hopkins envisioned CWA undertakings as "stop-gap public works," that had to commence immediately in November and terminate on short notice. At the same time, he had to avoid competition with private enterprise and conflict with the Public Works Administration. This meant that no city halls, schools, state institutions, or sewage disposal projects would be included. But, Hopkins was determined to make the jobs socially useful and was determined not to permit CWA funds to be used for garbage collection or for cleaning streets or snow removal. While Hopkins left the responsibility of identifying suitable project to local officials and encouraged them to use their imagination, he suggested park and playground construction, feeder roads, water mains and sewer extensions, excavations, and special projects for white collar and professional workers.<sup>12</sup>

In Washington, D.C., projects at Arlington National Cemetery, Fort Myer, the Army War College, Bolling Field, and building recreational facilities were among those that put the unemployed to work. Notably, recreational facility projects had been abandoned by most states and the District at the onset of the Depression as they were considered luxury budget items. For the CWA, however, they offered an ideal opportunity to provide opportunities to a wide range of labor and make substantial community improvements without competing with other programs. Unskilled laborers cleaned and regraded municipal parks, while professional landscape artists designed new ones. In Washington, four notable recreation projects were undertaken. Two large recreation centers – Banneker and Takoma – and two field houses at smaller playgrounds – Twin Oaks and Lincoln Playgrounds. Discrimination based on race, religion, and color was prohibited in the CWA<sup>13</sup> and this also proved true in the selection of the recreation facilities undertaken in Washington, where playgrounds were still segregated and would be until 1954. In looking at the improved playground structures within the District's segregated system, CWA improvements were fairly and equitably distributed with one large recreation center, each with a pool, undertaken for white (Takoma) and black (Banneker) residents, and the same occurring in the smaller playground improvement with the construction of Twin Oaks (white) and Lincoln (black) playgrounds.

<sup>10</sup> "Schwartz, Bonnie Fox, *The Civil Works Administration, 1933-1934* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1984), p. 38.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 43.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 45-46.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 43-44.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Nationally, by the time the CWA ended it had built or improved some 500,000 miles of roads, 40,000 schools, over 3,500 parks, playgrounds and athletic fields, and 1,000 airports. Recreation structures are among the few substantial and easily identifiable long-term improvements that resulted from the CWA. This includes the four facilities constructed in the District of Columbia.

### End of Segregation

In Washington's segregated playground system, the issue of playground segregation took on a national importance when, on June 12, 1945, the District Recreation Board voted to add language in its by-laws, rules and regulations governing the board which established the use of play areas on a segregated basis by a 3 to 2 vote. The board quickly drew criticism for this action with many organizations demanding the right to be heard – among them the NAACP, Fraternal Council of Negro Churches, and the Washington Chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. As a result, the Recreation Board scheduled public hearings for August 14, 1945. Approximately 200 Washington citizens attended the three-hour hearing, but to no avail. The board, confronted with the illegality of its own action in adopting a discriminatory by-law by the vote of less than a majority of its total membership decided to vote on the measure again in September 1945, again passing the measure by a vote of 5 to 2.

Taking up the issue again in 1947, "a committee of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare [sent a letter to the District Recreation Board]. The letter said that Negro children of the Park View School neighborhood were forced to play in the streets and alleys because Park View Playground [was] for white children only." The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and various local civic groups joined the Southern Conference on Human Welfare's protest against the racial segregation practices of the Recreation Board. While the Recreation Department denied the request of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare to integrate the Park View Playground, their request did result in the board deciding to support a study of the six playgrounds where the population composition of the city was changing. The playgrounds studied were Rose Park, in Georgetown; Rosedale, Seventh and Gales streets, NE; Park View, Warder and Newton, NW; Hoover, Second and N streets, SW; New York Avenue, First and New York Avenue, NW; and Happy Hollow, Eighteenth and Kalorama, NW. Of these, only Rose Park was then reserved for black children.

As a result of the study, the District Recreation Board decided in May 1949 to "experiment" with nonsegregated playgrounds at Rose Park in Georgetown and Garfield Park in southeast. Following the success of its 1948 experiment, the Recreation Board adopted a conservative and non-controversial approach to playground desegregation. In 1951, they chose to "open" only those playgrounds whose naming evoked little or no opposition from white citizens. In other words, the playgrounds designated as "open" already served large or completely black neighborhoods. This policy resulted in the opening of Noyes and two other playgrounds – formerly white – for black children in 1951.

Due to the changing character of the surrounding community, the Twin Oaks Playground was among the D.C. playgrounds where the issue of integration was considered in advance of full

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

desegregation of all District playgrounds. Following the integration of no fewer than twelve Washington playgrounds, the Recreation Board announced it had scheduled a public hearing to determine the future status of the then white Twin Oaks playground for June 2, 1953.<sup>14</sup> In response to the Recreation Board, the Petworth Citizen's Association adopted a resolution in advance of the hearing supporting the continued segregation of Twin Oaks Playground.<sup>15</sup> The Recreation Board's transition committee reviewed the issue and recommended that Twin Oaks' status change for use by all children. The Recreation Board's chairman – Col. Frank H. Collins – who favored maintaining segregated playgrounds resigned in response to several issues – including Twin Oaks – on June 9, 1953. His resignation resulted in his absence when the Board voted their final approval of Twin Oaks for biracial use.

Col. Collins was appointed to the Recreation Board in November 1951 and became chairman of the board in June 1952. Collins was frustrated during his time as chair, believing that the District Commissioners were “stacking the deck” with regards to the Board's view on segregation. He objected to the appointment of Henry Gichner to the board in 1952 and requested that the District Commissioners replace the Recreation Board's only black member, Alice Hunter, who had been a member of the board for 11 years. During his tenure as chair, Collins and other board members had been involved in a running feud over the Board's racial policies. Collins unsuccessfully fought the ending of segregation at Rosedale playground in the fall of 1952 as well as Twin Oaks the week before he resigned.<sup>16</sup>

The final straw for Collins was when he learned that Mrs. Hunter was intending to propose Gichner as board chairman at the June 9, 1953, meeting. Rather than be replaced by Gichner by his peers, Col. Collins chose to resign. His resignation resulted in a Recreation Board that strongly favored playground integration, and hastened the adoption of a city-wide open playground policy which officially began when segregation at all District playgrounds ended less than a year later on May 19, 1954.

#### Twin Oaks Garden Demonstration Center

The Washington Youth Garden program began in a modest way at the Twin Oaks Playground in the spring of 1962 by two volunteers at the playground – Mrs. Harold Marsh and Mrs. Martin Vogel. Lillie L. Vogel was the widow of Martin Vogel, assistant secretary of the Treasury under President Woodrow Wilson, who died in 1938. Mrs. Vogel settled in Washington in 1940, residing on 30<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. In the spring of 1962, Mrs. Vogel proposed the ideal of youth gardens based on her experience of Youth Gardens in New York where she had served on the Board of the Plant and Flower Guild during the 1920s and 1930s. With the aid of Sara Delano

<sup>14</sup> “Lifting of Racial Bars at Play Areas Studied.” *The Evening Star*, May 13, 1953, p. A-25.

<sup>15</sup> “Parental Responsibility In Delinquency Upheld.” *The Evening Star*, May 20, 1953, p. A-12.

<sup>16</sup> “Rogers, Jeanne. “Recreation Board Head's Resignation May Accelerate Biracial Program,” *The Washington Post*, June 11, 1953, p. 25; Dean, James G. “Collins Resigns as Recreation Board Member,” *The Evening Star*, June 10, 1953, p. A-21.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

Roosevelt, Mrs. Vogel drummed up interest in spreading the gardens along the East River, helping to finance them with an antique shop she opened in New York.

In 1962, as Mrs. Vogel was clearing her files, she came across some of the old records and films of the garden work done by the New York children under the leadership of the Plant and Flower Guild. She was on the point of throwing away the literature and pictures when the idea came to her to initiate a similar project in Washington. A short while later, Mrs. Vogel invited Mrs. Francis B. Sayre, Mr. G. Howland Shaw, Mr. Milo B. Christianson (Superintendent of the Department of Recreation), Mrs. Harold N. Marsh, and a few other friends to her home to learn about gardens. The idea evoked interest and was enthusiastically received. A follow up meeting included various governmental and voluntary agencies and interested citizens, where there was unanimous agreement to support the project. A council of interested citizens was formed under the chairmanship of Mrs. Harold N. Marsh to work with the D.C. Recreation Department to initiate a garden project in the District of Columbia.

The feeling was that beside the value of the gardens to the youth who would work them, was the prospect of having many unsightly, ugly spots in the city converted into color and beauty, and a means of lifting living morale – and possibly a direct support of the goal of Washington's Urban Renewal efforts. It was also decided that, even though it was late in the spring and the planting time was almost at hand, that ways needed to be found to initiate the plan and start the gardens in a modified form in the summer of 1962 with the expectation of a broader program in the future.

Mrs. Vogel made a generous donation that included funds from the estate of her sister, Miss Irene Lewisohn, to get the project started. Additional funds were raised from friends to supplement the donation. A young horticulturist, Mr. Frank Ford, was hired as director and gardens were started on the grounds of several recreation centers. The response was enthusiastic as several hundred children participated and learned how to grow flowers and vegetables that first year.

The garden demonstration center was established at Twin Oaks in 1963. The small field house on the former playground was refurbished and became the office of the director and a meeting place for children and recreation workers. Unfortunately early in 1963 Mr. Ford was transferred, but the program continued under the direction of Mrs. Lois Seamon, working closely with the D.C. Recreation Department staff. Funds for the 1963 season continued to be raised from interested citizens, garden clubs, and in particular the Sustaining Group of the Junior League.

In 1964, a full time garden director, William Hash, was secured to carry forward the program. Mr. Hash was a graduate of the Maryland University Horticultural School and considered an enthusiastic and capable gardener as well as a natural born teacher of children. With the progress that was made, the D.C. Recreation Department applied to Congress for \$8,000 for the Washington Youth Garden Project, but the effort was unsuccessful. Fortunately, the Behrend Foundation offered an \$8,000 gift for the year which sustained the program along with contributions from the Sears Roebuck Foundation in the amount of \$1,000, Atlantic Richfield, the Junior League, the American Association of Nurserymen, and individual citizen

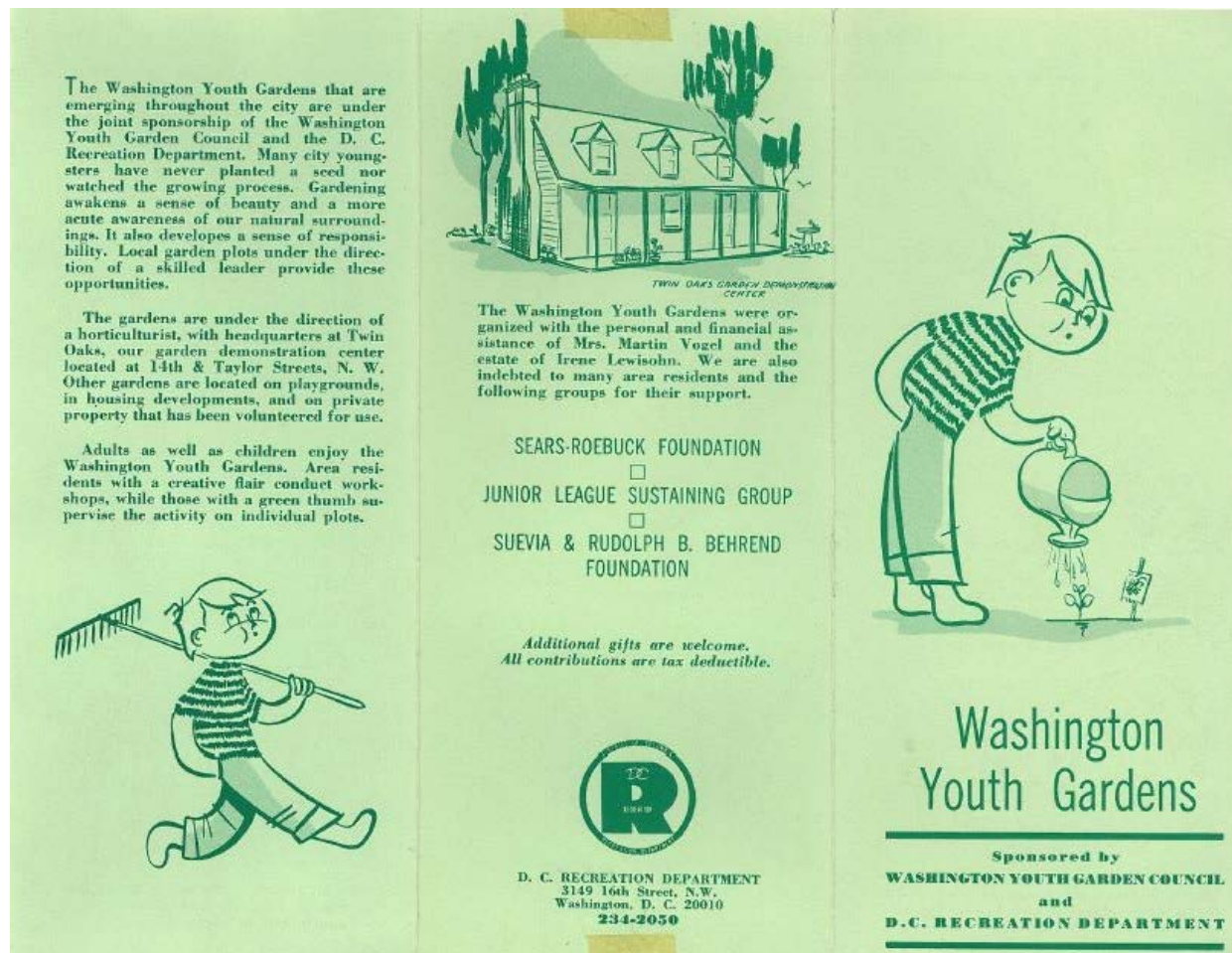
Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

contributions.<sup>17</sup> A plaque located on the chimney of the field house in memory of Suevia and Rudolph B. Behrend commemorates their support to the garden. Congressional support was finally achieved in 1965 with Congress's approval of the \$8,000 budget submitted by the Recreation Department.



(Undated Washington Youth Gardens brochure, featuring the Twin Oaks Demonstration Center)

The Department of Recreation supported the gardens and quickly expanded the program – with Twin Oaks designated as the demonstration center and headquarters – to provide an opportunity for inner city children to grow flowers and vegetables and learn from the experience. The youth garden program was co-sponsored by the D.C. Department of Recreation and the volunteer based Washington Youth Garden Council. By 1966 the Twin Oaks center was enlarged to include the abandoned tennis courts on the north side of Taylor Street. By 1977 the program had grown to include three centers and vegetable garden plots at 40 playgrounds throughout the city. The

<sup>17</sup> "Lillie L. Vogel, Head of Youth Gardens." *The Washington Post*, June 18, 1976, p. C8; "Luncheon Salutes Children's Project." *The Evening Star*, January 16, 1963, p. C-10; "'Fruitful' Is the Word for Youth Gardens." *The Evening Star*, June 30, 1976, pp. C-3, C-25.



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

youth gardens that took root throughout the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s transformed communities and the individual participants.

The goal of the Youth Gardens was to teach elementary school students in D.C. horticultural skills and life skills such as team building, cooperation, personal responsibility, self-confidence and environmental stewardship. After a successful garden program at the Twin Oaks Playground in 1962, plans were made by the Youth Gardens Council to develop some 200 plots in over 90 playgrounds in addition to developing gardens in other lots, yards, and encouraging small projects such as window boxes and potted plants at the beginning of 1963. While the program began under the direction of recreation department horticulturist Frank L. Ford, horticulturist William C. Hash quickly became the Recreation Department's program director. From the beginning, the Twin Oaks Garden Center served as the training center for volunteers and as a demonstration area for the various types of garden projects. The field house was prepared with office space in 1963 to support the administrative and training needs of the Youth Garden program.<sup>18</sup>



Twin Oaks Youth Gardener, ca. 1970s.

The Twin Oaks garden demonstration program was open to children between the ages of 8 and 16. In 1967, about 75 children participated in the program at Twin Oaks – many of whom had never visited a farm. Some children grew enough produce to take home or sell. By 1968, about 800 to 1,000 Washington children were participating city-wide.

The Washington Youth Garden received positive attention outside of the immediate community as well. Responding to a letter sent by Mrs. Marsh in early 1965, First Lady Lady Bird Johnson responded positively, writing on April 3<sup>rd</sup> that:

<sup>18</sup> "Youth Garden Projects Start," *The Evening Star*, May 10, 1963, p. A-19.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

The program of Washington Youth Gardens is an inspiration to me and I am delighted with your accomplishments in bringing our mutual beautification goals to the neighborhood of Washington. The heart of our eventual success will be here, in the hearts of Washington's young citizens. The Committee for a More Beautiful Washington looks forward to working on a close basis with Washington Youth Gardens and I shall forward your fine letter to Mr. Walter Washington of the Committee so that he may plan undertakings of mutual benefit with you.

The First Lady maintained her interest, and her Committee bestowed their *More Beautiful National Capital Award* to the Twin Oaks Garden Demonstration Center on June 6, 1968, specifically noting that the Twin Oaks program contributed "toward making Washington a more beautiful place for its citizens and the nation."

The Washington Youth Garden Council idea inspired the establishment of similar youth gardens in Bloomington, Indiana, Brooklyn, N.Y., Cleveland, Ohio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Denver, Colorado. In 1969, following a visit to the Twin Oaks Demonstration Center, the General Federation of Women's Clubs selected the Youth Garden concept as a model for consideration as a nationwide program and recommended it as a project for its 15,000 member clubs.<sup>19</sup>

Twin Oaks was not only the headquarters for the Washington Youth Garden program, it had the largest concentration of individual gardens, 100 in all in 1970, all under cultivation. As the demonstration center for the program, it was the logical choice when the program was expanded in 1970 with the first youth garden greenhouse, dedicated on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The dedication ceremony that officially opened the spring gardening season was presided over by Mrs. Clifford M Hardin, wife of the Secretary of Agriculture, and Mrs. Walter Washington, wife of the Mayor. They christened the new greenhouse with tulip petals and enjoyed a program that included youth gardeners dancing dressed in Dutch costumes. Also in 1970, a special Mayor's Award was created for the Harvest Awards Program which singled out the 'Most Enthusiastic Gardener of the Year'. A perpetual plaque was maintained at the Twin Oaks headquarters and an individual award was presented by the Mayor to the recipient.

<sup>19</sup> Durbin, Louise. "Our Youth Garden Project,"



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



—Star Photographer Paul Schmick

Children from the Twin Oaks Youth Garden present Mrs. Clifford Hardin a tomato plant they have grown.  
(Dedication of new greenhouse at Twin Oaks on May 15, 1970)

In 1971, a youth garden was established at the U.S. National Arboretum as a special project. The Arboretum garden was tended by 100 youngsters from four elementary schools: Logan, Peabody, and Nalle in Northeast, and Shadd in Southeast. Access to the Arboretum was provided by buses which ran twice a week.<sup>20</sup>

The Washington Youth Garden program witnessed great expansion in 1974 as three new sites were donated and completely funded. In May the National Capital Parks became an active participant with the dedication and staffing of the Klinge Mansion Garden. In June, the Atlantic Richfield youth Garden was established on D.C. Department of Recreation land on the 4800 block of Deane Avenue, NE, with a grant from the Atlantic Richfield Company of Los Angeles,

<sup>20</sup> "Green, Margaret. "Youth Commended for Gardens," *The Evening Star*, Sept. 8, 1971, p. C-2.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

and later the Behrends Foundation donated an entire garden, at 4200 Benning Road, NE, to the National Capital Parks for youth gardening.

In 1980 the Public Welfare Foundation and the Lucas Spindletop Foundation granted funds to the program which made possible, in 1981, the addition of two employees to assist the permanent director and his assistant in supervision of the youth gardens and their young gardeners during the peak gardening months.

Due to D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation budget cuts in 1995, the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) increased fundraising efforts and "adopted" the Washington Youth Garden (WYG) in 1996. Today, the WYG receives in-kind support from the U.S. National Arboretum including land, soil amendments, office and greenhouse space, equipment use and horticultural expertise.

Following the budget cuts, DPR continued to operate two youth gardens in Washington – the Lederer Garden at 4801 Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue and the Twin Oaks Garden at 14<sup>th</sup> and Taylor. The programs continued to support children ages 9 to 12 with opportunities to plant and maintain a garden and harvest the produce. Support for the program relied on volunteers over the age of 18 who prepared the sites for planting. These two youth gardens continued to operate at least until 2004. By 2006, the Twin Oaks garden's focus changed once again as it became a community garden. Twin Oaks Community Garden remains in operation today as one of 27 community gardens operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation. In 2014, the Twin Oaks Community Garden contained about 45 plots – located on both the north and south parcels – each about 10'x15' and altogether encompasses almost 3/4 of an acre.

### Community Gardening in America<sup>21</sup>

Community gardens have been used in American cities since the 1890s, with the first gardens appearing in Detroit. During the initial phase of community gardening, a variety of groups, including social and educational reformers, along with those involved in the civic beautification movement, were responsible for promoting community gardening. Community gardens began as a way to provide land and technical assistance to unemployed workers in large cities and to teach civics and good work habits to youth.

During World War I, the government promoted community gardens to supplement and expand the domestic food supply. The federal government embarked on an unprecedented effort to incorporate agricultural education and food production into the public school curriculum through a Bureau of Education program called the United States School Garden Army. According to the USSGA, several million children enlisted in the program, 50,000 teachers received curriculum materials and several thousand volunteers helped lead or assist garden projects.

---

<sup>21</sup> The history of community gardening is from: "Community Gardening Toolkit: The history of community gardening," [Web page] University of Missouri Extension, available at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/MP906-4>

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

During the Great Depression, community gardens provided a means for the unemployed to grow their own food. During this time, private, state and local agencies provided individuals with garden plots and employment in cooperative gardening. More than 23 million households, growing produce valued at \$36 million, participated in various garden programs in 1934 alone.

The Victory Garden campaign during World War II encouraged people to grow food for personal consumption, recreation and to improve morale. After the war, only a few gardening programs remained, and it was these remaining programs that gave rise to the rebirth of community gardening in the 1970s.

The rebirth of community gardening in the 1970s was a response to urban abandonment, rising inflation, environmental concerns and a desire to build neighborly connections. Citywide organizations assisted people with acquiring land, constructing gardens and developing educational programming. Local residents, facing a myriad of urban problems, used gardens to rebuild neighborhoods and expand green spaces. Although common themes of food production, income generation, recreation, education and beautification still provided a strong rationale for gardening, a new focus was placed on rebuilding social networks and the infrastructure of blighted urban communities.

In the District of Columbia, youth gardens were established in 1962 and continued to grow and flourish. Originally under the supervision of the D.C. Department of Recreation (DPR), this arrangement ended in 1995 due to a loss of funding resulting in the U.S. National Arboretum taking over the supervisory role of the youth gardens. The youth gardens at DPR sites were disbanded with some converted to community gardens. By 2010, there were 36 known community gardens in the District of Columbia. The number of known gardens increased to 47 by 2014 with additional gardens being planned. Of these, 27 community gardens are currently operating on DPR properties with a least one in each of the eight Wards.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

### Books & Manuscripts

*Annual Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, Year Ended June 30, 1921.*  
*Vol. I: Miscellaneous Reports.* Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1922.

Department of Recreation. *Recreation's Heritage: A Preliminary Historic Resources Inventory.*  
Washington, DC: D.C. Department of Recreation, 1984.

Schwartz, Bonnie Fox. *The Civil Works Administration, 1933-1934.* Princeton, N.J.: Princeton  
University Press, 1984.

### Unpublished Documents

Washington Youth Garden Demonstration Center Records, Letters, and Ephemera.

### Newspaper articles

"8,500 to Go Under Banner of E.W.A. Here Next Week." *The Evening Star*, Mar. 29, 1934. p. B-1.

"Adopt \$455,000 Playground Plan," *The Evening Star*, Aug. 12, 1921. p. 2.

Byrd, Earl. "A Taste to Treasure from the Good Earth: Garden Plots Take Them Back to Basics," *The Evening Star*, July 21, 1977, p. B-1.

"City Youths Learn Secrets of Gardening," *The Washington Post*, July 30, 1968, p. B1.

"D.C. Real Estate Ends Hectic Year," *The Evening Star*, Dec. 30, 1933. p. B-6.

"D.C. Youths' Gardens Bear Plenty of Fruit," *The Evening Star*, September 10, 1970, p. B-4.

Deane, James G. "Collins Resigns as Recreation Board Member," *The Evening Star*, June 10, 1953, p. A-21.

Durbin, Louise. "Our Youth Garden Project," *The Washington Post*, Aug. 17, 1969, p. 136.

"Federal Construction Advanced Much in 1933," *The Evening Star*, Dec. 30, 1933. p. B-1.

Flatley, M.M. "Young Gardners Get Greenhouse," *The Evening Star*, May 16, 1970, p. A-6.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

- “Fruitful’ Is the Word for Youth Gardens,” *The Evening Star*, June 30, 1975, pp. C-3, C-25.
- Green, Margaret. “Youths Commended for Gardens,” *The Evening Star*, Sept. 8, 1971, p. C-2.
- “How Does Your Garden Grow?” *The Washington Post*, June 16, 1963, p. F19.
- “Lifting of Racial Bars at Play Areas Studied,” *The Evening Star*, May 13, 1953, p. A-25.
- “Lillie L. Vogel, Head of Youth Gardens,” *The Washington Post*, June 18, 1976, p. C8.
- “Lillie L. Vogel Is Dead; Led GI Hospitality Effort,” *The Evening Star*, June 19, 1976, p. A-8.
- “Lorton Project to Start Monday,” *The Evening Star*, Dec. 30, 1933. p. A-10.
- “Luncheon Salutes Children’s Project,” *The Evening Star*, January 16, 1963, p. C-10.
- “Mend Children’s Toys,” *The Evening Star*, Dec. 12, 1922, p. 38.
- “New Playgrounds to Open This Week,” *Washington Herald*, Aug. 2, 1920, p. 6.
- “Parental Responsibility in Delinquency Upheld,” *The Evening Star*, May 20, 1953, p. A-12.
- “Playground Near Finish, 30-Year Job,” *The Washington Post*, Dec. 30, 1933. p. 15.
- “Play Sites Dire Need.” *The Washington Post*, July 10, 1921, p. 1.
- “Playground Plans Cover Entire City.” *The Washington Post*, Aug. 14, 1921, p. 2.
- “Prize-Winning Produce,” *The Washington Post*, Aug. 20, 1992, p. T05.
- Robinson, Tracey. “Green Thumbs Abound in an Inner-City Gardening Project,” Aug. 4, 1983, p. B3.
- Rogers, Jeanne. “Recreation Board Head’s Resignation May Accelerate Biracial Program,” *The Washington Post*, June 11, 1953, p. 25.
- Rowe, James L., Jr. “Young Farmers Show Everything Grows in the City,” *The Washington Post*, Aug. 14, 1969, p. B8.
- Secrest, Meryle. “Pick ‘n’ Eat; Double Award in Store,” *The Washington Post*, Apr. 12, 1964, p. F23.
- “Seeds in Fertile Ground [editorial],” *The Evening Star*, September 6, 1974, p. A-8.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State

"Starlight Movies: Playground Film Program for Tonight," *The Evening Star*, June 29, 1954, p.  
B1.

West, Hollie I. "Child Gardeners Sell Wares," *June 20, 1967*, p. B1.

"Youth Garden Projects Start," *The Evening Star*, May 10, 1963, p. A-19.

---

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☒ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.0002066116 acres

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

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

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

Square 2823, Lot 0803 in the District of Columbia

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Original extent of southern playground established in 1920.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kent C. Boese  
organization: Historic Washington Architecture  
street & number: 608 Rock Creek Church Road, NW  
city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20010  
e-mail: kcboese@hotmail.com  
telephone: 202-904-8111  
date: December 24, 2014

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

### Photographs

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

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Twin Oaks Playground, Field House, and Greenhouse

City or Vicinity: Washington

County: N/A

State: DC

Photographer: Kent Boese

Date Photographed: November 28, 2014

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

- 1) General view looking northwest from southeast corner of property  
1 of 13
- 2) General view looking northwest from greenhouse  
2 of 13
- 3) General view looking east-northeast from southwest corner of property at Fourteenth Street  
3 of 13
- 4) General view looking east-southeast from the northwest corner of the property at Fourteenth and Taylor streets  
4 of 13
- 5) 1934 Field House, west elevation  
5 of 13

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

- 6) 1934 Field House, south elevation  
6 of 13
- 7) 1934 Field House, north elevation  
7 of 13
- 8) 1934 Field House, north elevation  
8 of 13
- 9) 1934 Field House, general view from the southeast  
9 of 13
- 10) 1934 Field House, general view of great room from the southeast  
10 of 13
- 11) 1934 Field House, general view of great room from the north  
11 of 13
- 12) 1934 Field House, basement  
12 of 13
- 13) 1934 Field House, plaque on chimney  
13 of 13

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**General view looking northwest from southeast corner of property**

**1/13**

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**  
**Washington, DC**  
**November 28, 2014**  
**Kent Boese**  
**Historic Washington Architecture**  
**General view looking northwest from greenhouse**  
**2/13**



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**General view looking east-northeast from southwest corner of property at Fourteenth Street**

**3/13**

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**General view looking east-southeast from the northwest corner of the property at  
Fourteenth and Taylor streets**

**4/13**



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**1934 Field House, west elevation**

**5/13**

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**1934 Field House, south elevation**

**6/13**



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**1934 Field House, north elevation**

**7/13**

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**1934 Field House, east elevation**

**8/13**



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**1934 Field House, general view from the southeast**

**9/13**

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**  
**Washington, DC**  
**November 28, 2014**  
**Kent Boese**  
**Historic Washington Architecture**  
**1934 Field House, general view of great room from the southeast**  
**10/13**

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Name of Property

**Twin**

Washington, D.C.

County and State



Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house

Washington, DC

November 28, 2014

Kent Boese

Historic Washington Architecture

1934 Field House, general view of great room from the north

11/13



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**1934 Field House, basement**

**12/13**

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



**Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and Field house**

**Washington, DC**

**November 28, 2014**

**Kent Boese**

**Historic Washington Architecture**

**1934 Field House, plaque on chimney**

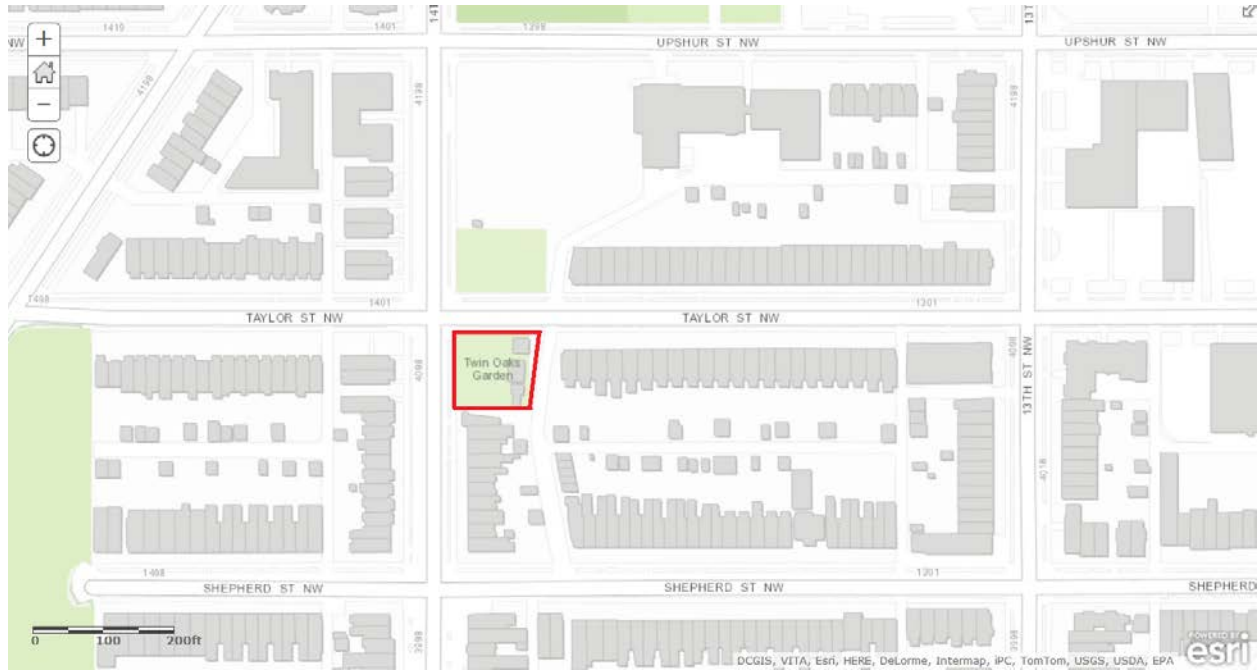
**13/13**

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

**Site Plan:**



**Site Plan from ArcGIS (viewed November 28, 2014)**

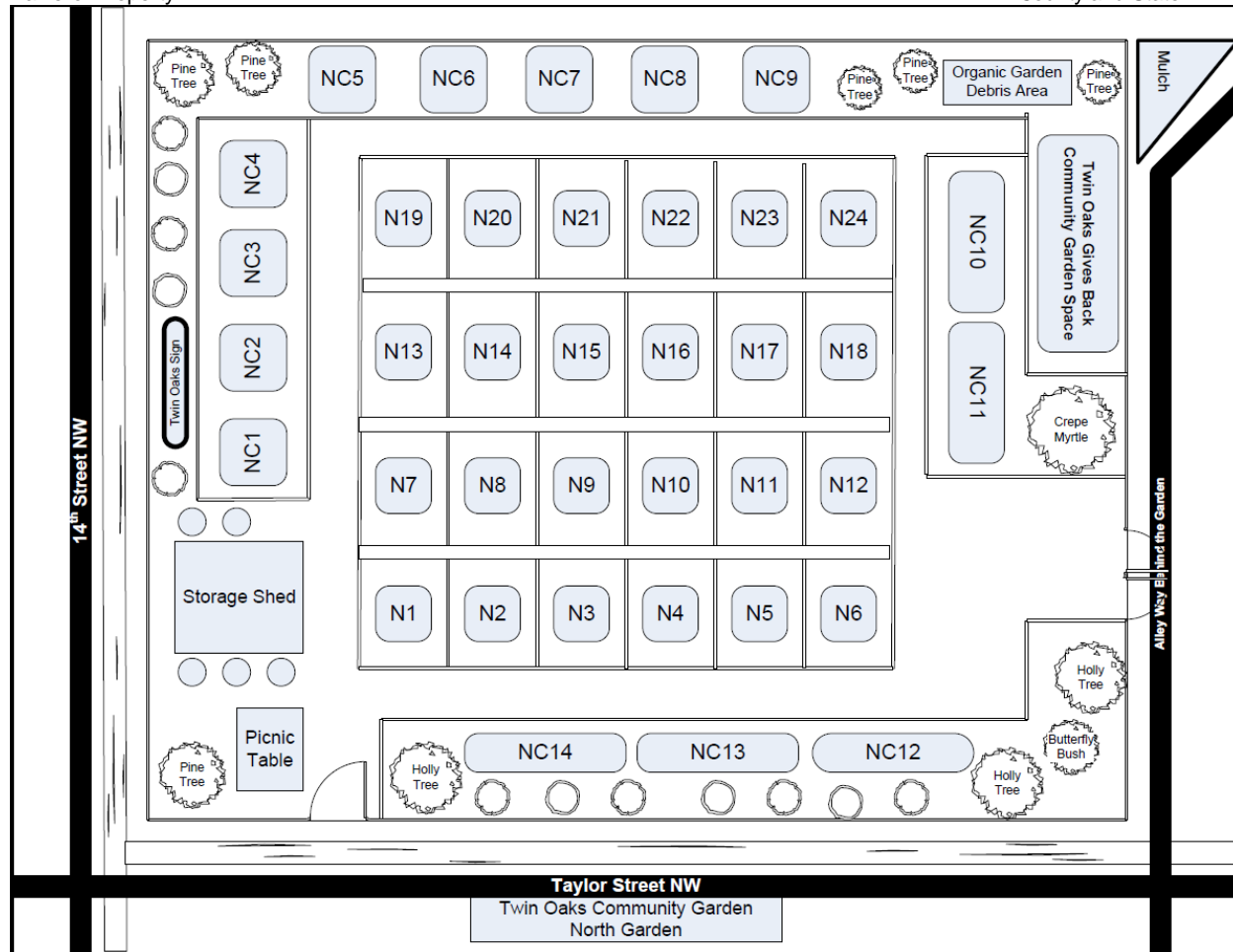


Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State



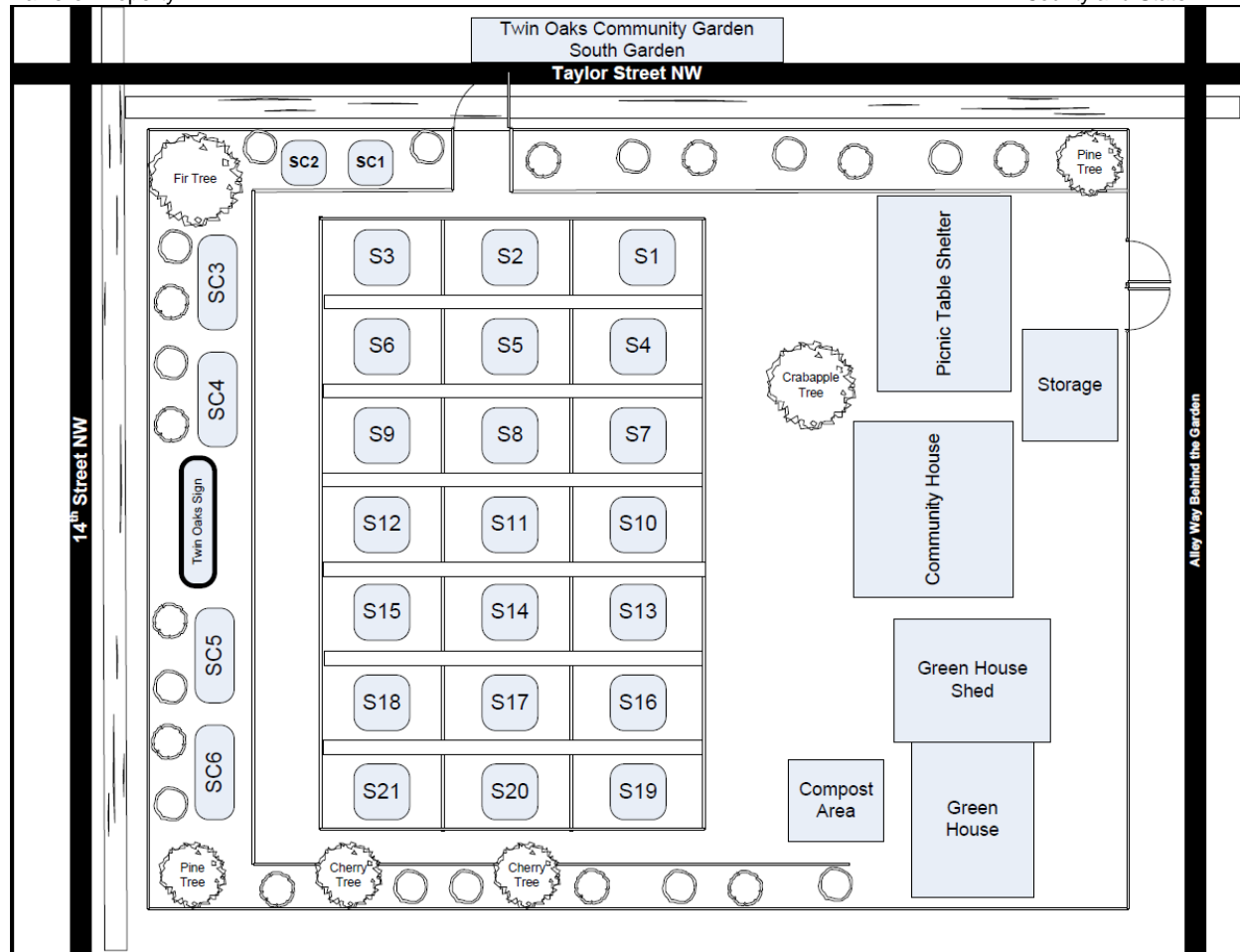
Site Plan of North Garden from Twin Oaks Community Garden Google Site (viewed December 9, 2014)

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house

Washington, D.C.

Name of Property

County and State



Site Plan of South Garden from Twin Oaks Community Garden Google Site (viewed December 9, 2014)

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State

### **Historic Photographs**



Children playing volleyball at the Twin Oaks Playground in the 1940s. (Photograph from the Star Collection, Washingtoniana Room, Martin Luther King Jr. Library).



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



Twin Oaks Demonstration Center, Spring Meeting and greenhouse dedication, May 15, 1970: (l. to r.) Junior leader Roger Walker, Mrs. Washington (Mayor's wife), Youth gardener Kenneth Flemming, Bill Hash (DPR Youth Gardens horticulturalist), Renard Huckaby and Mrs. Hardin (wife of Secretary of Agriculture).

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



Twin Oaks Demonstration Center, Spring Meeting and greenhouse dedication, May 15, 1970: (l. to r.) In the greenhouse, Mrs. Hardin, Mrs. Washington, Maurice Gray, Youth Garden member and summer employee at Twin Oaks.



Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



Twin Oaks Demonstration Center, Spring Meeting and greenhouse dedication, May 15, 1970:  
Youth gardeners performing Dutch dances.

Twin Oaks Playground, Community Garden, and  
field house  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.

County and State



Undated photo of youth gardeners with model of Twin Oaks Youth Garden Center.

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.