

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: Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Other names/site number: Crispin Center, Pine Room, Crispin Center Golf Center

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 1637 Waddington Drive

City or town: Wheeling State: West Virginia County: Ohio

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Title :</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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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

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Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

SOCIAL/clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

Current Functions

SOCIAL/clubhouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Poured Concrete, Walls: Limestone, Roof: Slate

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Crispin Center is located at 1637 Waddington Drive, within Oglebay Park Resort, a municipal park in the City of Wheeling (Figure A). Oglebay Park Resort is located three-and-one-half miles northeast of Wheeling, encompassing at least 1,650 acres. It is set in a natural, hilly landscape. In addition to the Crispin Center, the park includes numerous buildings and recreation amenities including: the Oglebay Mansion, glass museum, four golf courses, tennis courts, walking paths, gardens, the Wilson Lodge, the Good Zoo including planetarium, 54 cottages, and the Schrader Center.

Waddington Drive runs north and to the east of the Crispin Center, and a tiered parking lot is located to the north and to the east. The Crispin Center is centrally located within the park, just south of Oglebay Drive, which is the main road through the park. It is surrounded by a tennis pavilion shelter and tennis courts to the east, a golf course to the west, and a park shelter to the south. The resource is located on an approximately 2.0-acre tract of land. It is surrounded by

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other mid-twentieth century park amenities and buildings but dominates its immediate landscape. It was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA), government sponsored work relief programs that were part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal reforms. CCC Camp SP-8, known as "Camp Waddington" took up residence in Oglebay Park, and the Crispin Center was constructed by the camp's workers and WPA workmen.

The one-story Crispin Center at Oglebay Park is a limestone building comprised of three different sections, all constructed in 1937 in Colonial Revival style architecture. The first, the Pine Room, contains a ballroom, swimming pool locker room, and restrooms. The second section, the hyphen, connects the Pine Room and Golf Clubhouse and contains a snack bar and storage. The third section, the Golf Clubhouse, contains the golf snack bar, locker room, and clubhouse. The complex also includes a swimming pool and splash pad (Figures B, C and D).

Narrative Description

The one-story Crispin Center at Oglebay Park is a Colonial Revival-style building which, in total, is 19 bays wide and two bays deep. It has an irregular floorplan, was constructed with a brick masonry structural system, and has an exposed ground level on portions of the north (front) façade and south (rear) elevation. All three sections have a poured concrete foundation, limestone clad walls, and slate cross gable roofs. The Crispin Center also has an exterior swimming pool and splash pad on the grounds south of the building. North of the building is a landscaped stone plaza, a grassy area where outdoor events are held, and a paved cul-de-sac. Beyond the Crispin Center are tiered parking lots and athletic fields to the north, tennis and racquetball courts to the east and a golf course to the west.

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The Pine Room, (ca. 1937)

The one-story, ten-bay long, two-bay deep, Colonial-Revival-style building rests on a poured concrete foundation, is clad in limestone, and has a side gable roof (Photograph 1). The building is composed of a rectangular block and has two projecting wings with intersecting, front gable roofs on the north (front) façade and two projecting wings with intersecting front gable roofs on the south elevation. A shed roof dormer projects from the south plane of the roof between the two wings.

The main façade of the Pine Room is ten bays long and faces north (Photograph 2 and 3). As is found in Colonial Revival-style architecture, the façade is symmetrical and has two projecting wings with intersecting, front gable roofs at each end that contain entrance vestibules. Each wing contains a double leaf entrance within a stone arch opening that has been retrofitted with nine-light double doors and fourteen-light transoms. Both entrances open to a stone patio and are sheltered by fabric dome awnings above each door. There are two types of windows on the first story of the façade. Two six-over-six vinyl sash windows flank each entrance. Four 48-light picture windows are located between the wings. Above all of the windows are stone voussoir, reflecting the stone arches surrounding the entrances and lintels around doors. A poured concrete staircase located next to the building leads to two ground-level entrances. Both entrances have six-light double-leaf wood doors with decorative wood fanlights located above them (Photograph 4). Windows on the ground level are one-over-one with vinyl sash.

The east elevation features the side of the projecting wing with the intersecting roof and the main block. On the east elevation of the wing is an additional entrance with two nine-light, paneled double-leaf doors. It is flanked by nine-light sidelights, the lower portion of which is paneled. A transom, broken into segments of four, sixteen, and four lights is located above the doors. Four six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows with projecting stone sills are located in the main block. Colonial-Revival elements seen on this elevation are the limestone voussoir above the entrance and windows, as well as the entrance door, cornice, and cornice returns on the gable

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(Photograph 5). A paved stone patio leads to the entrance, and a wood balustrade extends from this elevation eastward, along the embankment separating the Crispin Center lawn and the splash pad below.

The south elevation has an exposed ground level which faces the pool deck. The elevation features the two front gable wings at each end, both of which have a split pediment and stone pilasters at their corners. Between the wings is a flat plane with doors on the first story, picture windows on the second story, and a row of ventilation slats for the HVAC system within the dormer on the third story. There are nine entrances on the ground level. Three nine-light single-leaf doors are located on the easternmost wing, one of which has painted lights. Four entrances are located in the central part of the building (Photographs 6 and 7). Two of them are six-light double-leaf doors, and the remaining two are six-light single-leaf doors flanked by six-light sidelights. The remaining two entrances are located on the westernmost wing. They have single-leaf, nine-light doors, one of them with painted lights. A third door opening has been infilled with stone and contains only a fanlight window. All entrances are sheltered by shed awnings. There are two small, six-light wood sash windows on this elevation as well. On the wings of the first story are large Palladian-style, tripartite windows, with three lights in the central window and two lights in the side windows. The central arch over the window is filled in with paneling. Four arched picture windows are located between the wings. Each window features an arched lintel with limestone voussoirs and a projecting stone sill. Each window has four-lights with a 16-light transom immediately above it. The Colonial Revival style ornamentation most noticeable on this elevation of the Pine Room are its symmetrical design, the limestone arched lintels above the windows, cornice, cornice returns, pilasters, and the Palladian-style windows.

The west elevation is mostly obscured by the hyphen section of the building. However, a large interior stone fireplace is located on this elevation (see Photographs 2 and 9).

The interior of the Pine Room section contains the Pine Room ballroom, storage, locker rooms, ticketing, restrooms, and foyers. The two main entrances on the north elevation lead into the Pine

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Room, a ballroom, and event space on the first floor. The room has hardwood floors and pine paneling covering the walls and ceiling. The ceiling's structural system is composed of exposed original wood trusses. Modern pendant lighting extends from the ceiling (Photograph 8). At the far western end of the room is a stage that takes up nearly all of the west elevation wall. At the east elevation is a large stone chimney and a section of the room that has been enclosed to house a bar (Photograph 9). The north portion of the room serves as a breezeway and is divided by a wall with six openings. Rolling doors in the wall can be closed to separate the space from the main ballroom (Photograph 10).

Below the Pine Room, accessed via two exterior staircases, are the pool facilities that include the changing rooms and restrooms. The lobby of the pool facility has a ticket counter and turnstiles that are original to the building (Photograph 11). The highly ornamental wood, bronze and glass ticket booth sits atop a tile and stone counter. Above the attendant window, the word "Cashier" is embossed. On the east side of the building are the men's changing room and restroom, and on the west side of the building are the women's facilities (Photographs 12 and 13). The area is used as storage during the off season. The restrooms and changing rooms have poured concrete floors and glazed porcelain tile on the walls. Once visitors access the changing area they are filtered into a main "check room" before exiting to the pool deck (Photograph 14).

Hyphen (1937)

The one-story, four-bay long, two-bay deep hyphen is located to the west of the Pine Room, connecting it to the Golf Clubhouse. It has a poured concrete foundation, limestone veneer, and it is capped with a hipped roof with slate shingles (Photograph 15). On the north façade is a nine-light double-leaf entrance door to the east followed by three sets of paired nine-light windows with wood panels on the bottom. This section of the building has been altered slightly, as the windows historically were all double-leaf door entrances. The door and windows are set within decorative wood paneling. Doric style pilasters separate each opening, and each opening is topped with a large decorative fanlight. The entrance door is accessed via a shallow poured

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concrete ramp. The Colonial Revival style architecture can be seen in the paneling, symmetry, and fanlights on this section of the building.

On the ground level of the south (rear) elevation of the hyphen are two window openings that serve as a walkup refreshment stand. They are composed of two 16-light windows that have limestone sills and voussoirs and that are sheltered by a shed awning (see Photograph 6). On the first story are two 30-light double hung wood windows, ornamented by voussoirs. The windows open to an enclosed terrace that is a part of the Golf Clubhouse section of the building.

The interior first floor of the hyphen has an enclosed hallway that connects the Pine Room and Golf Clubhouse (Photograph 16). On the ground floor is the interior of the refreshment stand and the boiler room (Photograph 17 and 18).

Golf Clubhouse (1937)

The third and final section of the building is one story with a ground-level arcade on its façade. It is five bays long and two bays deep (Photograph 19). It has a poured concrete foundation, limestone veneer, and is capped by a slate side gable roof. A large stone-end chimney projects from the west end of the roof. This section of the building houses the golf clubhouse snack bar, pro shop, and locker room. Like the rest of the building, the front façade of the section faces north, and it connects to the west elevation of the hyphen. The ground-level arcade has a series of five arched openings that form a covered walkway beneath the first-story porch (Photograph 20). The arcade walls and arches are constructed of limestone masonry, and the walkway is accessed by two sets of descending poured concrete stairs. Windows on this level are six-light or 24-light wood sash. There is one entrance on the ground level of this façade, a six-light vinyl door with three-light sidelights and a transom. On the first story is a full-width covered porch, with a poured concrete floor and a projecting roof covered with slate and supported by six full-height wood columns. A Colonial Revival-style cornice and frieze extend across the width of the porch roof. The facade wall features two entrance doors and three windows, all set within five

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stone arch openings. The first, easternmost entrance door is six-light vinyl door, with three-light sidelights and decorative fanlight. The westernmost entrance door is a twelve-light double-door with a decorative fanlight and no sidelights. The windows located between the entrances are paired six-light, with paneling in the lower portion and a fanlight above the window, matching both entrance doors. All windows and entrances are decorated with limestone voussoirs. The porch is enclosed with a metal railing. Colonial Revival style elements are seen in the façade's limestone arcade, columns, symmetrical windows, cornice, frieze, entrances with sidelights, and fanlights. On the west elevation are two double-hung, six-over-six, wood sash windows, both of which are adorned with limestone voussoirs. A large exterior limestone chimney projects from the west wall, and on the ground level of the chimney is an eight-light wood window (Photograph 21).

On the south (rear) elevation of this section, the ground level projects from the rest of the section, and its roof forms a terrace for the story above. On the ground level are four paired four-light wood windows. The first story has a terrace that is enclosed by a metal railing. There are two entrances and three windows on this elevation. The entrances are paired six-light, with paneling in the lower portion and a fanlight above. The windows are paired, six-light, with paneling in the lower portion and a fanlight above the window (Photograph 22). The Colonial Revival style elements seen on this elevation are the paired windows, paired double doors, and fanlights.

The interior of the Golf Clubhouse houses the golf clubhouse snack bar, locker rooms, restrooms, and pro shop. Located on the first floor is the clubhouse snack bar and dining room. The snack bar has carpeted floor and pine paneling on the walls and ceiling. The ceiling structural system is constructed of exposed wood trusses (Photograph 23). Modern pendant lighting extends from the ceiling. On the east wall of this room is an opening for the snack bar. A large fireplace with limestone veneer is located on the west wall. On the ground level of the building, a central carpeted hallway allows visitors access to the pro shop, locker rooms, and restrooms (Photograph 24). An ascending staircase at the end of the hallway allows visitors to

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access the first floor and snack bar. The pro shop has carpeted floors and pine paneling on the walls. The space includes a small sales counter and office (Photograph 25). The locker room is carpeted, with wainscoting and wallpaper and has floor-to-ceiling metal lockers and wood benches (Photograph 26).

Swimming Pool Complex 1938, 2016

The swimming pool and splash pad are located south of the Crispin Center. The splash pad is a resource to the east of the pool and separated by a fence. Within the grounds of the splash pad is its ticketing booth. The swimming pool is a contributing resource to the Crispin Center, while the splash pad and ticket booth are non-contributing.

The pool deck has a raised and exposed foundation clad in stone veneer (Photograph 27). The foundation is ornamented with stone pilasters and a concrete balustrade that encloses the pool deck on the east side and on portions of the south and west sides. Planters are located at the top of the pilasters. On the east elevation of the ground level of the pool foundation are a vinyl rolling garage door and a vinyl pedestrian door. Both are accessed by a poured concrete descending stairwell. There are two glass block windows on this elevation. On the south elevation of the pool foundation are two additional entrances: a vinyl rolling garage door and a vinyl pedestrian door. Each is accessed by a poured concrete descending stairwell (Photograph 28). Two glass block windows are also located on this elevation. The interior of the pool foundation houses the water and pumping equipment for the pool.

The deck surrounding the pool is poured concrete, and the pool itself is constructed of concrete (Photographs 29 and 30). The swimming pool measures approximately 160 feet by 65 feet. An island with a floodlight is centrally located in the pool. Metal ladders are placed within the pool. A grass lawn for sunbathing is located west of the pool deck.

In 2016, the swimming pool area was renovated, resulting in the removal of the historic wading pool and the installation of a splash pad to the east of the swimming pool (Photograph 31). The

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splash pad has a poured concrete deck with a yellow and blue swirl motif painted on the play area. North of the splash pad is a poured concrete retaining wall, which separates the splash pad from the sloped ground to the north. The pad has several water features: a set of multi-colored rings that spray water and an orb with a leaf motif on top of a pole. The leaf motif mimics the Oglebay Park branding. A one-story, one-bay wide, one-bay deep ticketing booth is located at the south of the splash pad. It rests on the poured concrete splash pad deck, has painted plywood siding, and an asphalt side gable roof with exposed rafter tails and wood siding in the gable. Windows in the booth are either one-over-one vinyl sash or six-over-six vinyl sash. The splash pad area is enclosed by a metal railing. Neither the splashpad, nor the ticketing booth, are contributing resources to the Crispin Center.

Integrity Statement

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park retains integrity. It retains integrity of location because the building has not been moved and is on its original site within Oglebay Park. It retains integrity of setting because the surrounding area is still historic, natural, and park-like and the resource still dominates the immediate landscape. The Crispin Center retains integrity of design as the building retains its original footprint. Some interior changes have been made to adhere to ADA compliance, but the function of the building remains the same. Additionally, it retains its Colonial Revival style architecture and ornamental features, such as the symmetrical design; symmetrical fenestration; arched window and door openings; decorative details such as limestone voussoirs, fanlights, and sidelights; Palladian-style windows; and ornamental balustrades. The continued relationships of the building to the swimming pool at the rear, the building to the golf course to the southwest, and tennis court to the east also contributes to its retention of integrity of design. Likewise, the Crispin Center retains integrity of workmanship and materials because the exterior building fabric remains unobscured on all building sections. The Colonial Revival-style wood embellishments are still present. When alterations were necessary, such as the ventilation slats covering the HVAC system, fanlights, or alterations of doors into windows, great care was taken to ensure that the materials were replaced in kind and

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that they respected the original design and style of the building. Additionally, although some of the original wood windows were replaced by vinyl, historic photographs indicate that replacements were stylistically similar to the originals. The building retains its historic function – as a recreation space that supports social gatherings, swimming, and golfing. Because the building is mostly unaltered, retains its historic features, and is still located in historically the same setting, the building retains integrity of feeling and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Social History

Entertainment/Recreation

Architecture

Period of Significance

1937 to 1976

Significant Dates

1937

1938

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Fredric Faris

CCC

WPA

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park is significant under Criterion A on the local and state levels, in the areas of Politics/Government and Social History for its association with the New Deal Federal Relief programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Entertainment/Recreation for its function as a swimming pool, golf clubhouse, and public gathering space. The CCC and WPA constructed the Crispin Center and its swimming pools as part of Waddington Camp, CCC Camp SP-8. The Crispin Center is one of the few buildings and swimming pool complexes built in West Virginia utilizing the CCC for construction. It is also significant locally under Criterion C for its Colonial Revival-style architecture. The period of significance is 1937, when the complex was constructed, to 1976, 50 years before the present-day.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The property that developed into Oglebay Park dates to the late 1700s when Silas Zane was awarded a land grant by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Zane and his wife, Catherine, along with their children, lived in a log cabin somewhere within the present-day Oglebay Park property. The property was purchased by Noah Linsly in 1812. Linsly later established the Linsley School in Wheeling (Fisanick 2018). After Linsley's death, attorney Samuel Sprigg purchased the property, and he used it to farm sheep. When he died, the property passed to his family, with his daughter, Elizabeth, inheriting a portion of the property then known as "Hill Farm" (Artzberger 1979:5). The oldest building on the property was a square farmhouse, which is now the central block of the Oglebay Mansion, constructed in ca. 1845 by Elizabeth's husband, Dr. Hanson Chapline (Artzberger 1979:1).

In 1856, brewery owner George Weatherall Smith purchased the farmhouse and 416 acres of adjoining land for \$30,000, naming the estate Waddington Farm. Smith greatly improved the property and enlarged the brick mansion. However, he filed for bankruptcy in 1864, and much of the land was sold off. In 1872, James W. Paxton purchased the now 25-acre property (Artzberger

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1979:5). After his ownership, the property changed hands numerous times before being purchased by Wheeling industrialist Andrew Allen Howell in 1888. Howell's widow, Sarah White Paull Howell, sold the property to her son-in-law, Earl William Oglebay, in 1900.

Earl William Oglebay was born in 1849 to Crispin and Charlotte Scott Oglebay in Bridgeport, Ohio (Case Western Reserve University n.d.). He was raised in Wheeling and attended Bethany College, receiving his Bachelor's degree in 1871. Early in his career, Oglebay worked as a salesman at his father's grocery business before becoming a clerk at the National Bank of West Virginia, founded by his grandfather in 1817. After his father's death, Oglebay inherited interests in the Benwood Iron Works and Bellaire Nail Works and became president of the National Bank of West Virginia. Because of the bank's interest in mining, Oglebay relocated to Cleveland, Ohio. Collaborating with Horace A. Tuttle, he established Tuttle Oglebay and Co. which mined iron ore in Michigan and Wisconsin. After Tuttle's death, Oglebay established Oglebay Norton & Co. in 1890 and continued to mine iron ore on the lands of John D. Rockefeller. During this time, Oglebay split his time between Wheeling and Cleveland. In 1900, he purchased the farm property known as Waddington Farm, as a summer estate. Oglebay expanded the estate over time, eventually increasing it from 25 acres to 750 acres.

Eventually, at the age of 53, Oglebay decided to move back to Wheeling and become a gentleman farmer. He was particularly interested in agricultural science and the prevention of starvation in the United States. Oglebay developed stables, a dairy barn, vineyards, greenhouses, a rose garden, sheep farm, poultry farm, pig farm, and numerous gardens on the grounds of his property. A historic map from 1918 depicts the site of "Waddington Farms" as Oglebay called it, just to the northeast of Wheeling (Figure 1).

Oglebay died in 1926 and willed his property to the city of Wheeling so long as its citizens "shall operate it for purposes of public recreation and education" (*Wheeling News Register* 1937:2). The city was given three years to accept the bequest and formally accepted it in July 1928, turning Waddington Farms into Wheeling's Oglebay Park. A year prior to his death, in 1925, the

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Wheeling Park Commission was organized. It oversaw the operation of Wheeling Park which had been purchased by the city in 1923. Once Oglebay Park was acquired by Wheeling it was also overseen by the Wheeling Park Commission. At the time that Wheeling acquired the park it contained 65 buildings, farmland, and a farm that contained 700 species of shrubs and trees (Fisanick 2018). During the first year of Wheeling's ownership, the park was financed by Oglebay's daughter Sarita Oglebay Burton Russel. Upon her death in 1930 she willed \$100,000 for the ongoing maintenance and development of the park. Oglebay's nephew, Crispin Oglebay, also contributed to the park. In the late 1920s he collaborated with the Agricultural Extension Division of West Virginia University to establish adult programming. Crispin Oglebay also hired Dr. Paul M. Pearson, former president of Swarthmore College, and a later governor of the Virgin Islands, to study the offered adult programming at the park and to develop a "legally responsible sponsoring group" (Flores 1982:286). They organized the Oglebay Park Activities Committee, which had nine subcommittees that represented the activities at the park which had been successful during the 1927-1928 season. Two years later, on July 29, 1930, the Oglebay Institute was incorporated. The Oglebay Institute would work in tandem with the Wheeling Park Commission to keep the park running. The Commission's job was to maintain the buildings, and operate the park, while the Institute developed programming and utilized the facilities developed and maintained by the Commission. These committees and the Oglebay Institute were instrumental in acquainting the greater Wheeling population with Oglebay Park, as a cultural and recreational asset to the city. During these years programming was an important aspect of the park, with symphonies, educational programs, vespers, picnics, sporting events, and vespers all taking place within the park. A Nature Museum and the Garden Center were opened, and, in 1930, the mansion became the Mansion Museum.

Less than ten years after the park was given to the city of Wheeling, government agencies created during the Great Depression, as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, helped to shape Oglebay Park. Agencies including the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the CCC program, and the WPA were integral in constructing new buildings and rehabilitating existing areas of the park. The Crispin Center was constructed during this time as a

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part of these programs. The FERA was originally established as the Emergency Relief Administration by President Herbert Hoover in 1932. The main goal of the program was to loan money to individual states for relief programs. President Roosevelt took over the program and passed the Federal Emergency Relief Act, in 1933(National Park Service n.d.). During the two-and-a-half years that the program existed it provided work for over 20 million people nationwide, at a cost of \$3.1 billion. FERA was eventually replaced with the creation of the Social Security Administration and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). FERA was the earliest New-Deal program that provided funds to the park, as it paid for tree planting, and road widening (*Wheeling Intelligencer* 1934:2). The program was also utilized throughout the greater Wheeling area, providing infrastructure and roadway improvements.

On March 31, 1933, President Roosevelt signed the Unemployment Relief Act into law. This act created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a work program that enrolled young unmarried and unemployed men in manual labor jobs related to conservation and development in lands that were owned by local, state, or federal governments. By 1942 nearly three million men had been employed in CCC programs across the country (Harr 1992:34). The WPA meanwhile was created by President Roosevelt on May 6, 1935, and was discontinued in December 1943. During that period, it employed 8.5 million Americans on 1.4 million public projects, making it was the largest of the public works programs. The WPA hired the unemployed and funded local public works projects. Many of these projects consisted of constructing infrastructure such as roads, water lines, telephone lines, bridges, and parks. It also constructed civic and community-oriented buildings like post offices, schools, and theaters. A WPA inventory of accomplishments compiled in the Final Report on the WPA Program 1935-1942 included nationwide: 8,000 new or improved parks, 16,000 miles of new water lines, 650,000 miles of improved roads, and the serving of 1.2 million school lunches (Living New Deal 2025a).

West Virginia, with its heavy economic reliance on coal mining, was hit particularly hard by the Great Depression, with unemployment in some counties reaching 80 percent at its height (West Virginia Department of Tourism 2025). New Deal legislation looked to aid the millions of

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people who lost jobs, income, and housing, while stimulating the economy by investing in public works and modernizing lagging regions (Living New Deal 2025b). The first phase of New Deal programming in West Virginia aimed to provide housing and homesteading opportunities for out-of-work coal miners and established four towns for this purpose: Arthurdale, Eleanor, Beverly, and Tygart Valley Homesteads (West Virginia 2025). New Deal programs such as the CCC, beginning in 1933, and later the WPA, beginning in 1935, aimed to provide jobs while benefitting and beautifying West Virginia.

In 1933, to utilize the New Deal programs, the West Virginia Legislature established the Division of State Parks. This new division purchased 30,000 acres of land in 1934 which had been largely destroyed by timbering, forest fires, and bad agricultural practices, to reforest and establish new recreation areas. The CCC enrolled more than 55,000 men, housed between 66 camps, statewide. Each man was paid \$30 per week, \$25 of which was sent directly to their families, to reforest and build infrastructure in nearly every state Park and forest in West Virginia. Many of the buildings, pavilions, and housing structures built by the CCC in these parks and forests are still present and in use today. The WPA was focused on improving city and county infrastructure by building hundreds of thousands of new roads, bridges, sewer systems, and municipal buildings, including city halls, libraries, post offices, hospitals, schools, dams, airports, parks and military installations throughout the country (Living New Deal 2025b). This also included arts, drama, media, and literacy projects throughout West Virginia (West Virginia Humanities Council 2025). While the CCC enrollees were housed in camps far from their homes, many WPA laborers were employed locally.

Within Wheeling, many of the CCC and WPA projects are no longer standing, including the Wheeling Park Pool, Wheeling Stadium Walls, and Fourteenth Street road improvements. The Federal Building Addition, several Oglebay Park buildings, and the Crispin Center are the last remaining, and most visible of the CCC and WPA projects in Wheeling (Living New Deal 2025c).

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There were a total of 66 CCC camps in West Virginia. The camp that constructed the Crispin Center was located at Oglebay Park and was known as Camp Waddington, SP-8, after the historic name of the property. Newspaper articles noting that Oglebay Park was requesting a CCC camp were published in early 1935. Oglebay Park was a relatively new municipal park, and the Oglebay Institute and Wheeling Park Commission wanted to cultivate a relationship with the public. The CCC and WPA were programs that could take the gentlemen's farm developed by Earl Oglebay and use the existing built environment to create a park for the people of Wheeling. The hope was that these government programs would improve the infrastructure and add to the built environment within the park. An article in February 1935 noted that a tentative application had been made to include Oglebay Park in the schedule of the CCC work in the West Virginia district. Early projects were to include beautification efforts, road construction, and tree planting (*The Wheeling Register* 1935:10).

Camp Waddington was established on July 19, 1935, by CCC Company 3529 (Harr 1992:23). The camp operated for two years and provided labor for the construction of recreational facilities, including the Crispin Center and its swimming pool. The camp was under the command of Captain George R. Kyle and superintendents W.W. Kinsley and C.E. Dill (Harr 1992:34). There were 147 to 200 enrollees in the program. The enrollees were from four states: West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky (*The Wheeling News Register* 1937a:4). The camp provided education courses in arithmetic, spelling, penmanship, and reading as well as more specialized courses in auto mechanics, tree surgery, landscaping, and leatherworking (*The Wheeling News Register* 1935:37). In addition to education courses, enrollees could fill their time by accessing a reading room, movies, and/or a camp newspaper called *The Waddington Log*.

Park superintendent, and park authority for the CCC Homer Fish, had a "master plan" created for the park, which laid out park developments and future projects (Ohio County Library n.d.). These park plans, which included funding and construction projects, were updated every six months. The agreed upon plan was then recorded on official forms and submitted to Earle

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Bathrust, an inspector for the National Park Service. The plans were then forwarded to the regional office in Richmond, Virginia before being sent to the National Park Service (NPS), in Washington D.C. Once a job or plan was approved by the NPS, the Department of Conservation, located in Charleston, assigned the funds, skilled labor, and materials for the job. An article in the July 19, 1935, *Wheeling Intelligencer* noted that CCC construction work for Oglebay Park had been approved and the NPS has officially authorized the construction of tennis courts, parking grounds, a swimming pool, and road construction, among other improvements (The *Wheeling Intelligencer* 1935:2).

Enrollees first arrived at Oglebay Park on July 19, 1935, to begin construction of their temporary housing near present-day Caddy Camp. Additional early projects consisted of the construction of retaining walls, roads, and sewer systems. Unlike other CCC camps, Camp Waddington had access to specialized construction equipment. They had seven trucks, an excavator, bulldozer, and additional construction equipment (MacKay 2021). The campers worked on numerous other projects throughout the park including the construction of parking lots, roads, eleven miles of walking trails, picnic shelters, tennis courts, Caddy Camp, Camp Russel, the Crispin Center, an amphitheater, several cottages and cabins, and the planting of over three thousand trees. Campers also aided in flood relief efforts in 1935 and 1936. Additional funding for these projects came from donors including W. E. Stone and members of the Oglebay family such as Sarita Oglebay, Crispin Oglebay, and the Oglebay Institute (*The Wheeling News Register* 1937b:38).

The Crispin Center pool was constructed before the Crispin Center itself, although it was completed after the Crispin Center. Pool construction began in September 1936 when a WPA grant of \$68,000 was added to the park commission's share of \$51,000, creating a \$109,000 fund for the new pool and "recreation building" (*Wheeling News Register* 1937:5). However, the pool was not opened to the public until two years later, in 1938. CCC campers completed significant grading and installed the sewer system for the swimming pool. They also shaped stones and laid surface drains. It is also probable that they quarried and collected the stone used for the Crispin Center from the nearby Peter's Run Road. Much of the swimming pool structure was completed

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by local WPA workmen. Several sources note that the CCC constructed portions of the Pine Room at the park, but it is probable that it was a joint CCC WPA effort (Fores 1982:301).

The pool and Crispin Center building were designed by leading Wheeling architect Fredric Faris (1901-1964). Faris was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, on February 14, 1901, to Joseph and Margaret Veith Faris (*The Intelligencer* 1964:5). He attended Wheeling Public Schools and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Cornell University. His paternal uncle was Fredrick Fisher Faris, a noted Wheeling architect who was locally recognized for designing the following: The Schmulbach Building in Wheeling, Scottish Rite Cathedral in Wheeling, Shotwell Hall at West Liberty University, and Shaw Hall at West Liberty University, among others.

Fredric Faris worked at an architecture firm with his uncle, Fredrick Fisher Faris and brother, engineer Philip Faris. The elder uncle Faris died in 1927, and Fredric and his brother continued to work together under the name Faris Associates. A 1942 directory lists their office at 1117 Chapline Street in Wheeling (*Ohio Architect* 1942:20). In the 1950s, Faris was practicing under the name Fredric Faris AIA. When he died in 1964 the firm passed to Tracy R. Stephens, and the name changed back to Faris Associates. The firm during that period included Tracy Stephens, Philip V. Faris, and Merle Peterson (West Virginia University 2024). Fredric Faris designed several Wheeling buildings including the Ohio Valley General Hospital Nursing Home, numerous buildings at West Liberty University, the Ohio County Airport Administration building, Siebert's Restaurant, and the Vinyard Hill Housing Developments. Additionally, he modernized the Hawley Building in Wheeling. He was an A.I.A. Architect and a member of the West Virginia Board of Examiners of Architects.

Fredric and Philip V. Faris signed an agreement with the Wheeling Parks Commission on August 14, 1936 to construct "a swimming pool and Bath House at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, Ohio County, W.Va" (Stephens 1999). The contract noted that the brothers would be paid five percent of the cost of the work. It also noted that "a portion of the labor and materials being furnished by

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the Works Progress Administration". A WPA project proposal was completed by the Faris brothers. In it, justification for the Crispin Center was discussed:

At the present time Wheeling has only one publicly owned swimming pool, which is inadequate for a city of its size. Oglebay Park is the largest park in the district and serves a Metropolitan area of approximately 250,000 people. A pool of the type and size outlined is necessary to more fully serve the present and future recreational needs of the people Oglebay Park is also greatly in need of facilities to take care of the hundreds of golfers, riders, tennis players, and picnickers who visit daily. A club and recreation building of the size and type outlined is necessary to meet the present and future demand (Stephens 1999).

Another WPA proposal, noted that the Wheeling Park pool, which was constructed in the early twentieth century, had been enlarged by 30% in 1928. However, it was still felt that the size of the pool was inadequate for the greater Wheeling population. It was also noted by Crispin Oglebay that the park was in a time of growth, and that other developments were required to meet the needs of the general public (*The Wheeling Intelligencer* 1937:11). Moreover, with all of the amenities that Oglebay Park provided that it had become an attraction across the tri-state area, and the next obvious step was to provide visitors with more recreational opportunities, and a swimming pool was an obvious choice. It was also felt that a building was needed to cater to visitors that used the amenities in that section of the park. These advancements to Oglebay Park were necessary to continue the park's reputation as a recreational and cultural attraction in the tri-state area. The Crispin Center would go on to be the first purpose-built recreation complex at Oglebay Park. Up until that point the park had been taking old Waddington Farm buildings and converting them for public use.

The application goes on to touch upon Faris's Colonial Revival style Crispin Center, noting: "the Bath House Building is to be constructed of Native stone walls with wood cornice, porch columns etc., and a slate roof. The Architecture is in strict keeping with the Mansion House and other buildings in the park" (Stephens 1999).

When designing the pool, architect, Faris, and Homer W. Fish of the Wheeling Planning Commission visited several pools "of modern design" in Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio,

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and West Virginia. It was further noted that Fish was the head of several pools in the area, which expedited the designing process.

A newspaper article from 1936 noted that WPA workers were engaged in the early construction of the pool foundation and footers. Homer W. Fish, superintendent of the park, noted in a 1936 newspaper article that excavations for concrete footers were taking place and wooden frames for the building of the side walls had been completed (*The Wheeling News Register* 1936).

Another newspaper article details the specifications for the planned Oglebay Park Swimming Pool. The pool was to be 165 feet long and 75 feet wide with a water depth of between three and nine feet and was to accommodate 1,500 swimmers. A separate wading pool was to be constructed and would be sixty feet long and twenty feet wide, with a depth of 12 to 22 inches (*The Wheeling News Register* 1937a:38). The article also mentioned the Crispin Center, noting that it would include locker rooms and a club house for golfers.

The article noted further that once the center was constructed, the pool complex's locker rooms and restrooms could accommodate 2,000 people. Historic newspapers from the period note that the locker rooms had general and individual changing rooms, general and individual showers, and restrooms. The locker room's design included a dedicated passageway to the pool to aid in the prevention of athletes foot (*Wheeling News Register* 1937:5). Within the pool, a central island was constructed that supported four floodlights to accommodate night swimming. At the far, deep end of the pool were two diving boards. The pool was broken into three sections which differed by water depth for the divers and swimmers. Surrounding the pool was a large lawn where facilities for ping pong, badminton, shuffleboard, and other lawn games were provided. Fifty "sunning tables" were also constructed. The pool was surrounded by a poured concrete deck. The equipment that chlorinated the pool was located underneath the pool deck.

A newspaper article from the time described the building in the middle of its construction:

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the recreation building is built of natural stone, will be roofed by natural slate, and will blend entirely with the ruggedness of the natural surroundings. The second floor will contain observation porches. In the left side will be a general lounge and refreshment concession serving both the swimmers on the ground floor and the general public on the second floor. The central portion of the second floor will be devoted to the dance floor. Finished in natural oak paneling with a beamed ceiling, it will have a bandstand at one end and a large stone fireplace at the other” (*Wheeling News Register* 1937a:5).

Another newspaper article noted that the space was 5,000 square feet, two-thirds the space of the Wheeling Park dance pavilion and could easily accommodate 350 dancing couples. A photograph taken of the interior of the pine room during its construction shows a worker standing between brick arches, which have yet to be covered in pine paneling. The wood trusses of the ceiling are seen in the background (Figure 2). The article also noted that the right portion of the building would be where the golf club room, lounge, caddy club, and showers were to be located.

Camp Waddington was not approved for the tenth CCC enrollment period (enrollment periods for the camps tended to last for six months) which ran from October 1937 to March 1938. At the time, President Roosevelt wanted 25 to 30 percent of the camps to be discontinued and decommissioned nationwide— and ordered that all municipal and metropolitan parks with CCC camps should have them removed. By 1937, the economy was improving. Many men were resigning from the CCC and fewer were applying (*The New York Times* 1937). CCC Camps were combined into larger groups and many of those stationed at camp Waddington were moved to a camp in Ripley, WV (*The Wheeling News Register* 1937:5). Chairman of the Wheeling Park Commission, W.P. Wilson, fought this removal by requesting that the National Park Service review its decision to abandon the CCC camp at Oglebay Park (*The Wheeling Intelligencer* 1937b:4). Wilson argued that the removal of Camp Waddington would leave West Virginia without significant camp representation, as there would only be two camps in in the eastern part of the state, two in the southern part, and none in the western or northwestern part of the state. These efforts were ultimately unsuccessful, and Camp Waddington was abandoned on July 8, 1937. It is assumed that a majority, if not all the Crispin Center was completed, and the

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remaining work was completed by the WPA. The ownership and management of all the buildings, including the Crispin Center, were transferred to the Wheeling Park Commission (Harr 1992:34).

From the moment it was completed, the Crispin Center, then referred to as the Pine Room, hosted a variety of events. The “Pine Room” name came from the native pine paneling that adorns the walls (*The Wheeling Intelligencer* 1938a:7). Although completed in 1937, the Pine Room had its official opening to the public on July 9, 1938. The occasion was marked with a dance and a ten-piece band headed by Arden Wilson. The Park hosted Wilson and his band throughout the summer in 1938. A newspaper article written after the building was completed noted that “the new ballroom has received high recognition from Wheeling people since it’s inauguration [in June of 1938]” (*The Wheeling Intelligencer* 1938a:7). One attendant of a 200-couple event noted, “anybody with any aesthetic taste whatsoever could not but admire the beautiful surroundings of the Oglebay swimming pool. The variegated lighting effect is ever so charming, and the floodlight in the middle of the pool gives the water a very beautiful tint. Also, the light reflecting on the trees on the opposite side of the pool adds much to the magic atmosphere of the place” (*The Wheeling Intelligencer* 1938b:7). A hand drawn map depicting Oglebay Park depicts the Crispin Center, swimming pool, as well as other park amenities (Figure 3).

Numerous events took place at the Pine Room and the Oglebay Swimming Pool. The Pine Room hosted dances, balls, club gatherings, groups, weddings, and teas. On August 11 and 12, 1947, Olympian and actor Buster Crabbe swam at the pool with his swimming troupe of title-holding swimmers (*The Wheeling News Register* 1947:7). Throughout the 1940s, the Oglebay Park Pool hosted several “Aquaganzas,” performances sponsored by the Junior League of Wheeling. The performances were inspired by the World’s Fair Aquacade and included several numbers of musical comedy, with local dancers, comedians, swimmers, and divers (*The Wheeling Intelligencer* 1941:25). The proceeds from the show went to the beautification and maintenance of the Pine Room. Historic photographs depict practice for one such event, with the Crispin

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Center in the background (Figures 4 and 5). Figure 4 depicts an outer ring of swimmers while an inner ring splashed concurrently. A woman is playing the piano on the pool deck while several others look on. Figure 5 depicts the performers lined up in front of the Pine Room of the Crispin Center. The Crispin Center in the photograph looks nearly identical to the present-day (2025) building. The only noticeable difference is two fanlight windows on the gable ends of the ground level. A newspaper article from 1949 discussed the now annual event: “The annual water extravaganza this year includes a cast of 70 swimmers, divers, and comedy personalities. The swimming routines and water ballet will be performed by 48 outstanding swimmers from the Ohio Valley who will display their versatility in precision group swimming and individual form” (*The Wheeling News Register* 1949:44). The annual Aquaganza event appears to have ended in the early 1950s. The Crispin Center appears in several photocards from the 1940s that depict the Crispin Center relatively unchanged from how it looks in 2026 (Figures 6, 7, and 8). Some of the windows and doors may have been replaced, however, they have been replaced in a manner sympathetic to the historic characteristics of the building.

Oglebay Park continued its growth with notable additions to the property, such as Wilson Lodge in 1957, two championship golf courses in the 1970s and 2000, Schenk Lake in 1953, the Good Zoo in 1977, and the Schrader Environmental Education Center in 1996. The park now contains approximately 2,000 acres. The Crispin Center has been relatively unaltered from its original footprint. Some interior changes have been made to adhere to ADA compliance, but the function of the building remains the same. The most significant change to the property occurred in 2016 when the wading pool was replaced with a splash pad.

Summary of Significance

Criterion A

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park is significant on a local level under Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government and Social History for its association with the New Deal Federal Relief

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programs, the CCC and WPA, who constructed the Crispin Center and the swimming pool as part of Waddington Camp, CCC Camp SP-8.

In terms of Politics/Government and Social History Crispin Center is one of the few building and swimming pool complexes built in West Virginia by the WPA and CCC. The period of significance begins in 1937, when it was constructed, and ends in 1976, fifty years from the present day. This date was chosen to reflect the construction of the building and the lasting impact that the CCC built complex has had on local significance levels. Locally, the building is a lasting example of WPA and CCC architecture and it reflects the positive impact it had on Oglebay Park and the population of Wheeling. The complex is a unique example of a lasting CCC constructed recreation complex that retains its integrity and function. It is also one of the larger CCC/WPA projects that is still extant in the Wheeling Area.

The Crispin Center is also considered eligible in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for its function as a swimming pool, golf clubhouse, and public gathering space. From when it opened to the public in 1938 to the present-day (2026), the resource has been in continuous use. Its construction helped to further develop Oglebay Park into a recreational and cultural destination within the tri-state area. It was the first purpose-driven building constructed on the property. Until its construction, development at the gentlemen's farm turned municipal park had been driven by reusing or repurposing Waddington Farm buildings.

The construction of the Crispin Center marked a pivotal point in the development of Oglebay Park. During this time, the park, under the leadership of the Oglebay Institute and the Wheeling Park Commission, was expanding and the Crispin Center was its first major project. It provided a clubhouse space for golfers, a ballroom for events, and a swimming pool, and bath house for swimmers. The resource retains the same recreational functions as when it opened to the public in 1938.

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Comparable Properties

There are several CCC constructed parks and buildings throughout the state of West Virginia. To determine the significance of the Crispin Center under Criterion A, a comparison was made between the complex and other New Deal-era resources throughout the state.

There are not a significant amount of bathhouses and swimming pools constructed by the CCC/WPA in West Virginia. The Cameron City Pool (Resource No. 93000612) was constructed by the WPA in 1939, for the town of Cameron, West Virginia, just over thirty miles south of Oglebay Park. This complex is composed of a semi-circular swimming pool, underwater lifeguard station, and bathhouse. It is notable for its unique semi-circle design and the fact it could be used for firefighting in a time of need. Unlike the Crispin Center's pool, the Cameron City pool is utilitarian and without ornamentation. Both complexes are a lasting legacy of New Deal-era construction in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia. Locally, the Wheeling Park Pool was also constructed during the Great Depression using funds provided by New Deal-era programs. The construction of this pool replaced the earlier pool on the site, constructed in the early twentieth century. It opened in 1937, just a few months before the pool at Oglebay Park. It was replaced with a modern pool and bathhouse in 1968. The Crispin Center is notable for being the only CCC/WPA constructed recreation facility in the Wheeling area.

Oglebay Park is notable because of its roots as a privately owned gentleman's farm turned into a privately funded municipal park. Park leadership has been instrumental in nurturing and developing a thriving, multifaceted park, of which the Crispin Center plays a significant part. It was added to the park to set it apart, to elevate the Oglebay Park experience and to provide numerous entertainment choices for visitors. From the time it opened to the public in 1938 to the present it has retained its historic function of recreation to the people of Wheeling and beyond.

Criterion C

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park is also locally significant under Criterion C for architecture. The Colonial Revival style architecture is evident throughout the Crispin Center building, which

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contains numerous Colonial Revival style elements including: the symmetrical design; symmetrical fenestration; arched window and door openings; decorative details such as limestone voussoir, fanlights, and sidelights; Palladian-style windows; and ornamental balustrades. Colonial Revival style architecture came into prominence in the United States after the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876, which celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This celebration put a focus on American history, which was reflected into the world of architecture. The style is nostalgic for the colonial era, but modernized to be larger, with more pronounced features. Oglebay Park has a built environment that encompasses a mix of architectural styles such as Neoclassical, Italianate, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, and Mission, to name a few. The focal point of Oglebay Park, the Mansion, is constructed in the Neoclassical style. Neoclassical style elements include the front porch's two-story portico and fluted Ionic columns, the portico over the front door, and the symmetry of these elements. It also has Colonial Revival style elements, including the front door with fan transom and sidelights, the symmetry of the main block of the house, and the large interior chimneys. The Inn/Boarding House, constructed ca. 1915, is the one other building at the park constructed in the Colonial Revival style.

A comparison of the Crispin Center to other CCC and WPA buildings revealed that it appears to be the only one constructed in the Colonial Revival style in West Virginia. The Crispin Center is less utilitarian than other CCC constructed buildings and includes a higher level of Colonial Revival ornamentation than usual. Many of the CCC constructed parks in West Virginia utilize National Park Service (NPS) Rustic style architecture (also referred to as Parkitecture). This style was developed by the NPS in the early twentieth century and focused on using local building materials and creating a design that harmonizes with nature (Tweed:i-ii). The NPS wanted the natural landscape to be the main attraction, while creating buildings that could bring nature to the visitors. Thus, NPS Rustic style architecture focused on using local stone, timber, hand-tooled finishes, low silhouettes, and buildings that blended with their natural surroundings. Although this style was coined by the NPS it is seen in numerous state parks and forests throughout the

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country. When constructing park buildings both nationally and in West Virginia, the CCC routinely utilized this architecture style, although sometimes it is just noted as being “rustic”.

The Crispin Center’s Colonial Revival style architecture is unique to New Deal-era buildings in the state. It blends aspects of NPS Rustic style architecture, such as the local stone used on the exterior walls, and the interior pine paneling, but rather than harmonize with the landscape Faris constructed a building that was meant to harmonize with the built environment already present within the park. This combination makes the Crispin Center unusual among other buildings constructed by the CCC and WPA programs.

Comparable Properties

There are several CCC constructed parks and buildings throughout the state of West Virginia. To determine the significance of the Crispin Center under Criterion C, a comparison was made between the complex and other New Deal-era resources throughout the state.

A listed West Virginia park that has New Deal construction worth comparing to the Crispin Center at Oglebay Park are the New Deal Resources at Babcock State Park (Resource No. 100003518), a historic district with a total of 46 contributing buildings and located 227 miles south of Oglebay Park. These buildings include shelters, administration buildings, a riding stable, and rental cabins. Although these are not the same type of buildings as the Crispin Center or swimming pool, it represents CCC resources used to construct park buildings and infrastructure. The buildings at Babcock State Park have characteristics seen in NPS rustic style architecture. Many of the 46 contributing buildings are constructed of stone, wood or logs. They are low profile and blend into the surrounding nature. These buildings are more typical of park buildings constructed by the CCC and WPA. None of the buildings possess the level of ornamentation of the Crispin Center. Another park associated with the CCC and WPA is Watoga State Park, which has 107 contributing buildings, sites, structures, and objects. This park, which is 222 miles southeast of Oglebay Park, is another example of NPS Rustic style architecture. The buildings are constructed of local or easily found materials such as wood, log, and stone. If there is

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ornamentation it is in the hand cut wood located in some of the building's gables. The park also features a CCC and WPA constructed swimming pool, with is enclosed by a stone wall and wood fencing. The pool and its deck are unadorned and utilitarian and the bathhouse is not a contributing resource to the district.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park remains unique as a CCC building for its Colonial Revival-style characteristics and the fact that it is such a departure from other CCC/WPA constructed recreational complexes in the state.

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1937 Photograph of the Pine Room, under construction. On file at Private Collection of Oglebay Park, Wheeling West Virginia.

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The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

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West Virginia Department of Tourism

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

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- 1934 Twenty-seven projects under operation by Ohio County ERA. July 12, 1934. *The Wheeling Intelligencer*, Wheeling West Virginia.
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- 1937 Wilson Blames Misguided Policy on Part of U.S. Officials for CCC Camp Removal. July 7, 1937. *The Wheeling Intelligencer*, Wheeling West Virginia.
- 1938a Elaborate Plans Completed for Oglebay Golf Clubhouse Dances. July 5, 1938. *The Wheeling Intelligencer*, Wheeling West Virginia.
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- 1935 Branch of "Blue Denim University" Flourishes in Oglebay Park Woods. December 15, 1935. *The Wheeling News Register*, Wheeling, West Virginia.
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The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

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- 1949 Aquaganza August 3-4-5 at Oglebay. July 17, 1949. *The Wheeling News Register*, Wheeling, West Virginia.
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- 1942a Postcard of the Crispin Center, ca. 1942. West Virginia University, West Virginia and Regional History Center. Website at: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/>. Accessed October 28, 2025.
- 1942b Postcard of the Pine Room, ca. 1942. West Virginia University, West Virginia and Regional History Center. Website at: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/>. Accessed October 28, 2025.
- 2024 Faris, Faris, and Stephens, Architects, Records. West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

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

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2.0

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: 40.104516 | Longitude: -80.658390 |
| 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: |

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
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Name of Property

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

The boundary of the property encompasses a 1.9 acre tract of land that includes the entirety of the Crispin Center, swimming pool and splash pad (Figure B). It also includes portions of the grounds, such as the paved patio, front lawn, space where the golf carts are kept and the lawn to the east of the pool, which was historically used for sunbathing. The decision to keep these landscaping features was based on historic images which show these spaces being present or in use (as shown in Figures 6-8).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was selected because it contains the Crispin Center and swimming pool and all associated land and landscape features of the center.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jenna C. Thomas-Cline, M.A.,
organization: Skelly and Loy Inc., a Terracon Company
street & number: 3280 William Pitt Way
city or town: Pittsburgh state: PA zip code: 15238
e-mail: jthomas@skellyloy.com
telephone: 740-391-4291
date: March 17, 2026

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.)

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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Name of Property

Photo Log

Name of Property: The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
City or Vicinity: Wheeling
County: Ohio
State: West Virginia
Photographer: Jenna C. Thomas-Cline, M.A.
Date Photographed: October 23, 2025

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

<u>Photo#</u>	<u>View/Description</u>	<u>Facing</u>
1	The north (front) façade of the of the Crispin Center, showing all three segments of the building: the Pine Room, hyphen, and Golf Clubhouse	Southwest
2	The north (front) façade of the Pine Room	Southwest
3	The north (front) façade of the Pine Room	Southeast
4	The interior doors which are accessed by a descending concrete staircase on the north façade of the building	Northeast
5	The east elevation of the Pine Room	Northwest
6	The south (rear) elevation of the Crispin Center	Northeast
7	The south (rear) elevation of the Pine Room	Northwest
8	The interior of the Pine Room	Southeast
9	The bar and the fireplace in the Pine Room	Southwest
10	The interior of the Pine Room	Southeast
11	The cashier booth in the ground level lobby of the Crispin Center	Southwest
12	The cashier booth and turnstile into the men’s dressing room	West
13	The entrance to the women’s dressing room	Southeast
14	The check room, looking out at the pool deck	Southeast
15	The north façade of the hyphen	South
16	The interior of the hyphen, looking toward the Pine Room	East
17	The interior of the refreshment stand	Southeast
18	The boiler room	Northwest
19	The north facade of the golf clubhouse	Southwest
20	View from under the promenade	Northeast
21	The west elevation of the golf clubhouse	Southeast
22	The south (rear) elevation of the golf clubhouse	Northwest
23	The interior of the golf snack bar	Southwest
24	The interior of ground floor passage, looking toward the staircase that leads to the first story	Southeast
25	The golf pro-shop	Southwest
26	The interior of the men’s locker room	Southwest

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

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Name of Property

27	The east elevation of the swimming pool and its foundation	Southwest
28	The south (rear) and west elevations of the swimming pool foundation	Northwest
29	The swimming pool	Southwest
30	View of the pool deck and pool with the Crispin Center in the background	Northeast
31	Overview of the splash pad with the swimming pool in the background	Southwest
32	The ticket booth located within the splash pad area	Northwest

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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Name of Property



Photograph 1 of 32. The north (front) façade of the Crispin Center, showing all three segments of the building: the Pine Room, hyphen, and Clubhouse, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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Name of Property



Photograph 2 of 32. The north (front) façade of the Pine Room, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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Name of Property



Photograph 3 of 32. The north (front) façade of the Pine Room, facing southeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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Name of Property



Photograph 4 of 32. Detail of the ground-level entrance doors (from the interior), facing northeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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County and State

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Photograph 5 of 32. The east elevation of the Pine Room, facing northwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

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Photograph 6 of 32. The south (rear) elevation of the Crispin Center, facing northeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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Photograph 7 of 32. The south (rear) elevation of the Pine Room, facing northwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 8 of 32. The interior of the Pine Room, facing southeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 9 of 32. The bar and the fireplace in the Pine Room, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 10 of 32. The interior of the Pine Room, facing southeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 11 of 32. The cashier booth in the ground level lobby of the Crispin Center, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 12 of 32. The cashier booth and turnstile into the men's dressing room, facing west.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

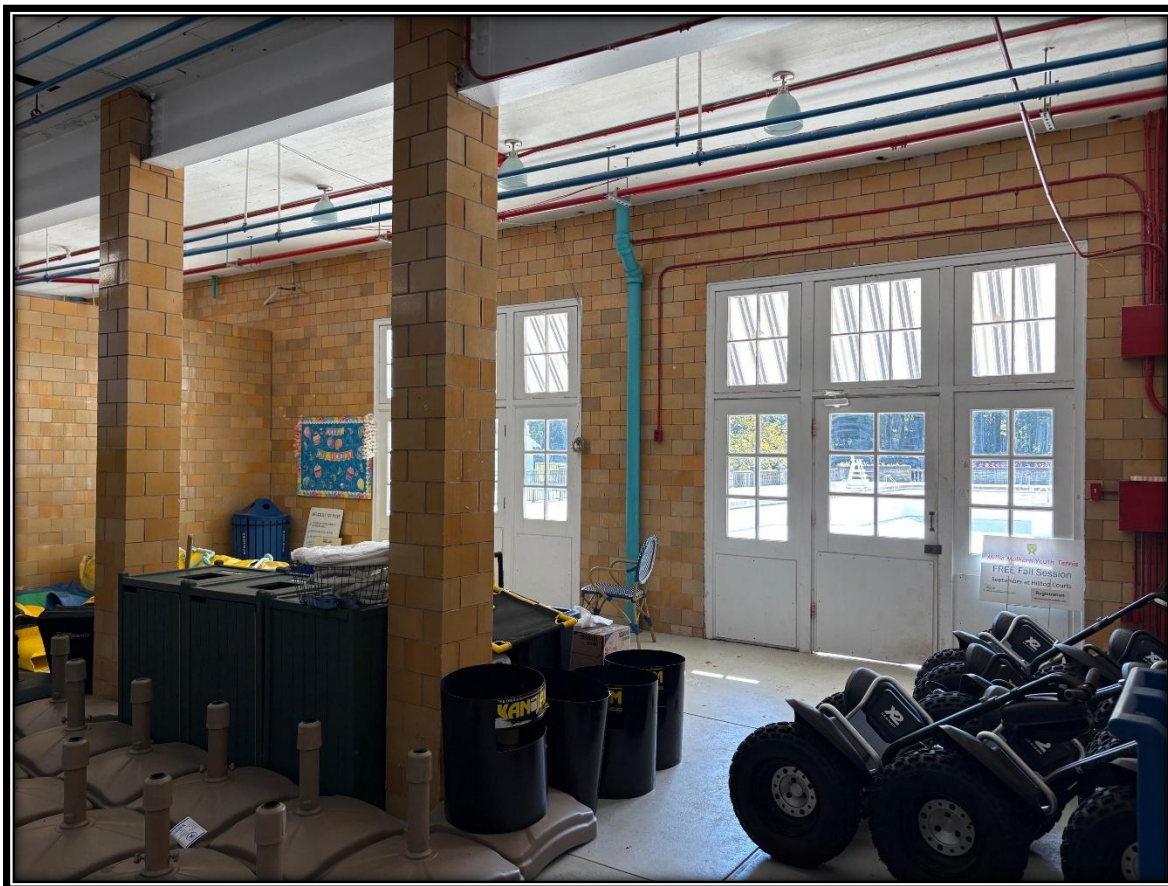


Photograph 13 of 32. The entrance to the women's dressing room, facing southeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 14 of 32. The check room, looking out at the pool deck, facing southeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
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Name of Property



Photograph 15 of 32. The north façade of the hyphen, facing south.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

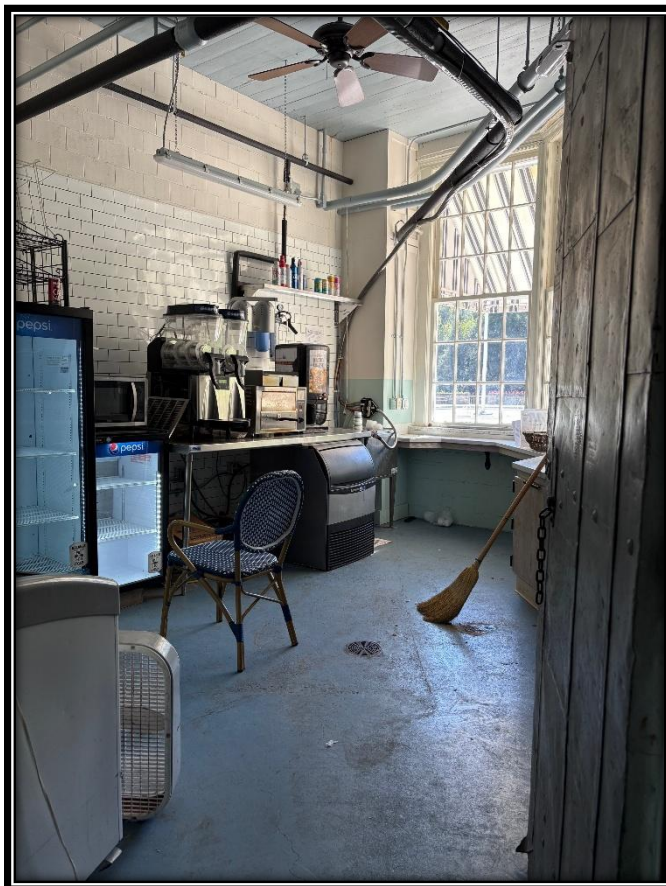


Photograph 16 of 32. The interior of the hyphen, looking toward the Pine Room, facing east.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
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Name of Property



Photograph 17 of 32. The interior of the refreshment stand, facing southeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 18 of 32. The boiler room, facing northwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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Name of Property



Photograph 19 of 32. The north facade of the golf clubhouse, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

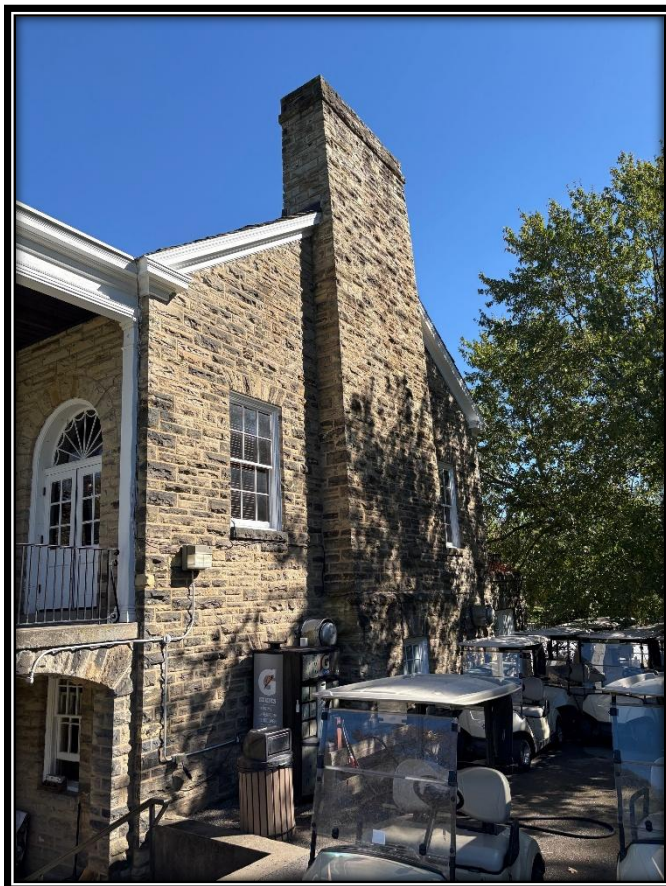


Photograph 20 of 32. View from under the promenade, facing northeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 21 of 32. The west elevation of the golf clubhouse, facing southeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
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County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 22 of 32. The south (rear) elevation of the golf clubhouse, facing northwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

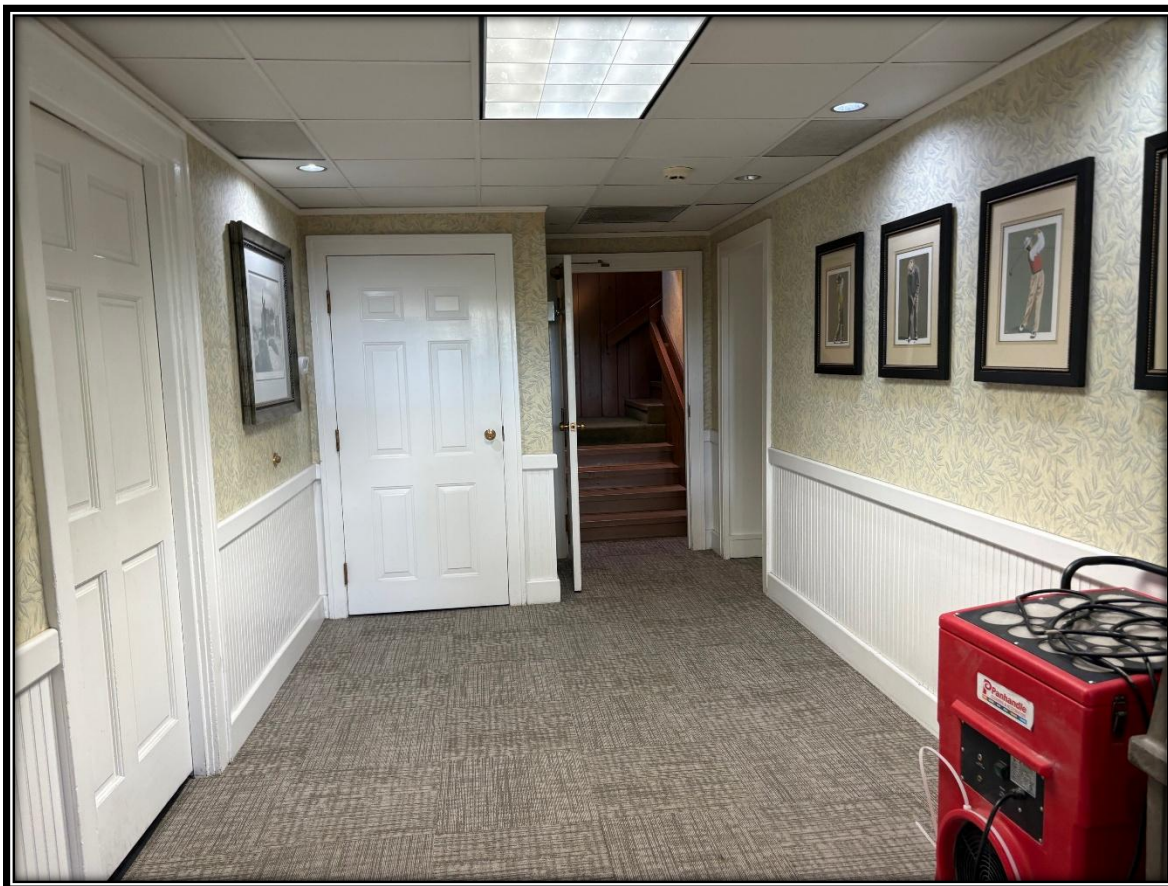


Photograph 23 of 32. The interior of the golf snack bar, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

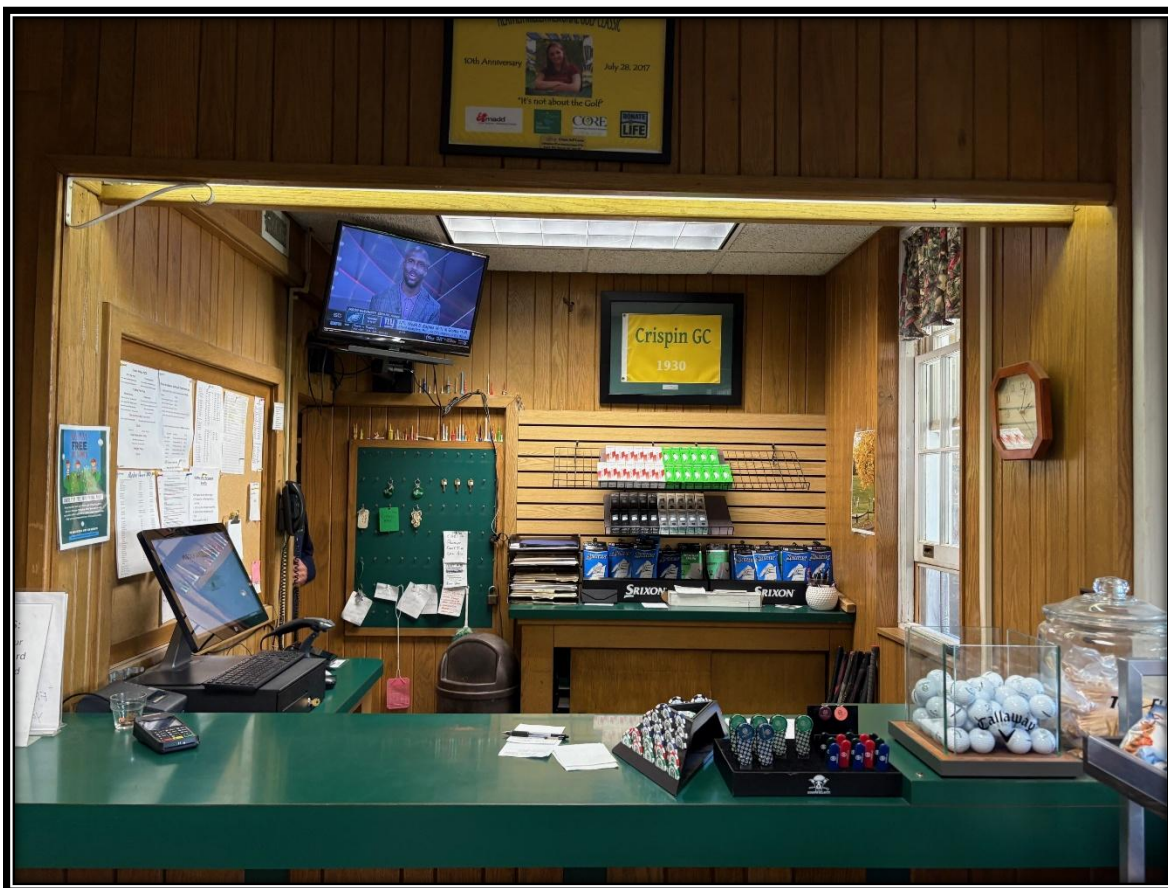


Photograph 24 of 32. The interior of ground floor hallway, looking toward the staircase that leads to the first story, facing southeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property

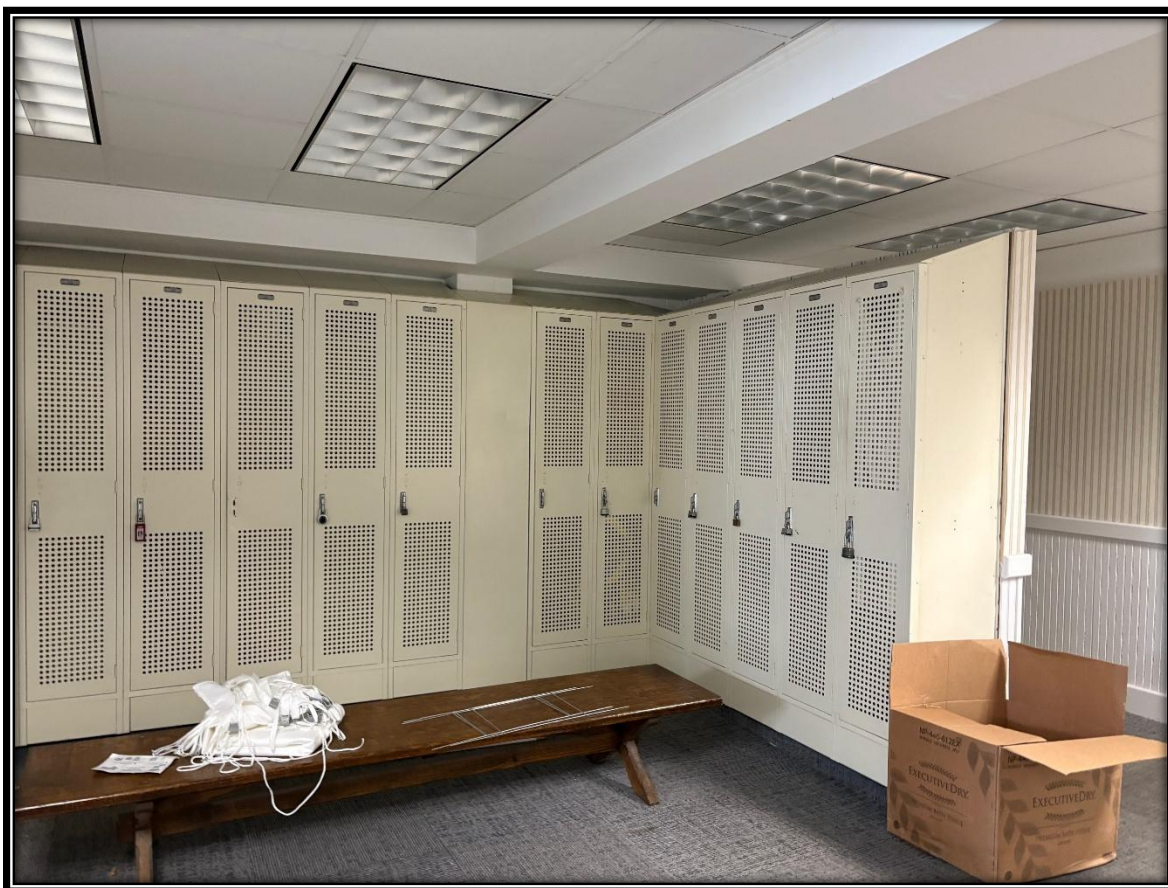


Photograph 25 of 32. The golf pro-shop, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 26 of 32. The interior of the men's locker room, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 27 of 32. The east elevation of the swimming pool and its foundation, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 28 of 32. The south (rear) and west elevations of the swimming pool foundation, facing northwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 29 of 32. The swimming pool, facing southwest.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 30 of 32. View of the pool deck and pool with the Crispin Center in the background, facing northeast.

The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 31 of 32. Overview of the splash pad with the swimming pool in the background, facing southwest.

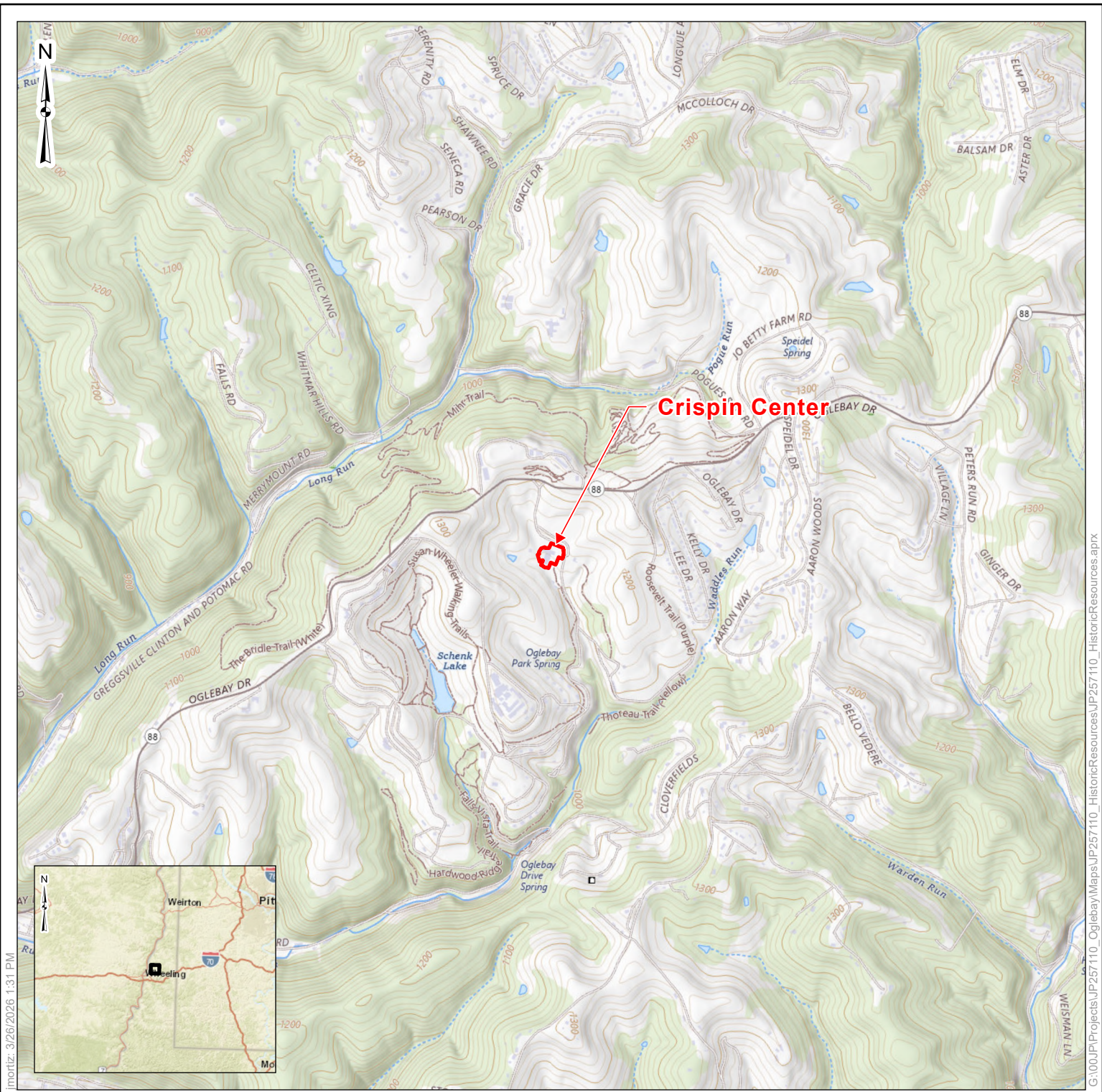
The Crispin Center at Oglebay Park

Ohio County, West
Virginia
County and State

Name of Property



Photograph 32 of 32. The ticket stand located within the splash pad area, facing northwest.

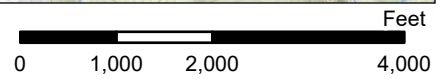


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Legend

NRHP Boundary



DATA SOURCE(S):
 ESRI 2025a - OpenStreetMap
 USGS 2023 - Wheeling, WV-OH Topographic Quadrangle
 USGS 2023 - Tittonsville, OH-WV Topographic Quadrangle

Project No.:	JP257110
Date:	March 2026
Drawn By:	JMO
Reviewed By:	JTC/AJR



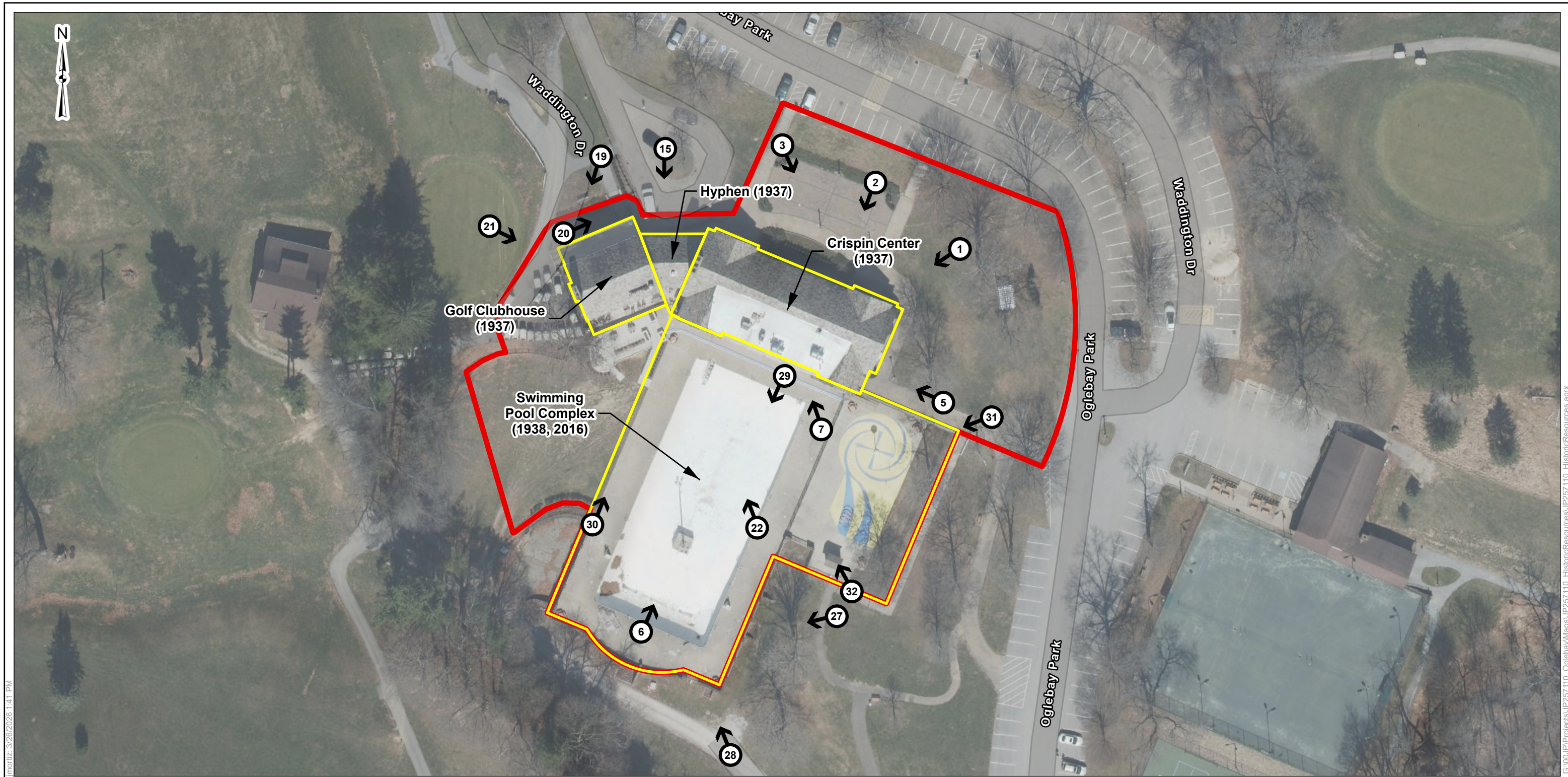
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Resource on USGS

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
 City of Wheeling
 Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure




A



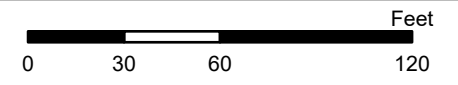
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- Legend**
-  Photograph Location
 -  Building Section
 -  NRHP Boundary

DATA SOURCE(S):
 ESRI 2025a - OpenStreetMap
 ESRI 2025b - World Hillshade
 ESRI 2025c - World Terrain
 WV Sheriffs Association 2022 - Aerial Base Imagery



Project No.:
JP257110
 Date:
March 2026
 Drawn By:
JMO
 Reviewed By:
JTC/AJR



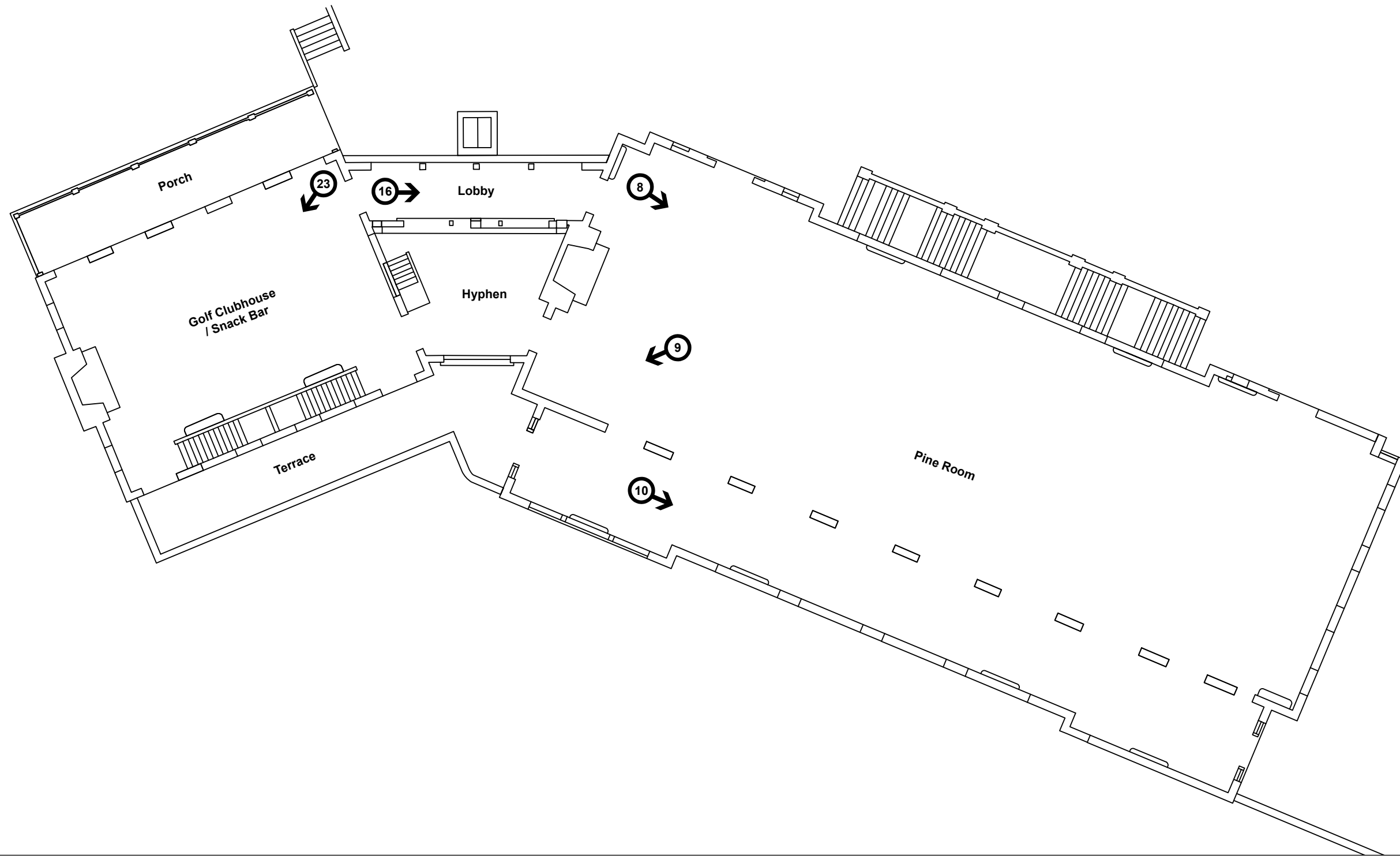
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Exterior Site Plan and Photograph Locations

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
 City of Wheeling
 Ohio County, West Virginia

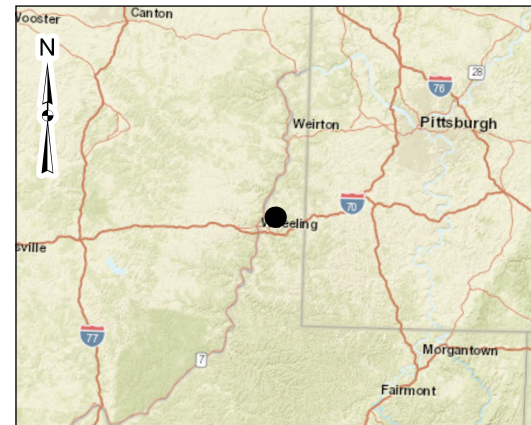
Figure

B





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Legend

-  Photograph Location
-  Floor Plan

DATA SOURCE(S):
ESRI 2025a - OpenStreetMap



Project No.:
JP257110
Date:
March 2026
Drawn By:
JMO
Reviewed By:
JTC/AJR



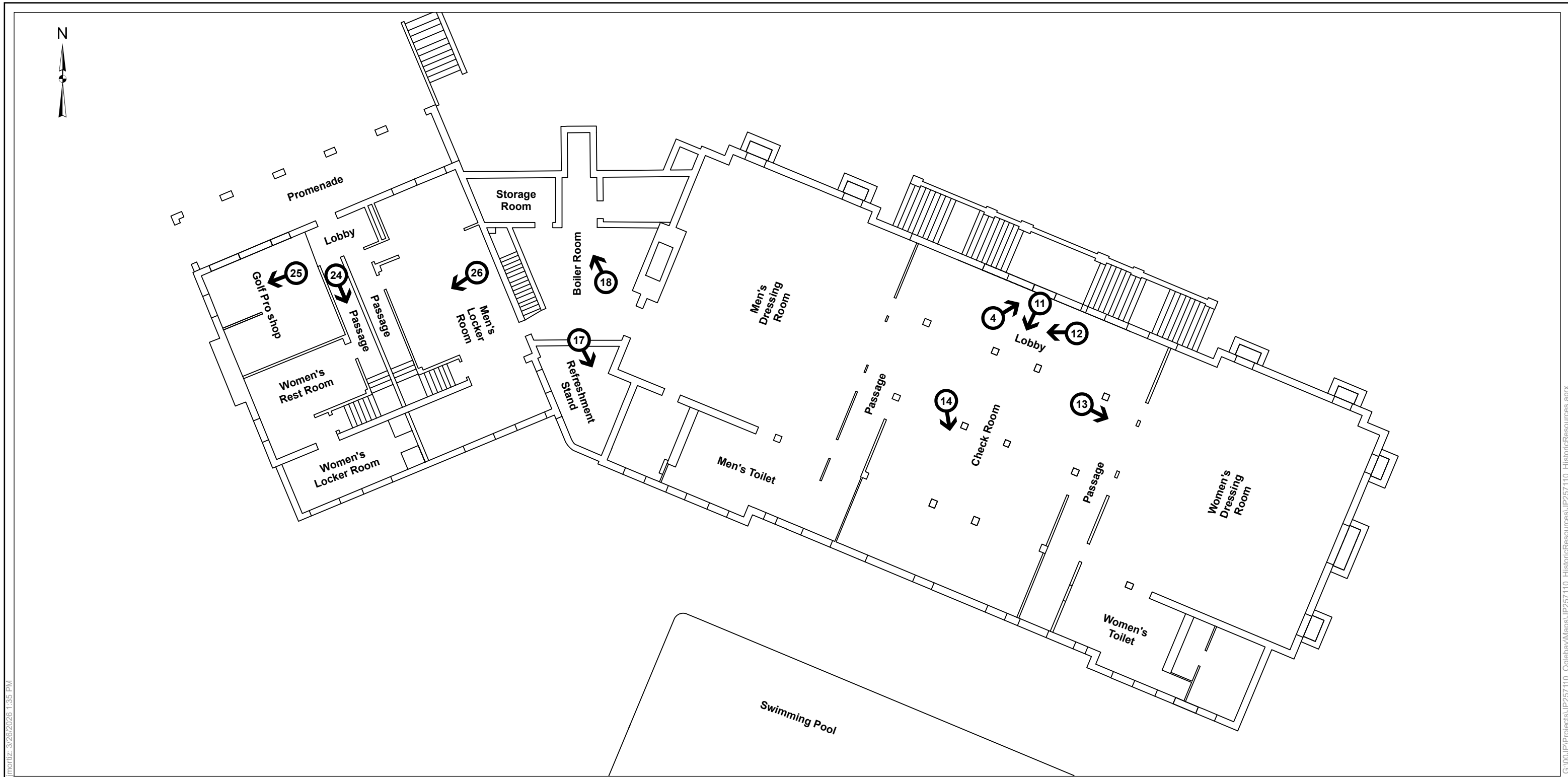
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First Floor Site Plan and Photograph Locations

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
City of Wheeling
Ohio County, West Virginia

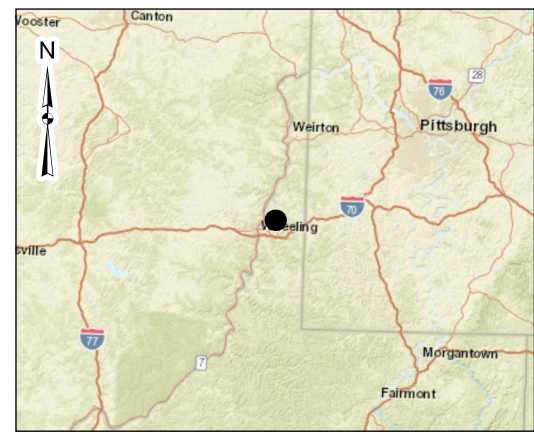
Figure

C





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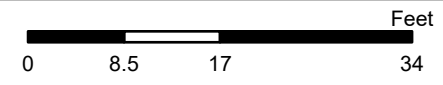


Legend

 Photograph Location

 Floor Plan

DATA SOURCE(S):
ESRI 2025a - OpenStreetMap



Project No.:
JP257110

Date:
March 2026

Drawn By:
JMO

Reviewed By:
JTC/AJR



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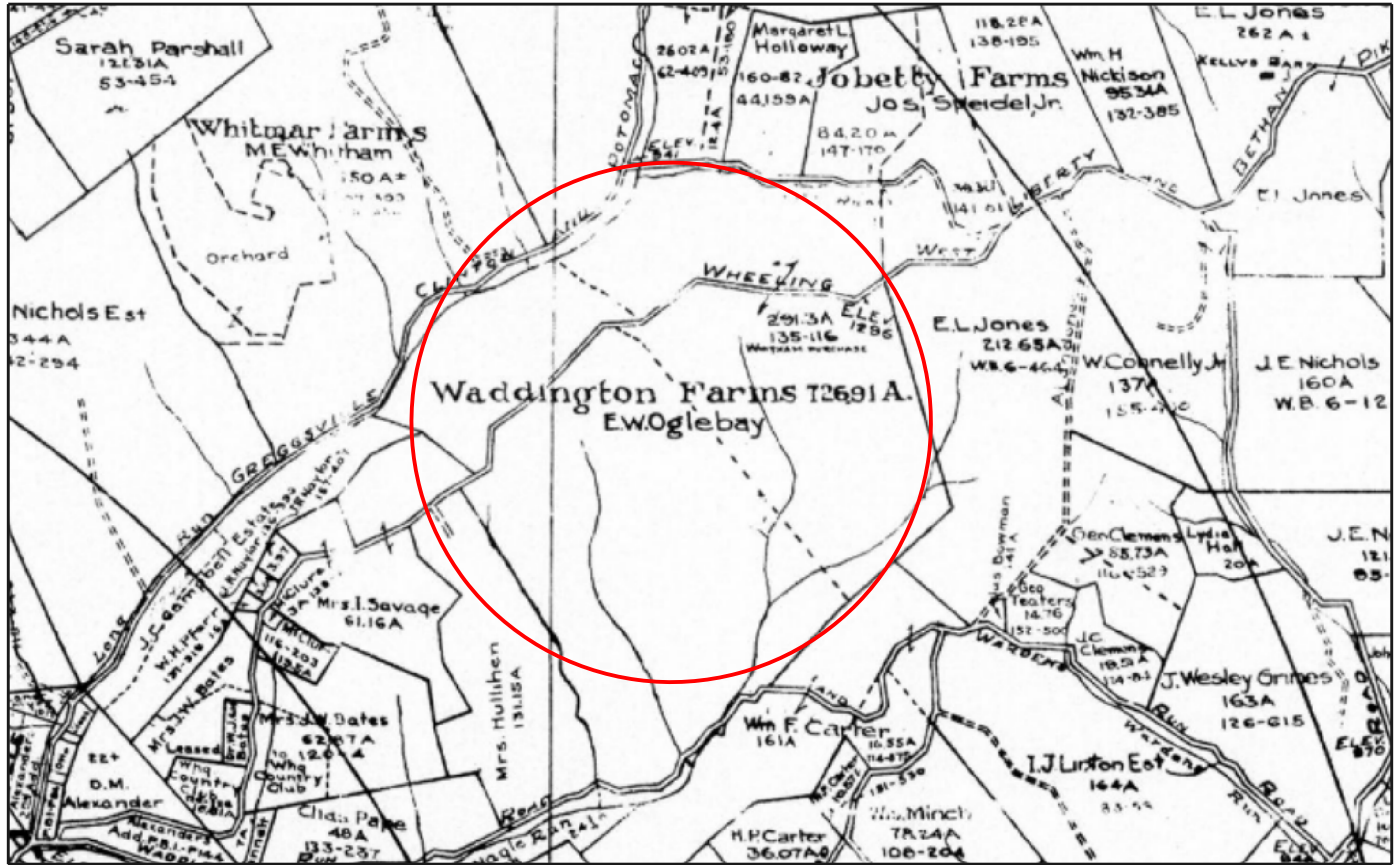
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Ground Floor Site Plan and Photograph Locations

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
City of Wheeling
Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure

D



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Legend

Approximate Location of Resource

NOT TO SCALE

DATA SOURCE(S):
Koller & Conrad 1918

Project No.:	JP257110
Date:	January 2026
Drawn By:	JMO
Reviewed By:	JTC/AJR

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Approximate Location of Resource

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
City of Wheeling
Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure

1



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NOT TO SCALE

DATA SOURCE(S):
Private Collection of Oglebay Park 2025

Project No.:	JP257110
Date:	January 2026
Drawn By:	JMO
Reviewed By:	JTC/AJR

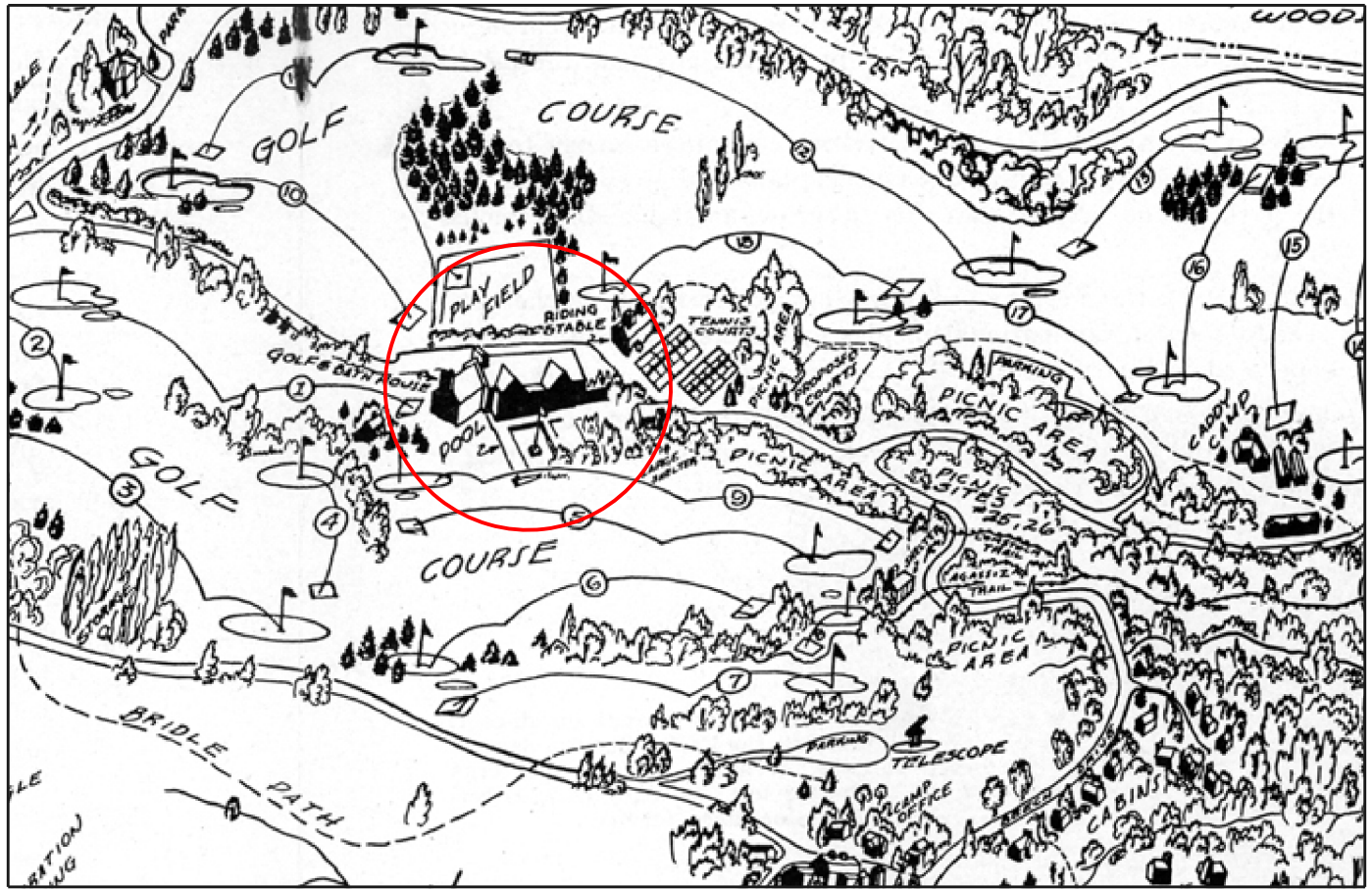
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**Photograph of the Pine Room,
Under Construction, ca. 1937**

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
City of Wheeling
Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure

2



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Legend

Approximate Location of Resource

NOT TO SCALE

DATA SOURCE(S):
Ohio County Public Library 1940

Project No.:	JP257110
Date:	January 2026
Drawn By:	JMO
Reviewed By:	JTC/AJR

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Drawn Map of the Crispin Center, 1940

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
City of Wheeling
Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure

3



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NOT TO SCALE

DATA SOURCE(S):
Private Collection of Oglebay Park 2025

Project No.:	JP257110
Date:	January 2026
Drawn By:	JMO
Reviewed By:	JTC/AJR

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Photograph of Aquaganza Rehearsals, ca. 1941

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
City of Wheeling
Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure

4

Chorus Rehearses Daily for Aquaganza



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NOT TO SCALE

DATA SOURCE(S):
The Wheeling News Register 1941

Project No.:	JP257110
Date:	January 2026
Drawn By:	JMO
Reviewed By:	JTC/AJR



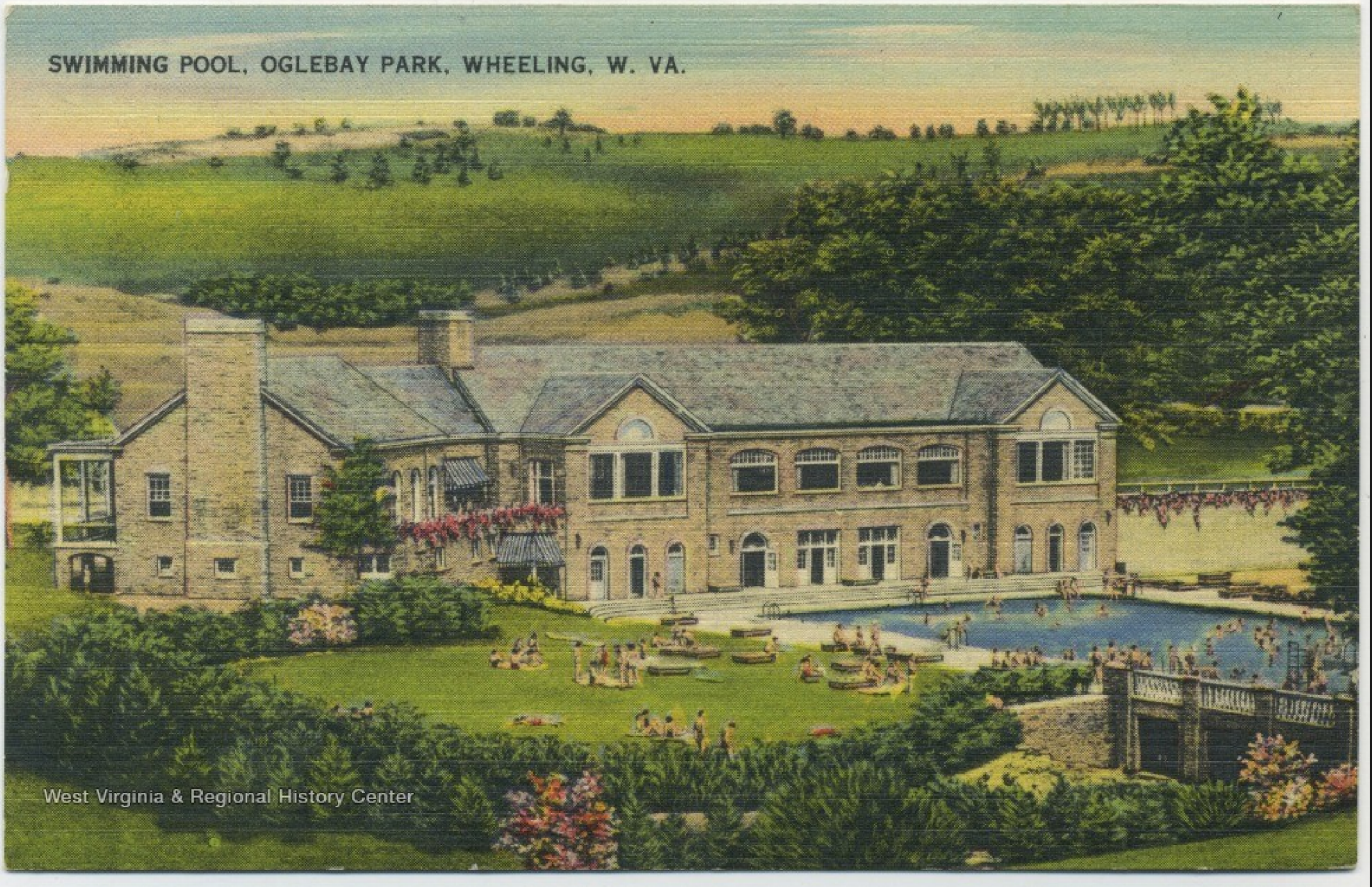
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Newspaper Article on Aquaganza Rehearsals ca. 1941
Crispin Center at Oglebay Park City of Wheeling Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure
5

SWIMMING POOL, OGLEBAY PARK, WHEELING, W. VA.



West Virginia & Regional History Center

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DATA SOURCE(S):
West Virginia University, West Virginia and
Regional History Center 1942a

Project No.:	JP257110
Date:	January 2026
Drawn By:	JMO
Reviewed By:	JTC/AJR

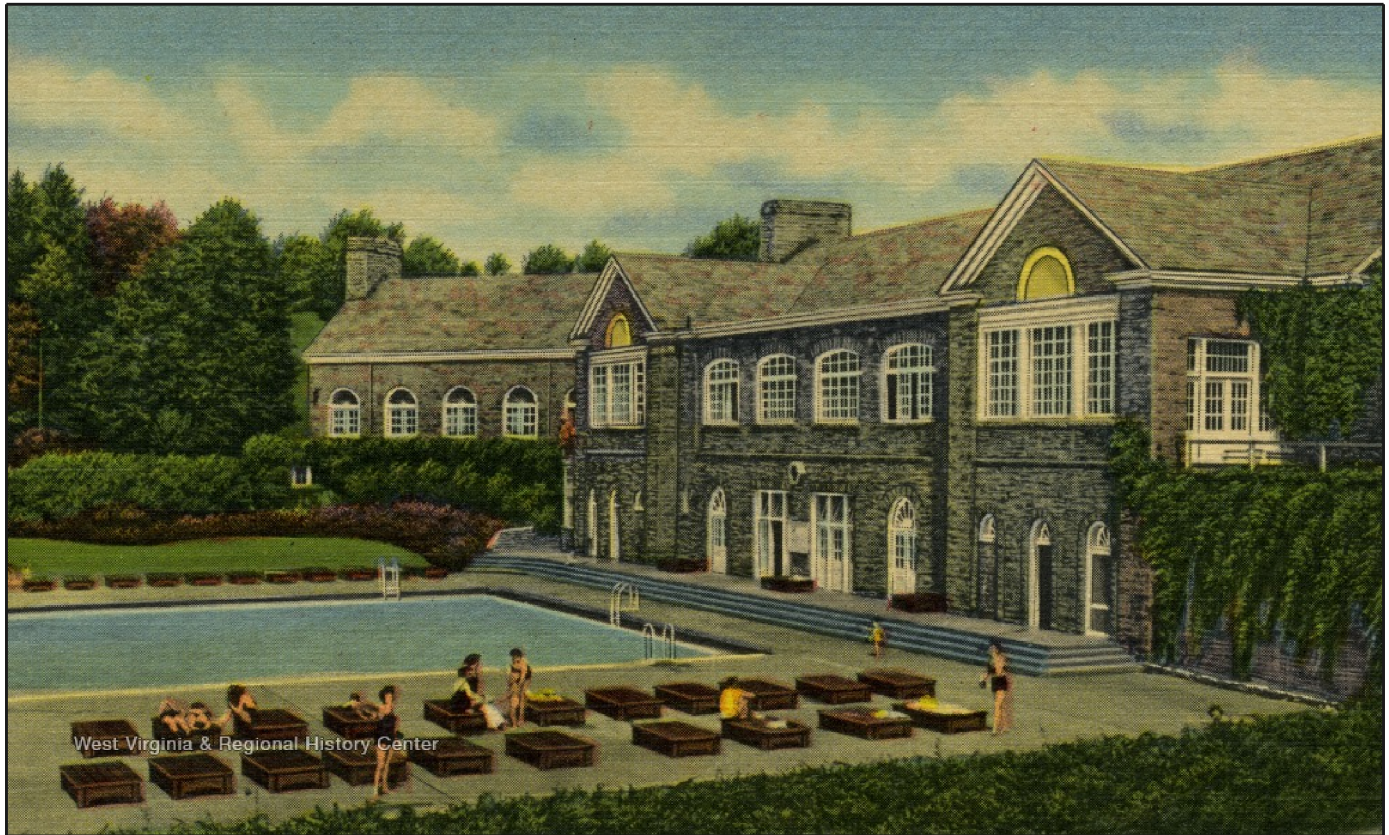
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Postcard of the Crispin Center, ca. 1942

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
City of Wheeling
Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure

6



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DATA SOURCE(S):
West Virginia University, West Virginia and
Regional History Center 1942b

Project No.:	JP257110
Date:	January 2026
Drawn By:	JMO
Reviewed By:	JTC/AJR

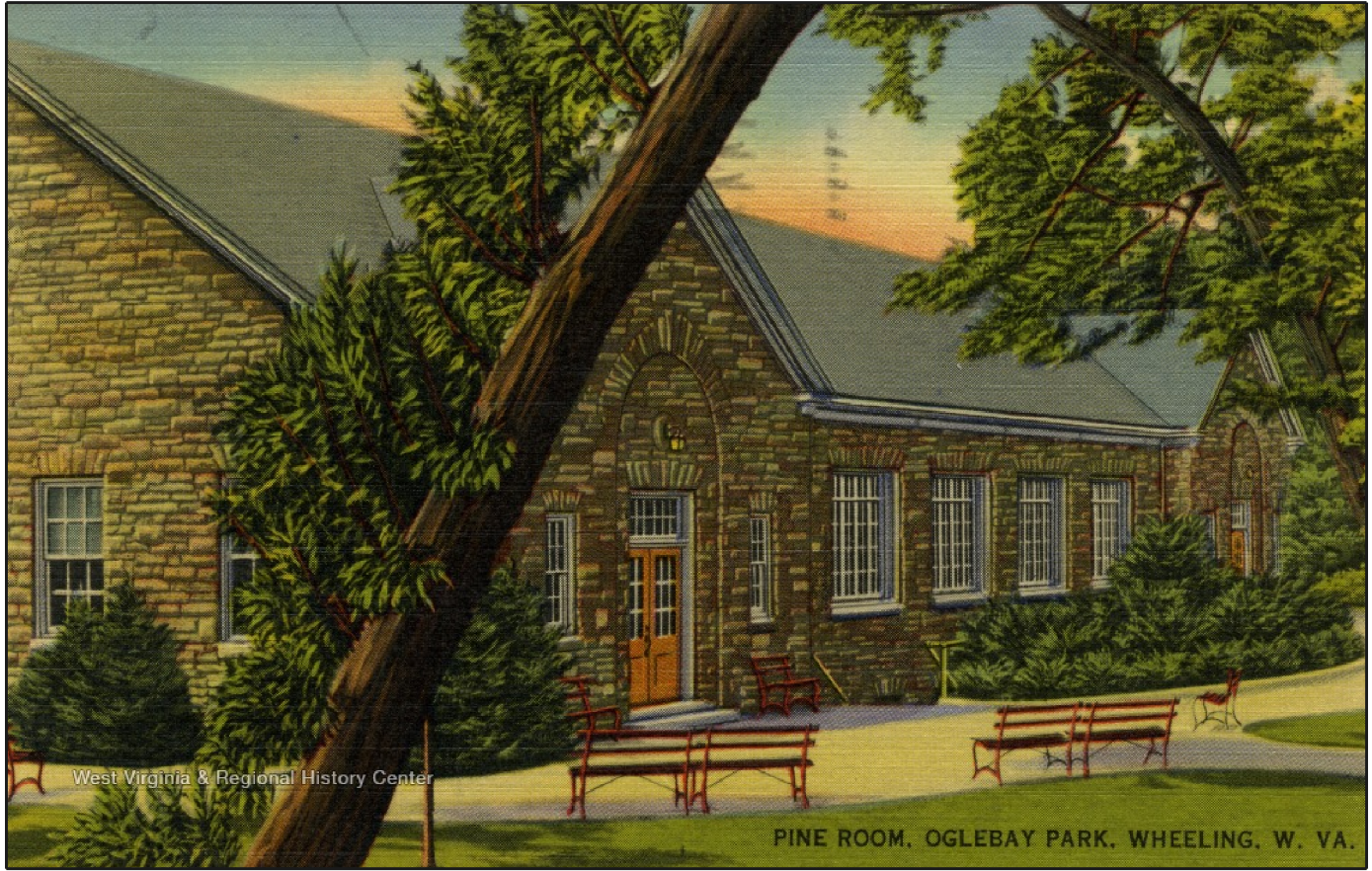
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Postcard of the Crispin Center, ca. 1942

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
City of Wheeling
Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure

7



West Virginia & Regional History Center

PINE ROOM, OGLEBAY PARK, WHEELING, W. VA.

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DATA SOURCE(S):
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Postcard of the Pine Room, ca. 1942

Crispin Center at Oglebay Park
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Ohio County, West Virginia

Figure

8