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OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

Historic name: MARLAND HEIGHTS PARK &  
MARGARET MANSON WEIR MEMORIAL POOL

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

street & number: Williams Drive and Riverview Drive

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Weirton

vicinity: N/A

state: WV county: Hancock code: 029 zip code: 26062

=====

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public - Local

Category of Property: Structures/Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

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

Name of related property listing: N/A

=====  
4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.  See continuation sheet.

*William E. Lancy*

*10/5/93*

-----  
Signature of Certifying Official

-----  
Date

-----  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property

meets

does not meet

the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

-----  
Signature of commenting or other official

-----  
Date

-----  
State or Federal agency and bureau

-----  
Date

=====  
5. National Park Service Certification  
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Signature of Keeper

-----  
Date of Action

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic: Recreation & Culture

Sub: Sports Facility

Swimming Pool

Picnic Shelter

Current : Recreation & Culture

Sub: Sports Facility

Swimming Pool

Picnic Shelter

=====  
7. Description  
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Architectural Classification:

MODERN MOVEMENT - Art Deco

Other Description: Shelter - No style

Materials: foundation Concrete

roof Concrete

walls Brick

other Wood/Timbers

Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local/State

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Recreation

Architecture/Engineering

Period(s) of Significance: 1934 - 1938

Significant Dates: 1934 1938

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Bintz, Weslev, Civil Engineer

State significance of property, and justify criteria, considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.  X

Previous documentation on file (NPS):  N/A

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 -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property:  4.34 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

17 533960 4472455

Verbal Boundary Description:  X  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  X  See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title:  Katherine M. Jourdan, Director, Northern Region WV SHPO   
 With Marland Heights Civic Association, ATTN: Jo Ann Grace

Date:  14 July 1993

Street & Number:  1300 Euclid Avenue  Telephone:  (304) 797-1148

City or Town:  Weirton  State:  WV  Zip:  26062

=====

Property Owner

=====

Name:  Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Street & Number:  Millsoo Community Center  Telephone:  (304) 797-8520   
 3420 Main Street

City or Town:  Weirton  State:  WV  Zip:  26062

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National Park Service

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MARLAND HEIGHTS PARK AND MARGARET MANSON WEIR MEMORIAL POOL,  
WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA, HANCOCK COUNTY

The Marland Heights Park was dedicated in July 1934, and was the center of Weirton's recreational activities for decades. The contributing site of the park, also has two contributing structures and one building. The main facility is the Margaret Manson Weir Memorial Pool, which is an ovoid design, with the pool area being elevated above the first floor dressing rooms and filtration room. Built in 1934, with funds from the David Weir Estate and maintenance support from the Weirton Steel Corporation, the swimming pool has provided Weirton residents with summer recreation facilities for almost 60 years. Also in the park is a large wood timber and stone picnic shelter built by Weirton steel employees during the depression years, as well as a garage for a tool shed. There are two small noncontributing picnic shelters that were constructed in 1989 and 1991, a small concession stand and the play ground equipment.

The Marland Heights Park is located on the northeast corner of Williams Drive and Riverview Drive. The Marland Heights neighborhood is sited on a bluff between the central business district of Weirton and the Ohio River. The park borders a residential area of homes built from c. 1920 to the 1950s on one side, and the Williams Country Club, and a natural ravine on the other sides. The Marland Heights Park is basically rectangular in shape with an arm to the south along Buchanan Street. Sycamore trees line the walk to the pool, where gardens and grassy areas were once lined with low hedges along the sidewalks. The hedges died out in the late 1970s and were not replaced although some of the small garden plots near the pool have been reestablished. On the west side of Williams Drive there was a putting course until the mid-1940s when the hillside became a picnic area. This was maintained until the 1970s but was not part of the land transfer for the park in 1984. A small miniature golf course has been placed under the Sycamore trees. The structures, buildings and play equipment are scattered through the park (See site plan) with the park grounds having a mixture of grass and pea gravel, and hard surfaces for basketball and tennis courts.

The swimming pool is well documented with blueprints from the Bintz Swimming Pool Company, which were designed by civil engineer Wesley Bintz of Lansing, Michigan. The pool designs were patented on February 9, 1926, Number 1,572,463. The blueprints not only include the pool and dressing rooms, but most of the standard equipment used at the pool, such as benches, ladders, diving boards, floodlights, floor drains, counters and shelves, and a plaque for the building.

From the ground the pool appears as a circular red brick wall approximately 12 feet in height with concrete details that are painted white. The wall surface is divided into multiple bays that are divided by concrete posts. A belt or stringcourse encircles the pool about 30 inches from the top of the wall. The brick wall and concrete coping above the beltcourse is actually free standing and is not attached at the sides to the concrete post that divides each bay. Below the beltcourse, in each

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bay surrounding the pool is a opening of one six-light awning style window. These window bays are covered during the winter season with wooden shutters or wood for security, and against vandalism. The window sill is concrete, and below each sill is a rectangular design in the brickwork with concrete square blocks at each corner. At every three bays the dividing post is extended and tapers upwards for approximately four more feet with chamfer edges. At the top of each post is a globe lighting fixture.

The main entrance to the pool faces southwest and has double doors with side lights. The facade has an Art Deco style with pilasters that step out to each side at three heights with a wall area above the door having the name of the pool on a wooden sign. On the east side is a freestanding red wire brick staircase with a walkway connecting to the pool level. This stairway was added when the spectator area was changed between 1965 and 1970 so the pool level could be accessed without going inside the structure. On the northeast and north sides of the pool are outside doors that connect to a restroom area accessible only from outside the pool for park patrons. These wooden five panel doors access both the men and women's restroom located next to the respective dressing room areas. There is another door which enters the filtration room located between the men and women's dressing rooms.

While usually referred to as oval, the pool structure is actually egg-shaped or ovoid with the dimensions being 113 feet x 163 feet. The main entrance opens into the check-in area at the narrow end of the pool. (See plan for lower level) The lobby is cordoned off by a wire fence between the entrance and the counter. The wooden check-in counter is an original feature. Behind the counter are wooden plank shelves with original wire baskets for bathers to use. On the left side of the lobby is a stairway which led to the spectator area. This has been blocked off in favor of the outside stairs. To the right is the concession stand which was temporarily moved out to a separate building but now is again inside the pool. The dressing rooms extend around the perimeter of the pool, with the women's to the left and the men's to the right.

The men's dressing room is divided into seven small changing rooms with furniture consisting of original double wooden benches with a center rack for hanging clothes. Towards the opposite end of the dressing room are showers and restroom facilities. Stairs lead to the upper deck and pool area. The women's dressing room has individual curtained changing rooms along the interior walls with an aisle along the outside wall. A original wringer is near the front exit to remove water from suits and towels. The showers and restroom facilities are near the stairway leading to the upper level for the pool. Located at the wide end of the pool is the filtration room which can be accessed from the men or women's dressing rooms or from the outside door.

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The upper level of the pool has a concrete deck with a perimeter walkway over the lower level dressing rooms and filtration room. The center pool slopes from a depth of 3 feet at the wide end of the pool to 9 feet at the diving area. The diving boards are located above the check-in lobby at the narrow end of the pool. The original diving boards were not set up according to the blueprint design (See plan for upper level) which had the high board offset to the side. Instead the high dive was in the center flanked by lower springboards. The high diving board was removed in 1990, to avoid any liability. The ladders and the concrete depth markers at the edge of the pool are original. The Children's Wading Pool is fenced off from the large pool at the north or wide end of the oval between the stairs to the dressing rooms. The section of rail for the children's pool is the original style of fence used in the park. Changes over the years have included moving the spectator area from the west side of the pool to the east side with the outside stairway for access, and to change the fencing when needed.

The large rustic picnic shelter in the northeast corner of the park was built about 1938, by workers from Weirton Steel Mill. The frame and beams are hewn timbers with visible adz marks, and the gable roof has asphalt shingles with wood shingles in the south gable end. The structure is open on three sides with a low wall fieldstone on the east side. The north wall has a massive fieldstone fireplace. The shelter is sited above a hillside and the low fieldstone wall runs south from the southeast corner of the shelter in a curve. This style of rustic architecture was popular during the depression years and is similar to many such structures found in national and state parks. The deep brown colors, rugged appearance, and horizontal setting made it blend into the landscape. At the south end of the park on a narrow strip of land is a contributing

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WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA, HANCOCK COUNTY

The Marland Heights Park and Margaret Manson Weir Memorial Pool are significant under Criterion A for their association with Recreation; and Criterion C for the architecture and engineering construction of the elevated pool. The Period of Significance is 1934 to 1938, which is when the park was developed and the swimming pool and large outdoor shelter were built.

The Marland Heights Park was developed with the use of a fund left by David Manson Weir who passed away January 6, 1929. The park was constructed in 1934 by Weirton Steel employees and included the memorial pool, band stand, shuffleboard courts, and in 1938 a large rustic shelter. Part of the work was done by local steel workers who had been laid off during the depression. The park was a gathering place for the town's annual Fourth of July Celebration, as well as the site for competitive races and swimming competitions, picnics, and band concerts.

David Weir had joined his brother, Ernest T. Weir, as one of the organizers in 1905, of the Phillips Sheet & Tin Plate Co. in Clarksburg, West Virginia. The senior partner, James R. Phillips, died unexpectedly two months later while returning from a business trip. This left the group to continue moving ahead with Ernest Weir in charge of sales, John C. Williams handling daily operations and David Weir lending his organizational talents, becoming Vice-President in 1908.

The Clarksburg Mill suffered from a lack of water and its geographical location was isolated from any principal markets. The decision was made to move to a site near Hollidays Cove which is now part of Weirton. The new site took advantage of the water supply from the Ohio River. Before the end of 1909, the first ten mills of the Phillips Sheet & Tin Plate Company were operating. In less than a year, ten more were at work. In 1913, a cold-rolled strip plant was added and more hot mills were built in 1914 and 1915. The company took a bold step in 1925 to borrow \$7 million to build the world's first continuous four-high hot strip mill. The presence of the steel mill increased from 200 employees in 1910, to 10,000 by 1930, with a population of Hollidays Cove and Weirton at 20,000.

By the time of his death in 1929 of pneumonia, David Weir was the Vice-President of the renamed Weirton Steel Company; President of the Peoples Bank of Hollidays Cove; Director of the Bank of Weirton and The National Exchange Bank of Steubenville (Ohio); as well as the Vice - President of the Redstone Coal & Coke Company. In his will Weir stipulated that \$25,000 be used "after conferring with the officials of the Weirton Steel Company for a Margaret M. Weir Memorial", in honor of his mother, either in the form of a hospital, park, playground, library or other property for the use of the public. At the dedication of the pool Ernest Weir said his brother had outlined before his death, nine principal



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improvements for the community, the seventh to be completed included the pool. The July 4th dedication in 1934, started the tradition of gathering in the park for a city wide celebration.

The architectural plans for the pool were designed by Wesley Bintz, of Lansing, Michigan. Bintz was a civil engineer who had specialized in swimming pools since 1923, designing over 135 pools during his career. His first two below grade pools were built in Flint, Michigan, in the 1918-20 period, while Bintz served in the city engineer's office. The first of the ovoid, above-ground type pools is the 1922 J.H. Moores Memorial Natatorium in Lansing, which was refurbished in 1980. Others that have been identified are in Mt. Pleasant, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, Rutland, Vermont, and Johnson City, New York (both razed) and Montevideo, Minnesota. In West Virginia another pool by Bintz was identified in New Martinsville. That pool has a curved Art Deco entrance from 1941, and was built with help from the Works Progress Administration.

The particular design used in Weirton had been patented on February 9, 1926, patent number 1,572,463. Wesley Bintz's plans called for a check-in lobby, dressing rooms and filtration room on the outside circle of the first level. Stairs led up to a second level pool nestled in the center of the structure. The architectural plans included designs for the ladders, diving boards, depth markers, and benches. All of which survive except for the high dive which was removed about 1990 for liability reasons. The Weir Memorial Pool also has the original wire baskets for valuables, wooden dressing benches, and wooden check-in counter.

The Marland Heights Park is sited on the bluff which overlooks downtown Weirton, next to the Williams Country Club which was developed about the same time. The park has Sycamore trees bordering the walks with the pool and large shelter being the focal points. The rustic stone and log shelter was also built by local steel workers who were laid off during the depression. The bandstand has since been razed, but the shuffleboard courts still stand as does a small clapboard garage to hold grounds equipment. The park now includes two new picnic shelters as well as a small concession stand, recreation courts for basketball and tennis, and playground equipment.

The park has been a reflection of Weirton's financial health. The 1930s to 1950s were boom years for the Weirton Steel Company when it had money to lavish on the city. However, during the 1970s and 1980s the steel industry was floundering, and National Steel Corporation, Weirton's parent company, began to pull out of civic involvement and concentrate on business survival. Eventually National Steel divested itself of Weirton Steel Division, and handed over ownership to the employee formed ESOP for the Employee Stock Ownership Plan.

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Since the Marland Heights Park had been maintained by the Weirton Steel Company, ownership was transferred in 1984 to the Board of Parks and Recreational Commissioners of the City of Weirton. The Marland Heights Civic Association was formed out of a core group which helped raise funds to meet the operating budget so the pool could be opened for the 1986 season. This group has continued to raise funds, and provides volunteer labor for maintenance.

The Marland Heights Park and Margaret Manson Weir Memorial Pool are focal points in the community, providing recreational facilities for Weirton. The Art Deco styled pool and rustic shelter reflect the styles of architecture popular in the Depression years of the 1930s when many community oriented projects were undertaken. Conservation of the pool and park seem of vital interest to the city, members of the civic association, and local citizens.

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MARLAND HEIGHTS PARK AND MARGARET MANSON WEIR MEMORIAL POOL,  
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History Notebook prepared by the Marland Heights Civic Association, March 1988.

Numerous issues of the Weirton Steel Employees Bulletin, June 1, 1934 Vol. 1 to December 4, 1936, Vol. 3. (Bimonthly company newsletter)

Copies of Blueprints of Bintz Swimming Pool, Patented February 9, 1926. Designed by Wesley Bintz, Civil Engineer, Lansing, Michigan.

Interview by Katherine Jourdan with Karen Gould and Jo Ann Grace, Marland Heights Civic Association, March 31, 1993.

Will of David M. Weir, Jefferson County Courthouse, Probate Office, Steubenville, Ohio.

"Weir Memorial Pool Dedication Witnessed by 10,000", THE HERALD-STAR, Steubenville, Ohio, Thursday July 5, 1934, p. 4.

"Community Welfare Among Achievements of Representatives, Instrumental In Obtaining Pool, Park and Stadium" WEIRTON STEEL EMPLOYEES BULLETIN, Vol III, December 4, 1936, p. 8.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that certain tract of land situate in the City of Weirton, District of Butler, County of Hancock and State of West Virginia being part of Lots 570, 571, 572, 573, 584, 595, all lots 585 and 586, parts of streets and part of an alley on the plan of lots entitled "Marland Heights Allotment No. 4", which plan is recorded in Plat Book #2, Page 23; also a piece of land on the North side of said "Marland Heights Allotment No. 4", and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin in the North line of Riverview Avenue on the extension of the East line of Williams Drive; thence S 67° 00' 00" E along the North line of Riverview Avenue 15 feet to the true place of beginning of the property here to be conveyed; thence through lots 570, 571, 572 and 573 N 23° 00' 00" E 584.91 feet to a point; thence S 68° 49' 00" E 19.59 feet to an iron pin; thence S 81° 33' 40" E 255 feet to a point; thence S 16° 27' 20" W 534.50 feet to the N.E. corner of lot 595; thence with the property line of the Women's Club 15.6 acre tract and the East line of lot 595 S 8° 12' 30" W 122.69 feet to a point; thence through lot 595 and along the North line of Riverview Avenue N 67° 00' 00" W 358.63 feet to the place of beginning, containing 4.34 acres more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The property described is historically associated with the Marland Heights Park, and includes the location of the Margaret Manson Weir Memorial Pool.

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PHOTO INFORMATION

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MARLAND HEIGHTS PARK AND MARGARET MANSON WEIR MEMORIAL POOL,  
WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA, HANCOCK COUNTY

Marland Heights Park & Margaret Manson Weir Memorial Pool

ADDRESS: Riverview and Williams Drive  
Weirton, Hancock County, West Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHER: Katherine M. Jourdan

DATE OF PHOTOS: 11 March 1993; 9 July 1993

NEGATIVE: Northern Regional Office, WV SHPO, Wheeling, WV

PHOTO 1 OF 11: View of Front Entrance of Pool  
Camera looking Northeast

PHOTO 2 OF 11: View of Check-In Counter  
Camera looking Northeast

PHOTO 3 OF 11: View of Men's Dressing Area  
Camera looking East

PHOTO 4 OF 11: View of Men's Restrooms and Steps to Pool  
Camera looking North

PHOTO 5 OF 11: View of Pool with Depth Marker and Ladder  
Camera looking Southwest

PHOTO 6 OF 11: View of Children's Pool  
Camera looking Northeast

PHOTO 7 OF 11: View of Large Shelter  
Camera looking Northeast

PHOTO 8 OF 11: View of New Shelter (1989) over Shuffleboard Courts  
Camera looking East

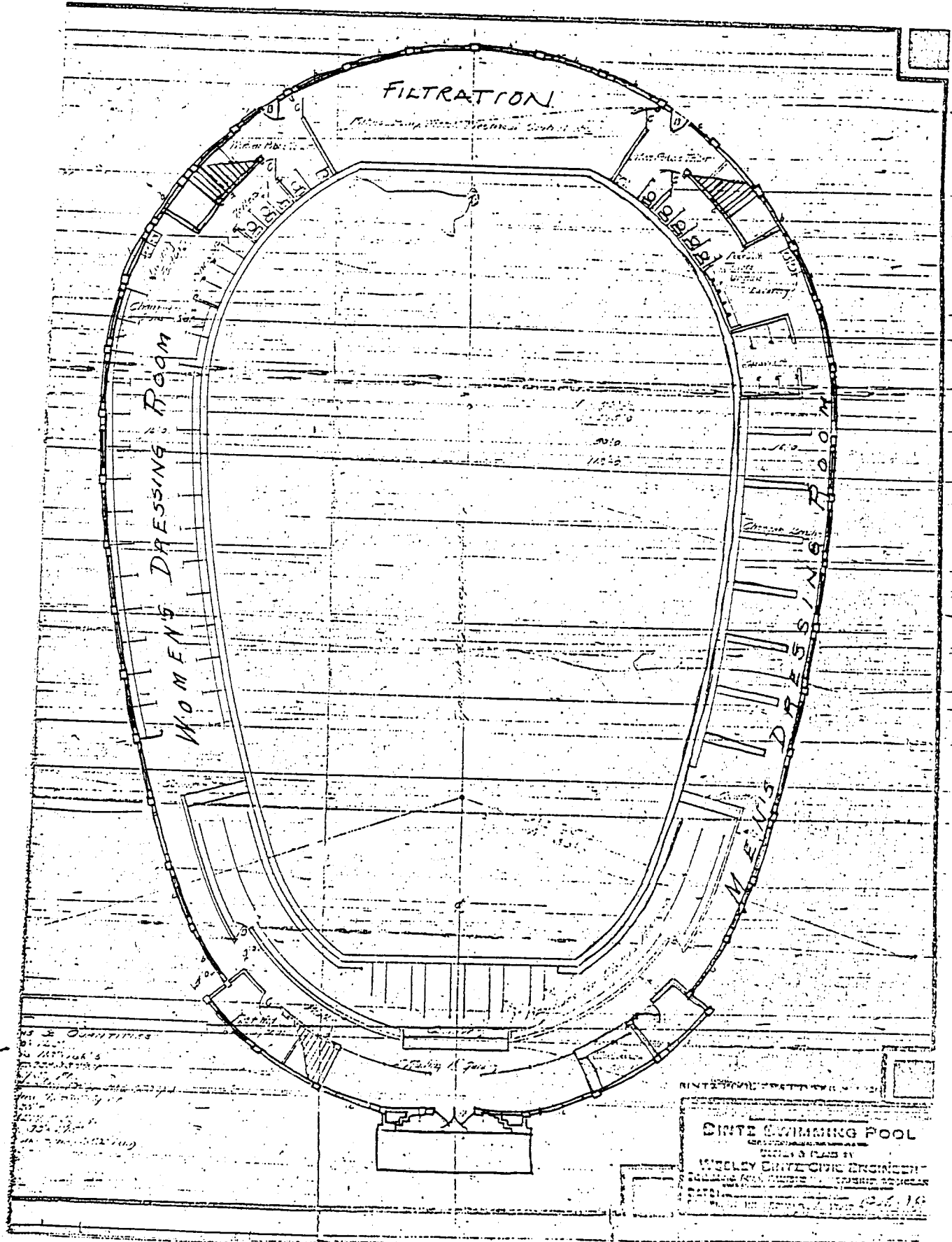
PHOTO 9 OF 11: View of Concession Stand and Shelter/Shuffleboard Courts  
Camera looking Southeast

PHOTO 10 OF 11: View of New Shelter (1991)  
Camera looking Northwest

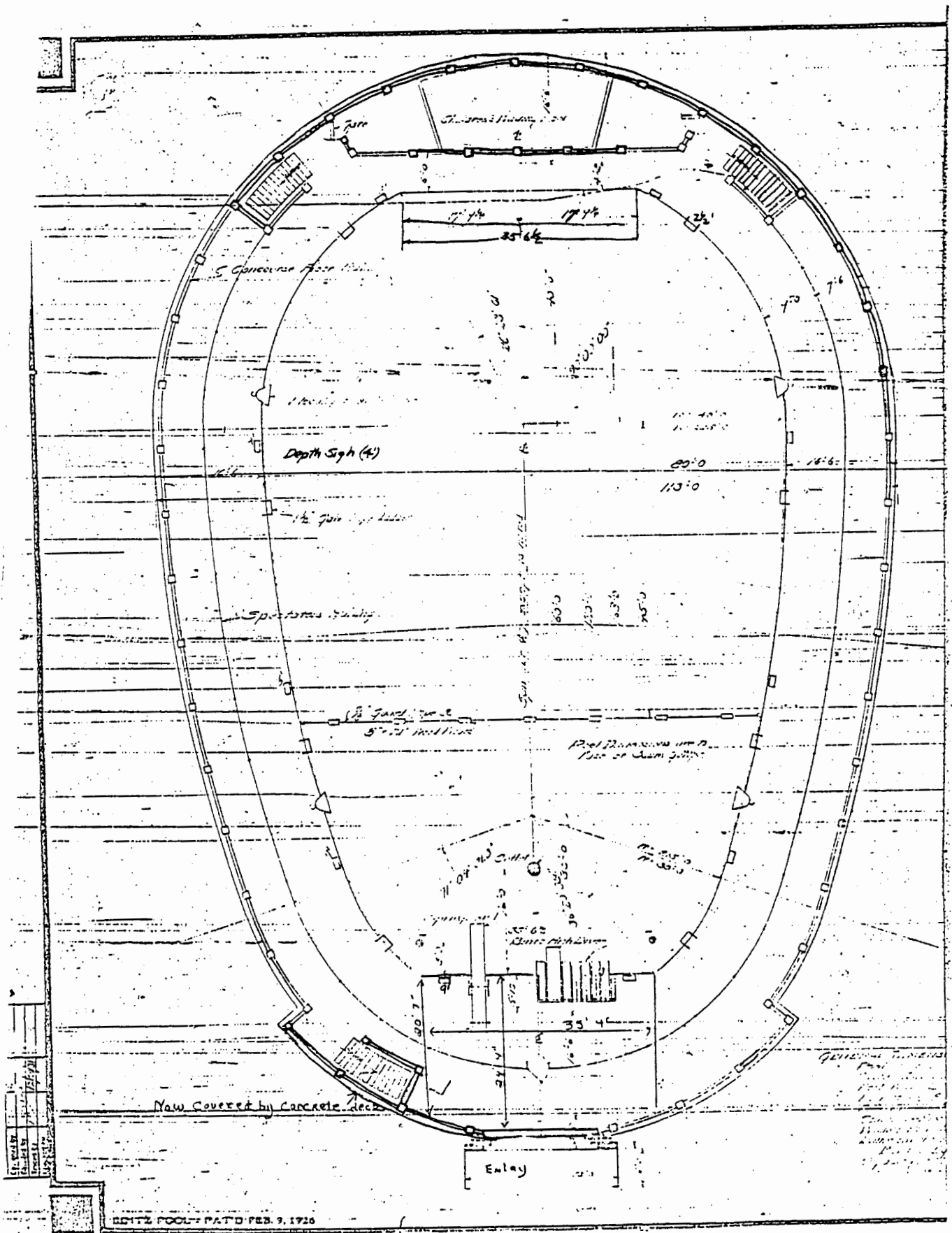
~~PHOTO 11 OF 11: View of Garage/Tool Shed  
Camera looking East~~

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MARGARET MANSON WEIR MEMORIAL POOL  
Weirton, West Virginia, Hancock County  
PLANS FOR LOWER LEVEL



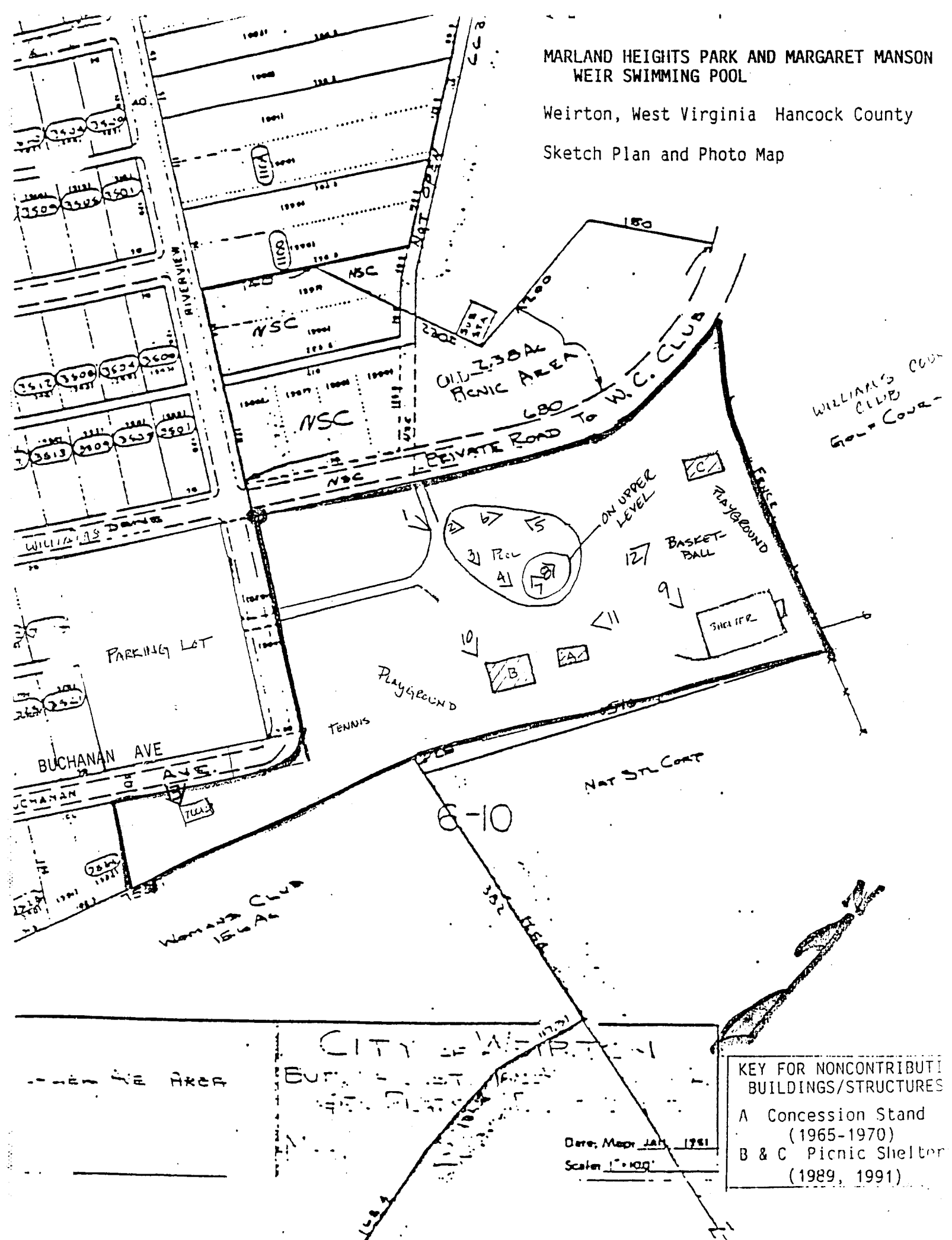
MARGARET MANSON WEIR MEMORIAL POOL  
 Weirton, West Virginia, Hancock County  
 PLANS FOR UPPER LEVEL



MARLAND HEIGHTS PARK AND MARGARET MANSON WEIR SWIMMING POOL

Weirton, West Virginia Hancock County

Sketch Plan and Photo Map



KEY FOR NONCONTRIBUTIVE BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES  
A Concession Stand (1965-1970)  
B & C Picnic Shelter (1989, 1991)

Date: March 1981  
Scale: 1" = 100'





