

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 PropertyHistoric name: Hunton Branch YMCAOther names/site number: Hunton-Randolph Community Center; DHR #118-0225-0558

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 1120 12th StreetCity or town: Lynchburg State: VA County: Independent CityNot For Publication: N/AVicinity: N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

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

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

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
DateVirginia Department of Historic Resources_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal GovernmentIn my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria._____
Signature of commenting official:_____
Date_____
Title :_____
State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

Hunton Branch YMCA
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL / meeting hall

EDUCATION / education-related

RECREATION AND CULTURE / sports facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL / meeting hall

EDUCATION / education-related

Hunton Branch YMCA
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT / International Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, STONE: Sandstone, METAL: Steel, Aluminum, ASPHALT, CONCRETE, GLASS

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The c. 1956 Hunton Branch YMCA is a one-story, International-style, concrete-block masonry recreational building clad in stretcher-bond brick veneer with a flat roof and exposed basement. The steeply sloping site creates a one-story elevation along 12th and Taylor Streets while the basement level is fully visible from Monroe Street as well as from the south and east parcel boundaries. The principal entrance is along 12th Street, a primary thoroughfare connecting the Diamond Hill neighborhood to former Dunbar High School and Lynchburg's downtown. The building's exterior retains a high degree of integrity with distinctive features including metal-sash windows, metal pipe railings, and large overhanging eaves clad in metal coping. The rear lot includes an athletic field and paved basketball court, currently in fair condition. The building interior has been modified over time, but retains its c. 1954 plan. The first floor features a vestibule from the main entrance opening to a common hallway and reception office with recreational and meeting rooms on either side. The stairwell opens to a common hallway and closet that connects to a former men's locker room, weight room, kitchen, and other service or administrative spaces. The building is in good condition despite areas of interior modernization, and past remodeling projects are largely reversible.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

Narrative Description

Site

The c. 1956 Hunton Branch YMCA stands on the southeastern corner of the intersection between 12th and Taylor Streets in the Diamond Hill neighborhood of Lynchburg, Virginia. The facade of this International Style recreational facility faces 12th Street with a mixture of historic residential and business development surrounding the parcel as well as the former Dunbar High School to the east. The site is along a roughly 12-foot natural bluff that has been graded and terraced over time.¹ As a result of this topography, the Hunton is a one-story building with a fully exposed basement along the southwest and southeast elevations, giving it the appearance of a full two stories from the rear.

Concrete sidewalks frame the parcel along the 12th and Taylor Streets. Stone curbing, typically dating to the 19th century or early 20th century, is still intact along 12th Street. There is a small, grassy yard that wraps along the corner of 12th and Taylor Streets lined with holly and nandina bushes. There is a large nandina bush beneath the façade's glass-block window. Sections of low, black metal fencing is installed along Taylor Street, preventing easy access to the grass. Some fence sections are loose. A side concrete stair connects Taylor Street to the exterior basement entrances to the rear of the building. A modern metal railing with square metal pickets lines 12th Street to the corner with Monroe Street and the adjacent parking lot, also once owned by the Hunton Branch YMCA and now part of the Hunton-Randolph Community Center currently occupying both parcels. The 215-foot by 100-foot paved parking lot sits on a separate parcel purchased by the City of Lynchburg in 1969 and transferred to the Hunton YMCA in 1994. However, this parcel is not part of the site boundaries due to its historically residential and commercial function prior to the installation of the parking lot and is independent of the mid-century history of the Hunton Branch YMCA.

Building Description

Exterior

The concrete block masonry building is clad in stretcher-bond brick veneer and sits on a concrete slab foundation. The flat roof is surrounded by a brick parapet wall with a concrete cap along the eastern block while the western block is characterized by boxed, cantilevered overhangs with metal coping. To unify the two blocks, this metal coping wraps across the 12th Street façade and along the northwest side elevation facing Taylor Street. However, the western block's overhang is supported by an integrated brick post and diminishes in width towards the building's northeast corner creating a slight trapezoid shape in aerial view. The blocked massing, a hallmark of the International Style, is clearly visible from all elevations.

The façade faces northwest along 12th Street with the primary entrance in the second bay of this five-bay building. A band of nine, three-over-three, double-hung, metal-sash windows pierces the eastern block of the façade. This band of windows is framed by sandstone molding along the

¹ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia*. Sanborn Map Company, 1907. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_005/.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

sill and sides of the windows, which then terminates at the cantilevered overhang. The basement level is exposed along the western half of the façade by a concrete retaining wall running approximately eight feet northeast parallel to the building and supporting a metal railing along the street-level sidewalk. As a result, the basement windows and other details are not visible from the street on the eastern side of the façade. In order to provide light to this lower level, there is a band of six, three-over-three, double-hung, metal-sash windows with horizontal muntins framed in a plain sandstone molding around all four sides of the window band. The building meets the retaining wall underneath the concrete ramp leading to the main entrance with an approximately eight-foot-wide, parged concrete wall pierced with a one-over-one, double-hung, metal-sash window sitting on a sandstone sill. These smaller windows are wider than they are tall, emphasizing the horizontality of the design throughout. An approximately three-foot-tall brick wall laid in stretcher bond rests on top of this parged wall and is capped with sandstone blocks. The brick wall supports a brick-veneer post with horizontal supports that tie into the exterior wall while also supporting the overhang above. A metal pipe bracket mounted to the brick-veneer post and the sandstone cap supports a white, metal sign inscribed with “1120 HUNTON RANDOLPH | COMMUNITY CENTER” in blue lettering.

A wide, concrete pad leads to the recessed main entrance at street level. The double-leaf entry is filled with metal and plate glass doors with metal handles and push-bars. The doors are surrounded by large, plate glass side lights set in wide, metal frames. The three-light transom extends the full width of the entrance recess with the center plate glass window matching the width of the double-door entry. To the left of this entryway, there is a metal-framed announcement board with a glass door. Below this display is a sandstone date stone with ‘1956’ inscribed. To the right of the entrance, there is a modern, black-painted metal mailbox. Above this mailbox is an exposed exterior-mount light box; however, the light fixture and other mounting hardware are no longer extant.

The west side of the façade is characterized by a glass block window that is seven blocks wide by ten blocks tall set in a metal frame and surrounded by a sandstone molding. This window lights the interior stairwell between the first and basement floors. To the left of the glass block window, two sets of paired one-over-one, double-hung, metal sash windows pierce the wall. These windows are also set in sandstone surrounds. The basement along the west side of the façade is not fully exposed. Instead, a concrete light well runs across a continuous section of the northwest and southwest elevations (12th and Taylor Streets). The brick veneer finish terminates just above the light well, revealing a parged concrete channel that is approximately three feet deep and approximately two feet wide. The outer wall of the light well is capped with a three-foot tall metal pipe railing. The lightwell begins immediately to the right of the glass-block window and is pierced by a row of three one-over-one, double-hung metal sash windows set over a sandstone sill with metal security grates. A single window of the same configuration is located to the right of the three-window ribbon near the building’s northwest corner.

The southwest side elevation fronting on Taylor Street features a secondary entrance filled by a single-leaf metal door with a single, narrow light capped with a flat, boxed overhang with metal coping. Wire connections from the street’s telephone poles tie into an exterior metal channel

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

immediately to the south of the door. A concrete metal ramp bridges over the light well and connects to the sidewalk along Taylor Street. Metal pipe railing surround the lightwell and the elevation's southwest corner is articulated by a large, projecting vent stack wrapped in stretcher-bond brick and capped with sandstone blocks. A flat, white metal sign is mounted immediately to the north of the entrance listing businesses currently renting office space within the building's first floor. A modern, black metal sconce with a dual light is mounted above the top right corner of the door. The metal pipe railings flanking the entrance have a decorative pattern that is not seen elsewhere in the building. The light well ends at the projecting vent stack. A parged concrete retaining wall perpendicular to Taylor Street rises two feet above street level and abuts the vent stack. This retaining wall is capped by a flat metal railing and forms part of the stairwell leading down from Taylor Street to the exposed basement of the building's rear elevation. The concrete stair has a knee wall and flat metal railing along the southern side with two flights of stairs joined by a wide landing. The stair ends at a poured concrete patio.

The southeast rear elevation's first floor is pierced by three paired sets of three-over-three, double-hung, metal-sash windows with horizontal muntins set over sandstone sills and surrounds. A fourth band three windows, of the same configuration, are located east of the paired windows. There is a shallow, flat roof overhang with metal coping on west block of this elevation. The basement level has a single-leaf entrance sheltered by a flat metal hood. Two downpipes provide drainage for the roof's gutter system. East of the door is a band of three two-over-two, double-hung, metal sash windows, also with horizontal muntins and set in a sandstone surround. The eastern block projects to the south and a set of windows pierces both the first and basement elevations on the west side of the projecting block. The window bays consist of five three-over-three, double-hung, metal sashes set in sandstone surrounds. The basement-level windows have projecting mounts that at one time supported metal grates. A single-leaf entry protected by a flat metal hood is located immediately to the north of this set of basement windows. Both entrances on this elevation open to a concrete patio enclosed by a parged concrete knee wall. The knee wall creates an L-shape that ends at a sidewalk that begins at the end of the exterior stairs and runs south of the wall and connects to the parking lot to the east. The south side of the projecting block does not feature any additional fenestration other than the continuation of the parapet wall capped with sandstone blocks. The former bluff to the west has been graded and terraced to create a flat, grassy yard.

The northeast side elevation features paired ribbons of five three-over-three metal sash windows in the same configuration noted throughout the building. Three gutters placed at even intervals on either side of the windows run from the bottom of the parapet wall to the ground level. The grassy yard surrounding this side elevation has a slight slope from north to southeast.

Interior

The first floor of the Hunton Branch YMCA features an entrance vestibule from 12th Street that opens to a small common area. Radiating off of this common area are rooms formerly used for recreation, meeting, and office space. Directly to the south is the attendant room with an open reception-style window and adjoining office. The reception window and office configuration remain intact. To the southeast of the attendant room is the Rumpus Room (as indicated in the

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

1954 plans), the largest room on the first floor that was utilized for a variety of purposes, including billiard tables. A smaller club room is located in between the Rumpus Room and the former lounge facing 12th Street.² The interior has undergone remodeling with drop ceilings, chair moldings, and painting throughout. However, these changes do not detract overall from the building's historic circulation patterns and function.

A long corridor extends past the attendant room to the secondary entrance on Taylor Street. The rooms from east to west along the north side of the corridor are: a closet, a women's bathroom and powder room, a janitor's closet, and a men's bathroom. On the south side of the corridor is the former check room. At the end of the corridor there is a short hallway spur leading to two offices and a second door from the check room.

² *Hunton Branch YMCA Plans*. 1954. Jones Memorial Library.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

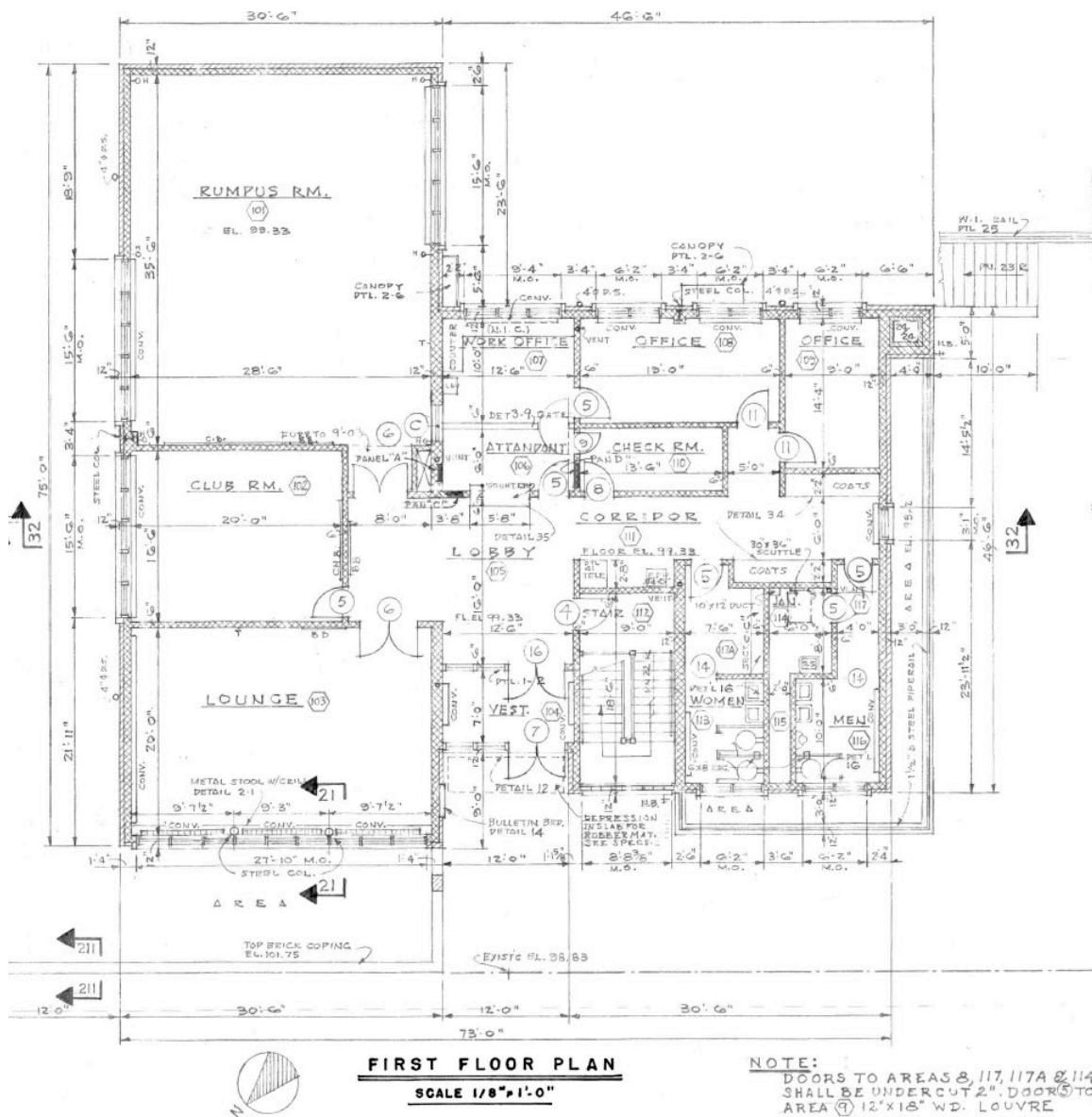


Figure 1 - Hunton YMCA First Floor Plan from 1954 Architectural Drawings. Courtesy of Jones Memorial Library

The two-flight stair connecting the first and basement floors is located to the west of the vestibule and common area. The single-leaf door to this interior stair opens from the common room and is lit by the glass-block window that is a distinctive feature of the 12th Street façade. The stair exits to the basement lobby and rooms radiate from this central space. To the north of the lobby is the former program storage area (this room corresponds with the parged wall visible underneath the walkway from 12th Street to the first-floor main entrance). To the east of the program storage room is the original craft shop room, which has historically also been used as a weight room. South of the craft shop is the largest basement room, known as the 'All Purpose Room.' This space has been used for meetings, banquets, and other functions throughout the Hunton YMCA's history. Immediately to the west of the All Purpose Room is the kitchen, which

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

still retains its historic tile walls, terracotta tile flooring, and ceiling-mounted heater. The western half of the basement level is dominated by mechanical rooms, storage rooms, janitor's closet, and men's locker room. From the lobby, the men's locker room, showers, and toilets occupy the northwestern quadrant. These retain many of their original finishes including small, tan tile, ceramic sinks, metal shower fixtures, and wall slots for the disposal of used razor blades. All of these rooms receive natural light from the exterior light well. Meanwhile, a corridor leading south to a single-leaf entrance door has storage rooms lining the east side and a heater room to the southwest that corresponds with the exterior vent stack visible from the Taylor Street and rear elevations.

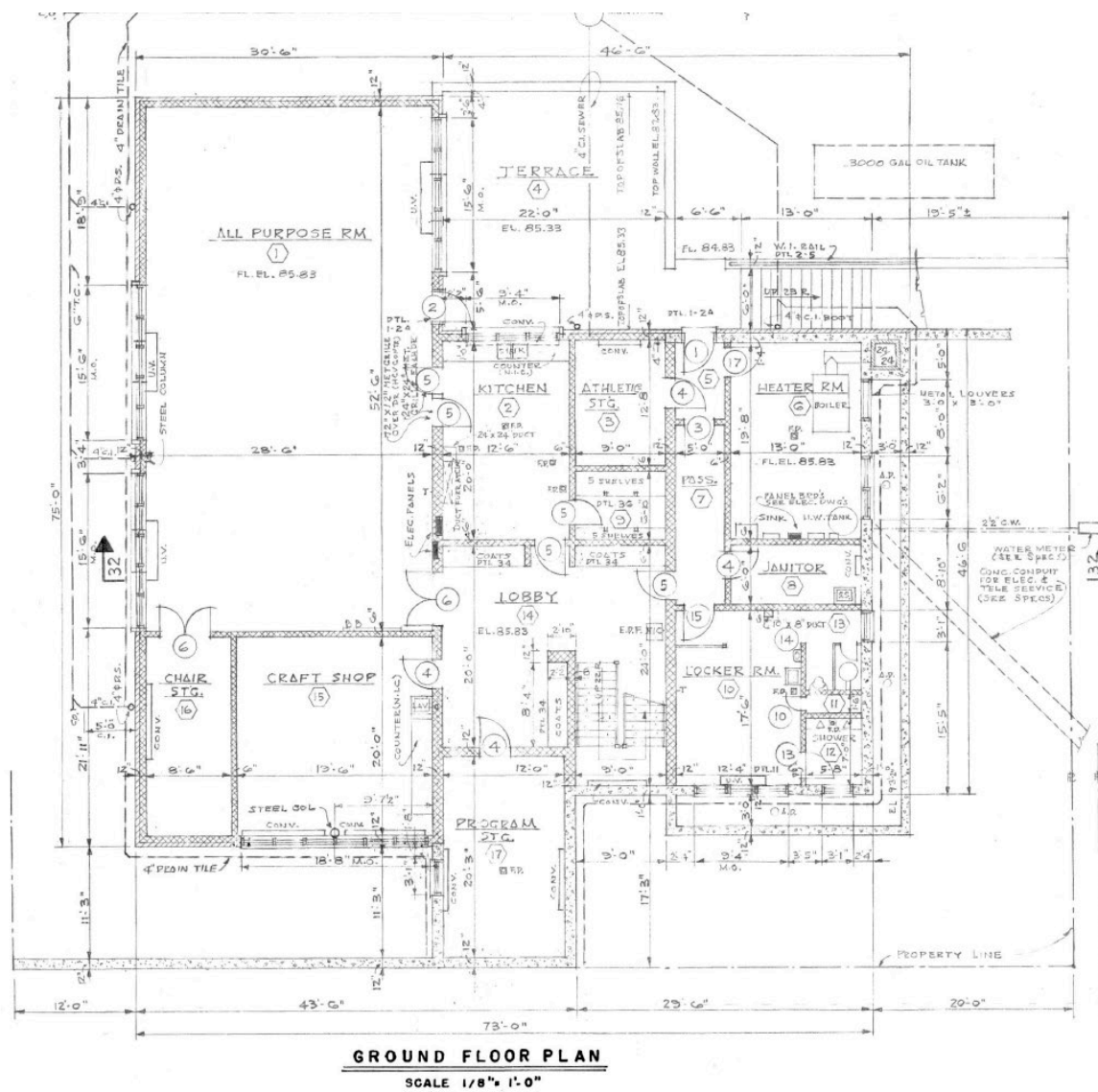


Figure 2 - Hunton YMCA Ground/Basement Floor Plan from 1954 Architectural Drawings. Courtesy of Jones Memorial Library.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

While the interior floorplan has been minimally altered, some original finishes have been covered by chair rails, modern laminate flooring, and acoustic tile drop ceilings. Bathrooms retain their original marble shelves and hallway storage with hanging rods and shelving matches the 1954 drawn architectural specifications. While drop ceilings have been installed throughout the first floor, missing sections reveal original perforated, square acoustic tiles as the ceiling finish. Additionally, light fixtures have been changed to florescent-tube lighting. Many of the ceiling lights were originally recessed, square fixtures with metal frames. The modern drop ceilings support additional cable chases for internet access and ductwork for the air conditioning system. However, the first-floor bathrooms and basement men's locker room have received only minimal changes over time. Additionally, while the All Purpose Room has a drop ceiling, that room is cooled with mini-split air conditioning units and ceilings in other rooms on that floor have not been modified as a result. The impacts of these additions are largely reversible. Mechanical and service spaces in the basement retain a variety of mid-century tube or metal pendant lights common in institutional and industrial settings.

Athletic Field (Contributing Site)

The rear lot behind the building has been graded to create a grassy athletic field immediately to the southeast that is roughly 190 feet long by 75 feet wide. The field remains in fair condition and is relatively level without significant washouts or other erosion impacts.

Basketball Court (Contributing Structure)

Continuing southeast from the athletic field, there is an asphalt paved 85-foot by 45-foot basketball court in poor condition. The paving has significant cracks throughout. A small gravel driveway provides access from the basketball court to Taylor Street.

Integrity Statement

The Hunton Branch YMCA retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The recreational building remains in its original location surrounded by a mixture of residential, educational and commercial development associated with the Diamond Hill neighborhood. The former Dunbar High School immediately to the east remains an educational campus as the Dunbar Middle School for Innovation. This mixture of uses has been present since at least the 1880s. By the 1950s, stable buildings along Taylor Street and other auxiliary buildings common to 19th-century life in Lynchburg had been demolished or replaced. Additionally, the bluff prevented development at the corner of 12th and Taylor Streets while businesses and residences lined Monroe Street.³ As a result, the site remained unimproved until the YMCA undertook the construction of the Hunton Branch.

The original design from the architecture office of Pendleton S. Clark is largely intact with its character-defining first floor massing, stretcher-bond brick veneer, metal pipe railings, sandstone detailing, metal window sashes, and central glass block stairwell window. The concrete ramp

³ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia*. Sanborn Map Company, Jan, 1885. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_001/.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

bridging the light well to the Taylor Street entrance is a significant design element that remains unaltered. Overall, exterior finishes remain intact with the exception of some light fixtures that have been removed.

The building retains its original entrance facing 12th Street even though the letter sign along the building's northeast roof line that spelled "HUNTON" is no longer extant. The plate glass entrance has been replaced with a modern, double-leaf plate glass entry. The flat overhang that wraps along the building's façade and northwestern side elevation has been slightly modified over time with a wider metal coping. However, the overall design remains faithful to the c. 1954 plans even though the integrity of materials and workmanship have been slightly impacted by these later renovations.

The interior has been modified with drop ceilings, chair railings, laminate flooring and florescent tube light fixtures; however, these modifications have not significantly impacted the original floor plan. Additionally, significant character-defining details such as the men's locker room and kitchen tile remain intact. Details like the in-wall razor blade disposal and metal shower fixtures are typically lost in buildings of this type with a history of continuous use. As a result, the interior retains integrity even with a modest diminished level in regards to materials, workmanship, and feeling, particularly in the first floor.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

Hunton Branch YMCA
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE - BLACK
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1956-1965

Significant Dates

1956

1965

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clark, Pendleton Scott (Architect)

Vail, Charles Lee, Jr. (Draftsman)

Henry D. Porter Company (General Contractor)

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

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

The Hunton Branch YMCA, located at 1120 12th Street in Lynchburg, is the only example of a purpose-built YMCA for African American residents in Lynchburg and one of the few remaining buildings that provided recreational space for the city's Black community, in particular men and boys. Planned in 1954, the same year that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* made school segregation illegal, the building was designed by prominent local architect Pendleton Clark and has remained an active recreational center up to the present. The Hunton Branch in Lynchburg remained separate from the Central Virginia YMCA even as the national YMCA formally desegregated in 1946. The Hunton Branch YMCA is nominated for listing at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Black Ethnic Heritage and Social History and Criterion C in the area of Architecture with a period of significance spanning from 1956, when construction was completed and the building opened to African American residents, to 1965, when the Lynchburg YMCA implemented an open-membership integration policy.

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

Justification of Criteria

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage – Black

The Hunton Branch YMCA maintains local significance under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage – Black as one of the few remaining buildings that housed an independently-run YMCA for African Americans in the mid-twentieth century. The building remained a segregated recreational center until 1965, when the Lynchburg YMCA instituted an integration policy. During the decade following its opening in 1956, the Hunton featured a robust schedule of programs with everything from youth craft days to sports tournaments. The Hunton regularly celebrated African American contributions to the history of Lynchburg, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation through its events, including its namesake William A. Hunton, who visited Lynchburg during his campaigns to establish African American YMCA branches in the 1890s.

Criterion A: Social History

The Hunton Branch YMCA meets Criterion A at the local level of significance for Social History as representative of the national Black YMCA movement that began in the late nineteenth century. While a resolution that called for ending segregation passed during the YMCA's World Conference in 1931 and a national anti-segregation policy was instituted in 1946, some Black YMCAs continued to serve their communities as essentially independent branches for the benefit of the African American community. Additionally, the Hunton served as a gathering location for Civil Rights leaders in Lynchburg and hosted programs preparing activists in non-violent methods of resistance. The Hunton hosted sports tournaments, dances, and other activities that brought together Black neighborhoods throughout Lynchburg along an

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

institutional core on 12th Street, which also houses Robert S. Payne Elementary School, Dunbar High School, and other educational buildings.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Hunton Branch YMCA meets Criterion C for Architecture at the local level of significance as a representative example of the International Style designed by notable local architect, Pendleton Clark, and drawn by Charles Vail, another well-known Lynchburg architect. This building is an intact example of the regional growth of mid-century modern architectural styles and the International Style in particular. Moreover, the Hunton Branch is representative of the social and recreational trends that developed during the 1950s concurrently with the desegregation movement. The building remained a segregated space and hub for the Black community when many other anchor institutions, such as schools, were forcibly abandoned in favor of former White-only spaces.

The design and construction took place early in Clark's adoption of Modernist detail and is part of a series of modern, segregated educational facilities for African Americans during the 1950s. These commissions are also part of the firm's transition from a Lynchburg-based company to dual offices in Lynchburg and Hampton Roads that began a steady pattern of growth to the international firm now known as Clark Nexsen.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Introduction

The Hunton Branch YMCA is located against a bluff along 12th Street, a major city thoroughfare, in the Diamond Hill neighborhood west of downtown Lynchburg within the Piedmont region of central Virginia. The James River runs roughly northwest-southeast forming the northeast edge of the city. As a result, Lynchburg's development from the historic downtown core has taken place to the west, north, and south over often steeply sloping terrain that dramatically rises to the west, giving it the moniker "Hill City" or "City of Seven Hills." There are, in fact, more hills defining local neighborhoods than the name suggests. Neighborhoods throughout the city are often bounded by ravines that create distinct development pockets and sometimes limit easy access between adjacent neighborhoods. Among the most well-known neighborhood hills in order of approximate date of establishment are: Court House Hill (1813), College Hill (1815), Federal Hill (1819), Franklin Hill (1820s), Diamond Hill (1820s), Franklin Hill (1870s), Garland Hill (1845), and White Rock Hill (1870). However, other significant hills include Cotton Hill (1880s) that developed around the Consolidated Textile Company mill and the African-American community of Tinbridge Hill (1890s-1910s).⁴ The geographic definition of neighborhoods by terrain throughout the early history of Lynchburg created not only a distinct sense of place among residents, but also became a source of identity and pride.⁵

⁴ Lynchburg Museum. "Seven Hills of History" <https://www.lynchburgmuseum.org/7-hills>

⁵ Hunton Memories Listening Session. Doris L. Waller, Phillip Edley, David L. Moseley, Lynn and Mike Cassidy, Phyllistine Mosley, Elmer W. Reid Jr., Misty V. Spitzer, Cynthia Coles, Tyrhee Williams, and Robert Goins, discussion lead by Laura R. Purvis. May 25, 2024.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

Lynchburg's name derives from its Quaker, abolitionist founder, John Lynch, who built a ferry crossing the James River in 1757 and subsequently established a settlement. Lynchburg grew quickly during the antebellum period transitioning from a frontier settlement to one of the wealthiest cities in the United States by 1855.⁶ In the 1850s through 1900, Lynchburg's Black population hovered between 40% and 50%.⁷ Of those residents, 7% were free; all others were enslaved prior to Emancipation in 1865.⁸ The enslaved population, largely factory workers, fueled Lynchburg's rapid growth through the wealth of the tobacco industry and manufacturing that developed along the James River.

The Diamond Hill neighborhood grew during this early period as Lynchburg transitioned from settlement to city. Residential advertisements began as early as 1825 and a women's group organized in the 1850s to build a bridge over the ravine connecting Diamond Hill to downtown. The property was annexed from Campbell County in 1870 into the City of Lynchburg and the ravine filled to allow uninhibited traffic flow between the neighborhood and business districts to the east.⁹

Property Development Overview

The property that became the site for the Hunton Branch YMCA remained undeveloped throughout the earliest phases of Lynchburg's history. Roughly five blocks to the east from the core development of Diamond Hill, the property sits near the neighborhood's boundary with College Hill along the Lynchburg & Salem Turnpike (now 12th Street) between Taylor and Monroe Streets. While 13th Street was platted in a grid over what is now the paved basketball court, it does not appear the street was ever constructed and operable in that location. As a result, the parcel for the YMCA extends past the original boundaries of 13th Street and abuts residential properties to the southeast.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Company did not begin covering the western developments of Lynchburg until 1895. The Payne Public School (noted as "colored") is a brick building with a water closet (exterior bathroom) in the rear of the lot bounded by 12th and 13th Streets with Monroe Street to the southwest and Polk Street to the northeast, immediately adjacent to the future Hunton YMCA lot. The blocks surrounding the 12th Street corridor were truly mixed-use. The WR Bowman & Company Tobacco storage was along Polk Street while a wood and coal yard abutted the Payne School lot. Meanwhile, there were four grocers and a general store near the intersection of Monroe and 12th Streets. On top of the bluff, immediately to the northeast of the modern Hunton YMCA footprint, there was a dwelling attached to a drug store with a small brick greenhouse in the rear. A cobbler also operated out of 1213 Monroe Street while two

⁶ Potter, Dorothy and Clifton. *Images of America: Lynchburg 1757-2007*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2007. 7,25

⁷ Laurant, Darrell. *A City Unto Itself: Lynchburg, Virginia in the 20th Century*. Lynchburg, Va: News and Advance, 1997. 80; Lynchburg Museum. "Hill City Roots: A Guide to Black History in Lynchburg, Virginia" <https://www.lyncburgmuseum.org/hill-city-roots>

⁸ Potter 25

⁹ Lynchburg Museum. "Seven Hills of History"

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

additional residences existed where the asphalt parking lot is located today. A small stable also sat on top of the bluff along Taylor Street overlooking what is now the athletic field.¹⁰

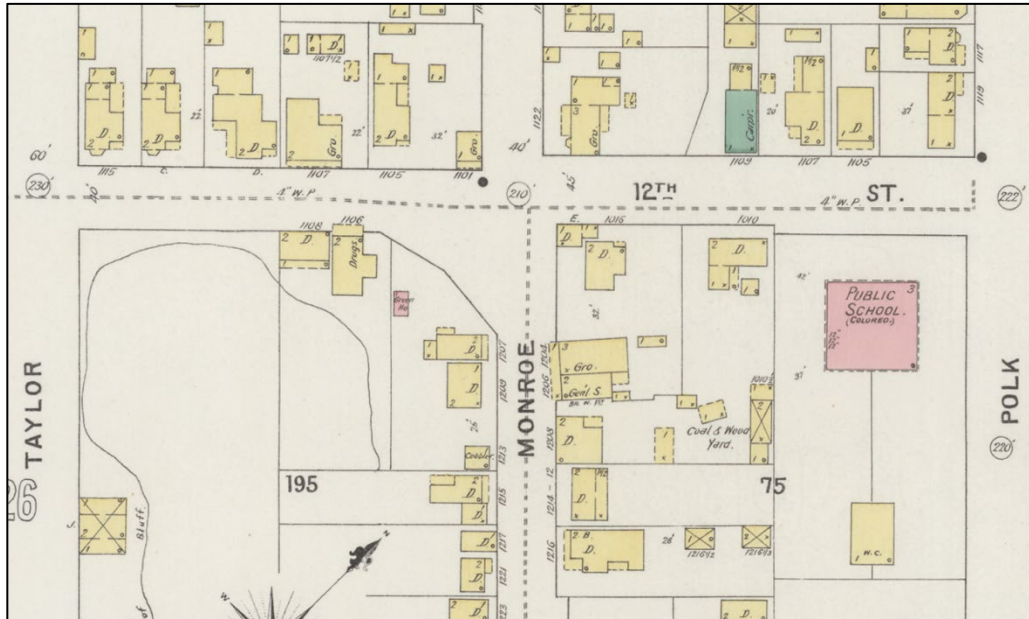


Figure 3: Sanborn Map of 12th Street vicinity between Taylor and Polk Streets. Future location of the Hunton Branch YMCA is vacant property on the southeast corner of Taylor and 12th Streets.

The Payne School became a central, public institution for Lynchburg's Black community when it opened in 1885 and joined the segregated educational system with Jackson Street High School (Lynchburg Colored High School) and Polk Street School. The area around the school became increasingly residential throughout the first years of the 20th century with only one grocer remaining at the corner of 12th and Monroe Streets by 1902 and St. Francis Catholic Church replacing the Bowman Tobacco Warehouse. The wood and coal yard beside Payne School remained, but was now behind a general merchandise store and warehouse that appears to have expanded into one of the former grocers. The cobbler's shop across the street also became vacant in that time.¹¹

On the northeast corner along 12th and Taylor Streets, the steep bluff was reinforced with a retaining wall by 1907, and the former drug store had been fully converted to a dwelling. A new drug store building followed the diagonal cut along the corner of Monroe and 12th Streets roughly in the same configuration as the sidewalk today that wraps along Monroe Street past the asphalt parking lot. Additional dwellings with rear sheds line Monroe Street and a new wagon shed perched along the top of the bluff in the vicinity of the modern basketball court and athletic field. The entire field area is labelled a 'deep hollow,' and the ground level is noted as 11 feet below 12th Street. Topographically, this parcel remained difficult to develop in the early 19th

¹⁰ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia. Sanborn Map Company, Sep, 1895. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_003/. 24

¹¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia. Sanborn Map Company, Feb, 1902. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_004/. 24

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

century. However, waterpipes had been installed on nearby streets, indicating sewer and public water upgrades that were happening nearby. However, it does not appear that these lines reached the dwellings and Payne School by the publishing of the 1907 maps.¹²

Dunbar High School, noted as Dunbar Colored High School on Sanborn maps, was constructed in 1923 over the former location of Bowman Tobacco and St. Francis Catholic Church. The brick building had a first-floor auditorium with a “moving picture machine” and forced hot air throughout. Residences that had previously been along Salem and 13th Streets were demolished and the former general merchandise building fronting Monroe Street was also abandoned.¹³

By 1947, both Payne School and Dunbar High School had undergone significant expansions while the Hunton YMCA site remained an unimproved hollow. With the introduction of Dunbar School and the closure of other historically Black schools, students from across the city were gathering at 12th Street each day. Although development in the surrounding area had continued throughout the first half of the 20th century, the topography of the parcel at Taylor and 12th Streets was underutilized despite being in close proximity to the African-American educational center anchored by the Payne and Dunbar Schools.¹⁴ However, change was coming when Inez Wells Holt and her husband Mark E. Holt sold four parcels along Taylor Street and fronting 12th Street to the Central Virginia YMCA on October 19, 1945 for the sum of \$5.00.¹⁵ Inez Wells Holt had inherited the land jointly with her aunt Martha Branch Wells from her aunt Anna N. Ford of Lynchburg through her will on January 31, 1931. Portions of land were reserved for other relatives and grandchildren. However, ownership of the property was eventually consolidated over the next decade. Martha Branch Wells of Petersburg, Virginia, died in 1944 and transferred sole ownership of the property to Wells Holt.¹⁶ Adrian Overstreet surveyed the property on May 31, 1945 to prepare a plat for Wells Holt and Virginia Ford Munkres. At that time, the entirety of the current Hunton Branch YMCA parcel was divided into four lots with the right-of-way for 13th Street still denoted, although unused.¹⁷

¹² *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia*. Sanborn Map Company, 1907. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_005/. 40

¹³ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia*. Sanborn Map Company, - Feb 1951, 1951. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_006/. 25, 40

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Lynchburg City, Virginia, Assessors Office. 19 October 1945. Deed Book 239: 542-3

¹⁶ Lynchburg City, Virginia, Assessors Office. 5 February 1932. Will Book 5: 42-3

¹⁷ Lynchburg City, Virginia, Assessors Office. 31 May 1945. Plat Book 12: 196

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

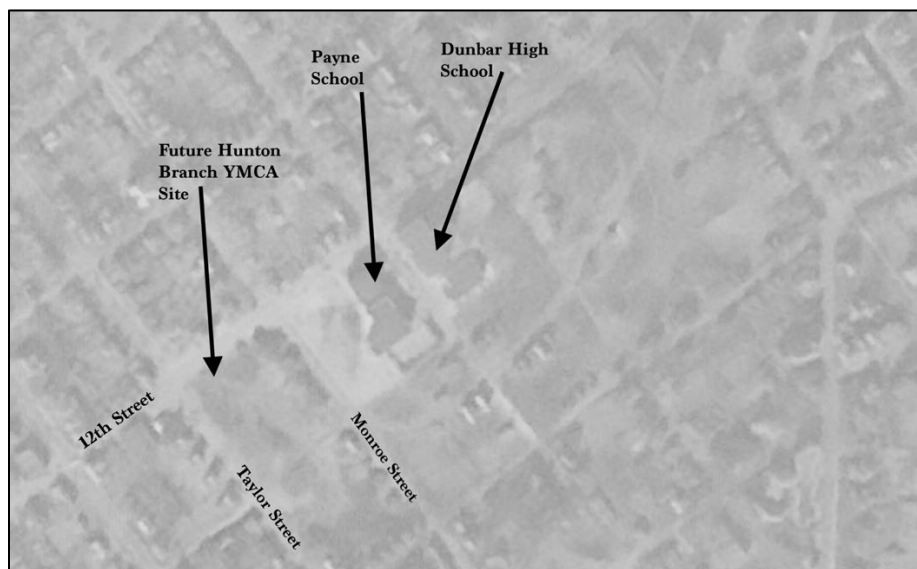


Figure 4: 1947 Aerial of Hunton Branch YMCA Site¹⁸

In the 1940s and 1950s, the residences immediately surrounding the 1200 block of Taylor and Monroe Streets often sold for anywhere from \$3,000 to \$6,000, with the house itself comprising the majority of the sale cost.¹⁹ While the land that Central Virginia YMCA purchased was difficult to develop and required terracing, the \$5.00 sum that Wells Holt received for four residential-size lots appears to be a reduced rate that would have supported the fundraising efforts to build the Hunton Branch YMCA.

Early Growth of the YMCA, William A. Hunton and Lynchburg's Colored YMCA

The purchase of the land a full decade before the completion and opening of the Hunton Branch YMCA in 1956 is an indication of the complex planning and fundraising that was often required for the development of new YMCA facilities for both whites and Blacks. However, those factors were quite different when George Williams and 11 friends met a century earlier in London to form the Young Men's Christian Association in 1844. The organization sought to create meeting places for men to gather in prayer, Bible study, and mission work as a moral buttress against the ongoing changes of modern life in the age of industrialization. Williams travelled widely and the YMCA concept rapidly gained popularity in the late 1840s and 1850s.²⁰ By 1851, Thomas Valentine Sullivan founded the first location in the United States as a "home away from home" for Boston's young men.²¹ Two years later, Anthony Bowen founded the first YMCA for African Americans in Washington, D.C. while working at the United States Patent Office. Bowen was enslaved in Prince George's County, Maryland, and purchased his freedom before moving to the nation's capital. He was a life-long advocate for education and the benefits of the

¹⁸ Aerial Single Tile Image courtesy of the U.S. Geologic Survey and EarthExplorer. Captured Feb 14, 1947. Scale 5600. Roll 2 Frame 137.

¹⁹ Lynchburg City, Virginia, Assessors Office. Property Detail Cards.

²⁰ Gene Tomlin. *A History of the YMCA in Central Virginia: 150 years of building strong kids, strong families, strong communities*. Lynchburg, VA: Warwick House Publishers, 2006. 68-9.

²¹ YMCA of the USA. "1800-1899 – YMCA History: The Founding Years" <https://www.ymca.org/who-we-are/our-history/founding-years>

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

YMCA. The formation of separate branches, exclusively for African Americans, continued throughout the 1860s with locations in Philadelphia, New York City, Harrisburg Pennsylvania, and Charleston South Carolina.²² The majority of these branches began in rented spaces and continued to function without a permanent facility.

While YMCAs were organized quickly, many branches did not own buildings. This was particularly true for the African American YMCAs, and only 5 organizations of the 21 located in cities by 1900 owned facilities. While African American men had experienced access to voting and political office during Reconstruction, the failure of those policies by the end of the nineteenth century and the implementation of strict segregation meant that men arriving in new cities for jobs lacked access to recreation, hotels, restaurants, and other services. African-American YMCAs became a partial solution to navigating cities in the post-Reconstruction era, which eventually drew the attention of nationally-prominent businessmen and industrialists like Julius Rosenwald, John D. Rockefeller, and George Peabody. William Alphaeus Hunton and Jesse Moorland, both hired first as Black secretaries in YMCA branches before rising to higher ranks, worked together to not only recruit support for Black YMCAs, but also secure funding for those facilities from those wealthy philanthropists.²³ The pair met in 1892 when Moorland worked as General Secretary at the Washington, D.C. branch, a position he eventually left to become Hunton's assistant in 1898 in the International Committee of the YMCA where they both worked to create a semi-autonomous structure for Blacks within the branch system. Hunton had grown up in the Canadian YMCA system after graduating from Wilberforce Collegiate Institute of Ontario while Moorland was a graduate of Howard University. Both were charged with expanding the African American branches and Moorland was particularly adept at cultivating a relationship with Rosenwald, Rockefeller, and Peabody.²⁴ Bowman's Washington, D.C. YMCA continued to grow after his death in 1871 and accepted \$25,000 from Rockefeller for the construction of a building on 12th Street NW that opened in 1912. After learning about the need for YMCA buildings across the country, Julius Rosenwald pledged \$25,000 to any city that could match those funds with \$75,000 raised within the community.²⁵ While those funds lead to national YMCA growth and encouraged training programs for African Americans, it does not appear that any iteration of Lynchburg's colored branch received funds from those sources in the early twentieth century. However, Lynchburg was well within Hunton's circle of outreach.

Hunton's experience with the YMCA began while working for the Department of Indian Affairs in Ottawa and attending a Methodist church with a largely white congregation. He became involved with the Ottawa YMCA branch as chairman of the Boy's Work Department in the integrated Canadian system of the 1880s. While the United States YMCA remained segregated, there was growing interest in hiring someone to lead African American recruitment, and

²² Peter M. Ascoli. *Julius Rosenwald: The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South*, Indiana University Press, 2006. 79-80

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ibid and Lutz, C. A. (2001). "The dizzy steep to heaven": The Hunton family, 1850-1970 (Order No. 3024347). Available from ProQuest One Academic. (275855640).

<https://go.openathens.net/redirection?url=https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/dizzy-steep-heaven-hunton-family-1850-1970/docview/275855640/se-2>

²⁵ Ascoli 79-80

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

Hunton's reputation in Canada proceeded him within the International Committee of North American YMCAs. White abolitionist Henry Edwards Brown became the traveling secretary for African-American work visiting churches and sharing information about the YMCA. His appointment came in 1879 when the first secretary and former Confederate General, George Johnston, left the position after a year in 1878. The Executive Committee of the United States YMCA included several people who advocated for African-American branches and desegregation despite the initial appointment of a Confederate General to conduct outreach to the African-American community. Cephas Brainerd, chairman of the Executive Committee and eventually the International Committee, was particularly outspoken and warned Brown to avoid the pitfalls of white paternalism that prevailed.²⁶ Brown began speaking at Black colleges and universities in 1883 after receiving invitations from several of those institutions and found success through 11 new branches organized in association with institutions of higher learning.²⁷ By 1887, the International Committee added a budget for work with African American associations. With funding in place, Brown began to search for ways to fill secretary positions at Black YMCAs. The branch secretary performs the functions associated with an executive director in other organizations and reports to the local association's board of directors which fund his salary. Branches must be financially self-sufficient and many African-American locations struggled to meet the requirements. Brown found that the branch in Norfolk, Virginia, was sufficiently funded and developed to support the first full-time black secretary hired by the United States YMCA. He courted Hunton, who eventually accepted the position and made the dramatic change from Canada to the American South in December 1888.²⁸ Hunton became the first full-time secretary of a 'Colored Association' in the YMCA of the United States.²⁹

While working at the Norfolk YMCA branch, Hunton befriended his future wife, Addie Waites, in 1890. Waites, from Norfolk, had attended high school in Boston and returned to Norfolk following her graduation. She became a suffragist, activist, and author and was deeply involved in the development of the National Association of Colored Women and the Young Women's Christian Association. While away teaching in Normal, Alabama for three years, she and Hunton exchanged letters until 1893 when they married that year on July 19. Hunton had been named the international secretary for "The Colored Men's Department" in December 1890 after working at the Norfolk branch and embarked on strengthening the network of African American YMCAs throughout the country.³⁰ Hunton's tenure at the Norfolk YMCA had led to the expansion of training for future Black secretaries and training classes offered at Howard University, among others. His appointment to the position marked the end of direct white oversight at the national level for African-American branches.³¹

²⁶ Nina Mjagkij, "Light In The Darkness: African Americans and the YMCA, 1852-1946" Muncie, IN: Ball State University, 2003. 30-31

²⁷ Mjagkij 33-34

²⁸ Lutz 89-100

²⁹ Mjagkij 35

³⁰ Lutz 106-108

³¹ Mjagkij 37-38

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

The YMCA movement had reached Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1856, but the white association disbanded and did not reorganize until after the Civil War in 1870. The group was loosely structured until 1883 when the state convention met in Lynchburg and spurred community funding. The Lynchburg YMCA moved into a rented space at the corner of Main and 8th Streets in 1885. The first mention of a "colored" branch occurs in 1892 located at 1118 8th Street with W. R. Smith as president of the board.³² Smith appears to have operated as a grocer at 315 Federal Street and Spotswood W. Taliaferro was the YMCA secretary at the time living at 919 Garland Street.³³ The African-American YMCA conventions began at the 1890, the same year that Hunton became international secretary. The convention, still in its infancy, came to Lynchburg in 1892.³⁴ While it is likely that the colored branch existed prior to 1892 due to being a convention site that same year, the arrival of African-American YMCA members from other associations accelerated the development of the branch in the same way that the earlier state convention encouraged growth in 1883. In his 1892 report for the Year Book, Hunton mentions attending the Lynchburg convention "of thirteen Associations" and that:

Much of my time has been devoted to the securing of funds for the support of local Associations. Colored people generally are poor, and they are already giving liberally for the support and extension of church and educational work. No more important work is now open to Christian philanthropists than the establishment of well-equipped Associations among the two millions [sic] of colored young men in the United States.³⁵

The 1892 Year Book also lists a YMCA branch at Virginia Baptist Seminary, Lynchburg's oldest historically black institution of higher learning with William A. Tate as association president and C. Wesley Morris as corresponding secretary. The school had changed names in 1890 from Lynchburg Baptist Seminary to Virginia Seminary, likely leading to the hybrid name published in the Year Book. At that time, two colored branches existed in the city. One was affiliated with the college, and one was independent.³⁶ The 1894 Year Book lists the Lynchburg Colored branch as owning a building and land valued at \$1600, presumably the building at 1118 8th Street, and owing \$1250 on that property.³⁷ That year E. F. Sheffey is listed as president with an active membership of 232 with 435 total members. The branch was regularly holding Bible classes and other meetings that year. The independent branch remained at 1118 8th Street through 1896.

Meanwhile, Lynchburg's white-led association was experiencing rapid growth throughout the first years of the 20th century and raised money to construct a new building at 1004 Church Street with a gym, swimming pool, library, auditorium, and dormitory that opened in 1907.³⁸ The Virginia Seminary branch was also active in 1900, but statistics for Lynchburg are only listed

³² Tomlin 4-5, 358

³³ Ibid 25-26

³⁴ Mjagkij 137

³⁵ 1892. "Year Book of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America, 1892." University of Minnesota Libraries, Kautz Family YMCA Archives. <https://umedia.lib.umn.edu/item/p16022coll351:10511>

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ 1894. "Year Book of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America, 1894." University of Minnesota Libraries, Kautz Family YMCA Archives. <https://umedia.lib.umn.edu/item/p16022coll351:8138>

³⁸ Tomlin 41-42

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

under the white-led association. Hunton led the first "Colored Student Conference" in Kings Mountain, North Carolina in 1912 and representatives from the Virginia Seminary and College attended; the college branch continued operations even as the independent branch wove in and out of yearly accounts.³⁹ The next mention of an independent "colored" branch occurs in 1914 at 813 5th Street. Given the early indications that a Black-led association owned a property for use by the YMCA in the 1890s, the change by 1900 suggests that either the Virginia Seminary group became more active or other pressures caused the other 'colored' Lynchburg association to no longer report statistics to the YMCA of North America while the white Lynchburg YMCA settled into their Church Street location.

The 1910s were a period of significant change in the national YMCA structure when Hunton died in 1916 and Jesse Moorland stepped into the vacant position. Hunton dedicated his career to advocating for African Americans and fighting against segregation in his work at the YMCA. Through his legacy, many of the branches he helped found remained fixtures of the Black community despite ongoing economic and social restraints. Several published histories indicate that the Hunton Branch was organized in 1919 by Edward Alexander Bondurant, who was in the first class of African Americans to graduate from public school in Lynchburg and remained active in the schools throughout his life while serving 41 years as a mail carrier.⁴⁰ While the Lynchburg Colored Branch appears inconsistently, the association shows up again 1001 5th Street in 1923.⁴¹ The Colored Branch listed that year in the Year Book with H.P. Weeden as chairman and Charles E. Johnson as secretary. The Year Book also states that this Colored Branch was organized in 1923 with 239 men and 71 boys as members, which suggests that the branch may have reorganized at some point in the late 1910s or early 1920s. The 5th Street building was valued at \$4000 with no debt listed on the property and 8 beds available as a dormitory.⁴² The Lynchburg City Directory also indicated that the branch may have started using the name Hunton by 1926.⁴³ Hunton's leadership and activism connected him directly to the city and he spent time at least annually with students from the Virginia Seminary. Naming the branch in his honor speaks to this connection and to the ties Hunton forged with local African-American branches of the YMCA.

The Early 20th Century – Planning for the Future

The manufacturing activity that had made Lynchburg a wealthy community in the mid-1800s continued to fuel the city's growth with the arrival of new enterprises like Craddock-Terry shoes, a company which became the largest local employer until the late 20th century. By 1915,

³⁹ National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States of America. Colored Work Department. 1890 - 1928. "Conferences. Student Conference Materials, undated and 1890-1928. (Box 5, Folder 2)." University of Minnesota Libraries, Kautz Family YMCA Archives. <https://umedia.lib.umn.edu/item/p16022coll353:1818>

⁴⁰ L.W. Spencer. "Bondurant, One Of Lynchburg's Oldest Citizens Claimed By Death" *New Journal and Guide*. Norfolk, Va. 14 February 1948. A16 See also Hunton-Randolph Community Center Files.

⁴¹ Tomlin 358, 360

⁴² 1922 - 1923. "Year Book of the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America, 1922-1923." University of Minnesota Libraries, Kautz Family YMCA Archives. <https://umedia.lib.umn.edu/item/p16022coll351:30541>

⁴³ Tomlin 364

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

Lynchburg ranked third wealthiest in the nation.⁴⁴ However, changing social and economic factors led to population shifts as well. The African American population in the city declined from nearly 50% in 1900 to 30% in 1920.⁴⁵ These overlapping realities – increasing wealth and impacts of the Great Migration – altered both the Black and white communities in Lynchburg as segregation and Jim Crow policies shaped Lynchburg’s social and educational institutions.

Architects and building professionals found significant work throughout Lynchburg and the surrounding counties during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as wealthy patrons invested both in education and their own residences. The Rivermont neighborhood northwest of downtown is a significant example of the type of architectural and community development that characterized this period as whites moved to other areas in the city. The Rivermont Land Company organized a planned streetcar community in 1890 that diverged from the city’s previous grid system and linked the land to downtown with a large bridge funded by the company. Tight deed controls included a 20-foot setback and set minimum costs for buildings constructed on the newly divided property. Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival designs dominated these new developments.⁴⁶

Meanwhile, Dunbar High School opened in 1923 directly across from the Payne School on 12th Street after years of advocacy from the African American community to the White-led schoolboard. This building marked a significant improvement in the Black facilities within the city’s segregated educational system and the continued growth of Lynchburg’s Black intellectual community with close ties to Virginia Seminary. The historically black enclave surrounding the 1300 and 1400 blocks of Pierce Street nearby became part of the Harlem Renaissance through poet Anne Spencer, who was the librarian at Dunbar from 1924 to 1945.⁴⁷ Other areas of the city, like Tinbridge Hill, became predominantly Black neighborhoods in the early twentieth century. One of Pierce Street’s other famous residents, Dr. Robert Walter “Whirlwind” Johnson, who trained tennis stars Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe, was building a tennis program through the Hunton with YMCA Whirlwinds by the 1930s. Johnson’s Whirlwinds defeated the Virginia Union University team on December 26, 1935 and noted in the *New Journal and Guide*, a Black newspaper based in Norfolk, Virginia, that: “The ‘Y’ Whirlwinds would like to play games with outstanding teams in the country. Information should be sent to Dr. R. Walter Johnson, manager, 901 Fifth Street., Lynchburg, Va.”⁴⁸

In 1936, the Hunton Branch in Lynchburg celebrated 10 years of stable operations under the guidance of J. T. Harris, secretary. An article in the *New Journal and Guide* suggests that earlier African American YMCAs in Lynchburg may have dissolved or lost their YMCA affiliation, thus leading to the variety of dates and locations prior to the 1920s. In the years between 1926

⁴⁴ Laurant. *A City Unto Itself*. 66

⁴⁵ Ibid 87

⁴⁶ Alison Stone Blanton. “Rivermont Historic District National Register Nomination” Virginia Landmarks Register. National Park Service, 2003. https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/118-0334_Rivermont_HD_2003_NRHP_Final_updated_2020.pdf

⁴⁷ Laurant. *Inspiration Street*. 23-25, 33-38

⁴⁸ “YMCA Whirlwinds Beat Union 5 to 38” *New Journal and Guide*. Norfolk, VA. 4 January 1936. 16

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

and 1936, the Hunton Branch became an educational center offering classes in first aid, auto mechanics, and Bible studies. There was also an active sports program including basketball, tennis, dodge ball, and baseball. Joining with Court Street Baptist Church and other Black institutions throughout Lynchburg, the Hunton Branch coordinated speakers and meetings that highlighted issues like the presence of white administrative staff in Black schools, presented performers like Madam Lillian Evanti (who performed at the White House by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's invitation) and brought notable leaders like Dr. Vernon Johns and P.B. Young, editor of the *Norfolk Journal and Guide* to Lynchburg. Like many other YMCAs, the Hunton Branch hosted father and son dinners and health meetings. The health meetings took place at Dunbar High School to reach a larger section of Lynchburg's Black population. Youth conferences were jointly developed between the YMCA and the YWCA. Harris, who also served as secretary of the Lynchburg Interracial Committee, closed his 10-year retrospective with a plea that the Hunton Branch's programs had rapidly grown far beyond the capacity of their building, but the Depression had put any building plans on hold.⁴⁹ Expanding programs by working cooperatively with the community was among Harris' avowed values.

The challenges facing African Americans only grew, and some of those were, unfortunately, home-grown. Carter Glass, who worked at his father's newspaper in Lynchburg and eventually took ownership of the Lynchburg Daily News and the Daily Republican, transitioned into politics and served as one of Virginia's United State Senators from 1920 until 1946. He was a well-known supporter of segregation and befriended Jim Crow while being lauded for his changes to the Federal Reserve and banking in the United States. His political influence was deeply felt throughout Lynchburg through his continued involvement in the local newspapers. He led the charge to disenfranchise African American voters during the 1901-1902 Virginia Constitutional Convention through poll taxes and literacy tests. His efforts resulted in a roster of voting African Americans to drop sharply from 147,000 to 21,000. Any efforts by the YMCA to encourage voter registration were undermined by Glass' crusade.⁵⁰

In this environment, the Central Virginia YMCA and its Hunton Branch began a renewed campaign in the 1940s to fund new buildings for each group and remove debts incurred from ongoing building improvements that took place in the 1920s prior to the Great Depression. At the national level, interracial relations within the YMCA were under scrutiny. The segregation of African American facilities and lack of equal funding were especially criticized throughout the 1930s. World War II intensified those conversations as a result of the Double V campaign (victory overseas for democracy as well as at home) and resulted in African American association leaders challenging the YMCA to "remove all bars to membership based upon race and color alone. The reason is obvious: it is simply unchristian..."⁵¹ Walker C. Pettyjohn, then president of the Lynchburg board stated that, "the Negro population must have better equipment.

⁴⁹ "10th Anniversary of Lynchburg 'Y' Noted" *New Journal and Guide*. Norfolk, VA. 18 January 1936. 11

⁵⁰ Ellen Welch. "Senator Carter Glass 1858-1946: The Good and the Bad" Notes from Under Grounds: The Blog of the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, 2021.

<https://smallnotes.library.virginia.edu/2021/09/01/senator-carter-glass-1858-1946-the-good-and-the-bad/>

⁵¹ Mjagkij 125

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

Rented quarters and limited equipment is not conducive to constructive progress and service.”⁵² By 1944, J.T. Harris had become the first Black president of the Lynchburg Ministers Association.⁵³ In 1946, the national YMCA finally passed a resolution for the desegregation of all associations, dissolved the Colored Works Department, and abolished all racial statistics in publications.⁵⁴ However, it is apparent that this change had not reached the Lynchburg YMCA by 1947. At that time, the Hunton Branch was operating in the former Jackson Street School and modest renovations were completed in 1946 for an “office, reception hall, separate lavatories, lounges, game rooms for men and boys, and restroom.”⁵⁵ Throughout the 1940s and 1950s there were classes available in typing and other training programs while football games were organized against neighboring YMCAs. The 1947 campaign brochure featured photographs of J.T. Harris, J.L. Mitchell, and H.A.M. Johns. Johns became an outspoken advocate for improvements needed at Dunbar High School that were ignored by Lynchburg’s Board of Education throughout the 1940s and 50s. The Hunton Branch’s campaign was boosted by the purchase of the site at 12th and Taylor Streets in 1945 – their new facility had been years in the making. The subsequent fundraising campaign materials combined the goals for both buildings for a total estimated budget of \$500,000.⁵⁶ The campaign fell short and the YMCA was forced to regroup and delay its building plans. The Hunton held on to the land purchased for its future building while all other fundraising activities were suspended.

By the middle of the twentieth century, the Civil Rights movement challenged the dominance of Senator Glass’s opinions and policies both in the state and within Lynchburg. Many prominent African-American businessmen and leaders were members at the Hunton Branch YMCA, including C.V. Wilson, a local mortician who in 1946 was the likely the first black candidate for Lynchburg City Council since the 1880s, and Dunbar High School principal C. W. Seay, who did become the first Black member of City Council in 1970.⁵⁷ The 1954 decision on *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* ruled that public school segregation was in violation of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution and ended the implementation of “separate but equal” facilities that followed the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision. While changes reverberated throughout the country with this ruling, nearby Prince Edward County’s school system joined the original case as well as the subsequent ruling in 1955 that desegregation needed to take place “with all deliberate speed.”⁵⁸ Rather than integrate, Virginia began policies of Massive Resistance in which schools closed instead of following Supreme Court Orders led by United States Senator Harry F. Byrd. The Pupil Placement Board also formed in August 1956 to review all student transfers to different schools, creating an additional barrier to integration.

⁵² Tomlin 143

⁵³ L.W. Spencer. Lynchburg Ministers Association To Have First Colored President” *New Journal and Guide*. 14 October 1944. 14

⁵⁴ Mjagkij 126

⁵⁵ “Lynchburg Moves Into School” *New Journal and Guide*. Norfolk, Va. 21 Sept 1946. 15

⁵⁶ Ibid 139

⁵⁷ L.W. Spencer “Wilson Announces Candidacy for Hill City Council” *New Journal and Guide*. Norfolk, Va. 16 February 1946. 1

⁵⁸ Laurant *A City Unto Itself*. 111

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

The YMCA organization formally announced a hold on new buildings by 1950. Interestingly, this happened just as the new Phyllis Wheatley Branch building of the Young Women's Christian Association opened for Lynchburg's African American women. The men's association took a four-year pause on its capital campaign as W. Lawson Driskill settled into his role as general secretary. Driskill originally joined as membership and social secretary in 1923, the same year he graduated high school, and rose throughout the organization, ultimately taking the lead role in 1943 upon the death of the previous general secretary Will G. Cartich.⁵⁹ Summer programs continued during this time, including summer stays at Camp Bibee which Driskill directed prior to becoming general secretary. The Hunton Branch received a week each year for their members to enjoy the camp after the white camps had concluded. While the wait continued on the YMCA building program, secretary Harris announced his resignation from the Hunton Branch after 35 years. He had grown the 1923 membership from 8 men and 12 boys to 135 total in his first year and 735 at his retirement. His other accomplishments included the creation of the Bethune Community Center, the first Black nursery school, and industrial outreach programs.⁶⁰

Driskill announced a renewed fundraising campaign in May 1954 for the remaining \$497,000 to construct buildings designed by Pendleton S. Clark, a prominent local architect living in a home he designed in 1930 at 104 Lee Circle the Rivermont neighborhood. The new total for both projects had risen dramatically to \$945,000, and the new fundraising goal included funds raised during 1940s campaigns. W. E. Gordon, a local dentist and World War II veteran, was chairman of the Hunton Branch YMCA management committee and lead the branch's phase of the capital campaign. While Wilcox Brandon had filled the Hunton's executive secretary position in October 1954, he left a year later due to personal matters likely related to his divorce. Ernest W. Mosby, who served as the boy's work director for years, became acting executive secretary as construction unfolded at the new Hunton Branch.⁶¹ The Lynchburg YMCA had not taken this intervening period to integrate the facilities or change the plans for two separate buildings. While the national YMCA promoted integration, the Hunton Branch remained a distinct space for African Americans navigating the Civil Rights movement and desegregation.⁶²

Construction of the Hunton Branch at 12th and Taylor

The 1954 Lynchburg YMCA fundraising campaign was successful just as the *Brown v. Board* decision fundamentally changed the landscape of education in Virginia. Driskill secured Pendleton Clark's firm to prepare drawings for both the Church Street and Hunton Branch buildings. The both sets of drawings reflect similar materials and finishes, but the Hunton Branch remained notably smaller. Additionally, Church Street plans included a pool, dedicated gym and a full suite of recreational, educational, and administrative rooms. The Hunton Branch lacked a pool and consolidated its functions into three rooms upstairs and two basement rooms with a kitchen. The men's locker room with showers also was located in the basement floor.⁶³

⁵⁹ Tomlin 133-134

⁶⁰ "Lynchburg Secretary Resigns after 35 Years" *New Journal and Guide*. Norfolk, Va. 26 April 1952. 6

⁶¹ "Wilcox Brandon Resigns YMCA's Lynchburg Post" *New Journal and Guide*. Norfolk, Va. 1 October 1955. 4

⁶² Tomlin 171-174

⁶³ Architectural Drawings. *Lynchburg Architectural Archive*. Jones Memorial Library.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

However, even with the disparity in size, the new Hunton Branch YMCA marked the beginning of a new chapter.

The new, architect-designed building was a distinctive addition to both Lynchburg's building history and the African American institutional buildings that now lined 12th Street. Pendleton Clark was born in Lynchburg in 1895, attended Augusta Military Academy and gained an Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1917. Back in Lynchburg following Naval service in World War I, he started his own architectural practice in 1920 until Virginia passed laws requiring the registration of architects. He received certificate #60 in 1921 and resumed work in partnership with Walter Rogers Crowe until 1936. While his early work is largely residential, Clark added institutional projects to his portfolio with a contract to design the Maids' Dormitory at Sweet Briar College for Ralph Adams Cram of the nationally respected firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson. Clark increasingly accepted commissions for college campus buildings and public schools and joined the Virginia Chapter of the American Institute for Architects in 1924. Clark reopened his architectural practice in 1946 after returning from service in World War II and his projects increasingly transitioned from Georgian, Colonial Revival, and vernacular designs to modern influences.⁶⁴ By 1950, he was adding more people to his firm and forming partnerships that eventually resulted in the creation of Clark, Buhr, & Nexsen.⁶⁵ The firm maintained large contracts in both Lynchburg and Hampton Roads, eventually working across the country. Today, Clark Nexsen is a nationally-respected firm based in Hampton Roads with international offices and large, federal contracts.

Clark's adoption of modern design principals is most evident in his institutional work. He designed E.C. Glass High School in 1953, which remains one of his most-recognized mid-twentieth century buildings. However, Clark experimented with this style earlier in the 1950 design for Jackson P. Burley High School in Charlottesville working with the firm of Baker, Heyward, & Llorens based in that city.⁶⁶ These commissions appear to establish a trend in Clark's firm as they engaged in several projects throughout the early 1950s designing African-American schools and marks an important transition within the firm that immediately informed the design of future work like the Hunton Branch YMCA.

The Hunton Branch 1954 plans were drawn by Charles Vail, a young draftsman in the firm, who eventually designed the 850-seat sanctuary at Thomas Road Baptist Church for televangelist Jerry Falwell.⁶⁷ Reviewing Vail's early work from 1953 and 1954, he drew several African American schools, all with modernist details in a vocabulary similar to the Hunton Branch YMCA. The consistency in horizontal massing, metal-sash windows, flat rooves, and brick

⁶⁴ S. Allen Chambers. "Pen Clark's Architectural Career Between the Wars" *Lynch's Ferry: A Journal of Local History*. Lynchburg, Va: Blackwell Press, Fall/Winter 2017. 4-21

⁶⁵ Bill Burleson "Lynchburg Profiles: Boy Who Liked to 'Draw Things' Became a Leader in Architecture" *Lynchburg News*. 17 December 1959. Section B-1.

⁶⁶ Maral S. Kalbian and Margaret T. Peters. "Jackson P. Burley High School National Register Nomination" Virginia Landmarks Register. National Park Service, 2020. https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/104-5276-0064_Burley_School_2020_NRHP_FINAL.pdf

⁶⁷ American Institute of Architects. "Charlie Lee Vail, Jr." *American Architects Directory*. London and New York: American Institute of Architects, 1970. 938

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

veneer over concrete block construction is undeniable in new high school designs for Amherst County as well as the Hunton Branch YMCA. While some of his early projects survive, including the former segregated Amherst County high school, the Hunton Branch YMCA is unique in the preservation of finishes, interior organization, and other details throughout that the draftsman drew and specified.

With drawings and funding now in hand, the YMCA broke ground on the Hunton Branch on April 17, 1955. Harris came out of retirement to be the first to place a shovel in the ground and remarked that the ceremony was a “symbol of new life” for the Hunton. The parcel had been under YMCA ownership for nearly a decade and used the land for a playground while waiting for the new building, which was in keeping with Harris’ management philosophy to maximize the resources available to serve the community. Henry D. Porter and Company submitted the lowest bid for the Hunton Branch construction and did not bid on the Church Street building. Porter, a graduate of the University of Virginia and World War II veteran, had been a general contractor for industrial, commercial, and residential projects in the area since the 1940s and initially had an office at the Forehand Building at 803 Church Street before moving to 504 Forest Street in Lynchburg.⁶⁸ The company worked on a variety of projects throughout the region under local and state contracts that included everything from renovations at the Oakwood Country Club to the construction of industrial buildings and schools.⁶⁹ Bids for the Hunton had been restricted to firms within the Lynchburg area and Porter remained a well-known general contractor until his gradual retirement in the 1970s. Henry was a member of the YMCA active in fundraising for the new buildings (as well as paying off remaining debt later) and received praise during the 1954 fundraising campaign for securing double his assigned fundraising quota.⁷⁰ He also became the secretary-treasurer for the Virginia Branch of the Associated General Contractors of America in 1958.⁷¹ His wife, Berniece Porter, served as the company’s secretary, served as Lynchburg chapter president of the National Secretaries Association, and was Secretary of the Year in 1977.⁷² Newspaper reports indicate that they did hire African-American workers for projects.⁷³ Before Henry D. Porter and Company could begin their work, the city relocated sewer lines to accommodate the project.⁷⁴

Photograph aerials taken in February 1955 reveal that some grading changes had already been completed in anticipation of the project.⁷⁵ The bluff no longer followed the curve documented in Sanborn maps, but residences remained in the location of the current asphalt parking lot on the adjacent property. Residences once located to the south and east of Dunbar High school were largely demolished by 1955 and new additions on both schools marked significant expansions.

⁶⁸ “Henry D. Porter” *The News and Advance*. 2 November 1992. 9

⁶⁹ “Club’s Renovated Grill Room Open Tomorrow Night” *The News and Advance*. 23 May 1952. 17

⁷⁰ “\$45,654 Reported at Y Worker Meet” *The Daily Advance*. 15 May 1954. 2

⁷¹ “Contractors Name Henry D. Porter” *The Daily Advance*. 26 February 1958. 2

⁷² “SOTY Award Winner Names By Chapter” *The News and Advance*. 21 November 1976. 38

⁷³ “Ancient Relics Turn Up In Main St. Excavation” *The News and Advance*. 30 August 1956. 11

⁷⁴ “Prelim Work Gets Started On Y Buildings” *The Daily Advance*. Lynchburg, Va. 18 April 1955. 24

⁷⁵ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia*. Sanborn Map Company, - Feb 1951, 1951. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_006/. 25, 40

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

The c. 1950 Amelia Pride Building housing the girl's home economics center was constructed northeast of Dunbar and is clearly visible in the 1955 aerial views.⁷⁶

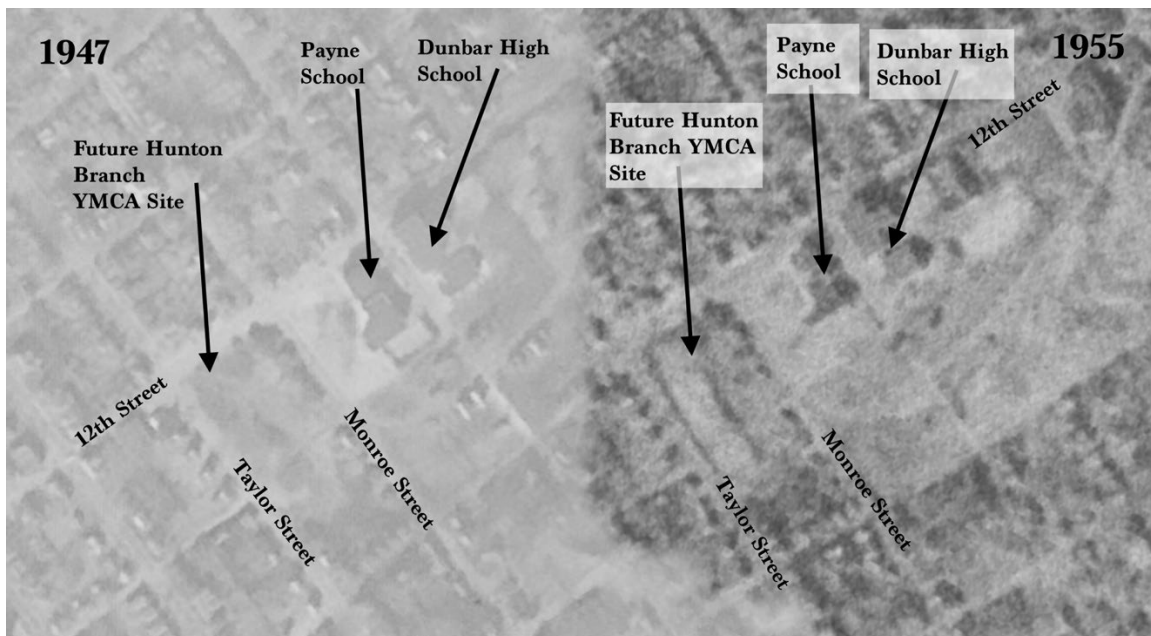


Figure 5 Comparison of 1947 and 1955 aerials over YMCA, Payne School, and Dunbar High School

The building permit for the project with a cost estimate of \$178,000 was issued on April 28, 1955, following preparatory site work.⁷⁷ Meanwhile, the new Church Street YMCA with three floors and much larger footprint featured an estimated cost of \$767,000. The Hunton's estimate varied significantly in later reports down to \$105,000. By July, the excavation work for the basement and foundations was still in process and the AF&AM Masonic Lodge set the building's cornerstone on October 18th with a small ceremony.⁷⁸ The walls rose above 12th Street by November as crews worked to roof the building before the arrival of winter.⁷⁹

C. C. Moore joined the Hunton as the new executive secretary on April 1, 1956, leaving his native Jackson, Mississippi for the new job as the Hunton construction project was nearly finished. He had experience as the boy's work secretary in the Jackson YMCA system and brought stability that had waivered somewhat since J. T. Harris' retirement.⁸⁰ The new building opened on Monday, April 16, 1956, when Moore had been on the job for just two weeks. Lynchburg's *The Daily Advance* announced the near-completion of the building and photographed both the exterior as well as general secretary Driskill with executive secretary

⁷⁶ Aerial Single Tile Image courtesy of the U.S. Geologic Survey and EarthExplorer. Captured Feb 14, 1947 and Feb 10, 1955.

⁷⁷ "Building Permits" *The News and Advance*. 29 April 1955. 28

⁷⁸ "Hunton Cornerstone To Be Laid Tuesday" *The Daily Advance*. 17 October 1955. 35

⁷⁹ "Branch YMCA Takes Form" *The Daily Advance*. Lynchburg, VA. 4 November 1955. 18

⁸⁰ "Lynchburg YMCA Gets New Head." *New Journal and Guide*. Norfolk, Va. 24 March 1956. 6

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

Moore in the first-floor lounge that had already been outfitted with matching mid-century furnishings.⁸¹

The Hunton's New Life – 1956 to 1970

Over a decade in the making, the new Hunton Branch YMCA building at 12th and Taylor Streets welcomed its African American community with an Open House on April 22, 1956, from 12:30pm to 6:30pm. The week prior, the branch added six men and 13 boys to the roster to experience the first purpose-built facility that the Hunton had ever known.⁸² Camp excursions continued, programs resumed their routine, and members found even more ways to enjoy the new space, including outdoor movie nights sponsored by the Hunton Ladies Auxiliary.⁸³ While the building did not provide women's recreational facilities, there was now a designated women's bathroom on the first floor.

A formal dedication took place on November 18 with Reuben Clay, a Richmond YMCA board member and racial affairs officer for the Federal Housing Administration, speaking to attendees.⁸⁴ Clay's remarks were not summarized in the press, but he was a well-known advocate for increased housing for African-Americans throughout the country in his professional life.⁸⁵ While the Hunton Branch had been in operation since April, the Church Street building would not fully open until November 26. As a result, administrators clustered the dedications around the 100th anniversary of the Lynchburg YMCA, which organized in June 1856, celebrating on November 19th with cake, tours, and a speech by former governor Colgate Darden, Jr., at the Church Street building.⁸⁶ The Church Street dedication included a resolution stating that both buildings would work to support the youth of Lynchburg, even as they remained segregated.

The Hunton Branch had a busy activities calendar for months before the Church Street building opened. The African-American garden clubs (Progressive and Blue Ridge groups) moved their annual Christmas flower show to the Hunton in 1956 amidst the flurry of activities for men and boys.⁸⁷ Companies even used the facility for segregated parties for their Black employees.⁸⁸ Community leaders continued their strong connections to the YMCA in this new building, and a new generation worked to break down segregation barriers in other offices throughout Lynchburg. In 1956, Lynchburg recruited and then hired its first two Black police officers, Elmore Dickey and Walter Farrow. Farrow, 23 years old at the time, was a dedicated member of the YMCA serving as president of the Phalanx Club, a young men's group, and serving on the Committee of Management that focused on the branch's policies.⁸⁹

⁸¹ "Hunton Y To Open Monday" *The Daily Advance*. 13 April 1956. 20

⁸² "Hunton Branch Y Open House Sunday" *The News Advance*. 20 April 1956. 24

⁸³ "Hunton Auxiliary Sponsors Movie" *The News and Advance*. 10 August 1956. 19

⁸⁴ "YMCA Dedication Set for 8 Tonight" *The Daily Advance*. 19 November 1956. 21

⁸⁵ Michael Eric Taylor. *The African-American Community of Richmond, Virginia: 1950-1956*. Richmond, Va: University of Richmond, 1994. 56

⁸⁶ "YMCA Dedication Set For 8 Tonight" *The Daily Advance*. 19 November 1956. 21

⁸⁷ "Garden Clubs Hold Yule Meet" *The News and Advance*. 17 December 1956. 9

⁸⁸ "Mead to Sponsor Employee Parties" *The Daily Advance*. 18 December 1956. 14

⁸⁹ "First Negro Police Officers Begin Duty on Fifth St. Beat" *The News and Advance*. 30 December 1956. 18

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

By 1957, the Hunton Branch was fully engaged with state-wide tournaments, celebrations, and conferences. They hosted a 12-hour sports festival in April with so many activities that events spilled over into the Dunbar High School gym and the City Amory.⁹⁰ E. W. Mosby, boy's work secretary, was instrumental in coordinating the youth programs throughout this transition. Just a few days later leaders of the annual membership campaign hosted a victory dinner upon surpassing their goal of 300 new members by 68 additional men and youth.⁹¹ The dinner traditions continued with the 25th-annual parent-son event (notably, both mothers and fathers were now permitted to attend) with a full suite of Hunton leaders in attendance including: .⁹² Overall, that year 31,1873 people benefitted from Hunton services with the branch reaching 919 individual members, which was a testament to the leadership of Moore and Mosby.⁹³ Even a housing study conducted by the Lynchburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the Public Housing Administration for construction in the Dearington neighborhood factored in the proximity to Dunbar High School and the Hunton Branch as providing essential educational and recreational resources.⁹⁴

While Moore remained as general secretary (at times referenced as executive director) into 1964, leadership shifted in several roles as the community settled into the new building. Phil Edley, Sr. replaced Mosby as the boy's work secretary and James W. Stroud moved from Hampton, Virginia, to take the director of athletics position in 1957. Both were college graduates, continuing the strong tradition of higher education within the Hunton Branch both for leaders and members.⁹⁵ Sports exhibitions and programs continued to expand with Judo demonstrations first mentioned in 1958.⁹⁶ Moore and Stroud joined forces to host an annual picnic with over 4,500 workers and their families from surrounding plants that included the Lynchburg Foundry and Mead Corporation, among other large employers. The Branch remained intensely active in the community both within the walls of the new Hunton building and throughout Lynchburg itself.⁹⁷ Engaged couples even reserved the rooms for receptions following their nuptials. While many YMCA buildings have a community function, the immediate adoption of this building as a place for celebrations – in addition to the mission-driven recreational and educational purposes for boys and men – illustrate the Hunton's essential function as a community hub for African-Americans as segregation and the Civil Rights movement continued in Lynchburg.

In 1958, there is some evidence for the development of collaborative programs between the Hunton Branch and the Church Street YMCA. This would have been in keeping with 1946 desegregation directives from national administration, even though the facilities themselves remained fully segregated. Driskill, who appears to have been more involved in some aspects of Hunton Branch operations following the completion of the new building, worked with Moore to

⁹⁰ "Negro Y Stages Sports Festival" *The Daily Advance*. 12 April 1957. 8

⁹¹ "Hunton YMCA Enrolls 368, Has Victory Dinner" *The News and Advance*. 25 April 1957. 18

⁹² "Hunton Dinner Tomorrow Night" *The News and Advance*. 5 December 1957. 23

⁹³ Tomlin 188

⁹⁴ "Housing Authority Prepares Detailed Study For Project" *The Daily Advance*. 2 September 1957. 13

⁹⁵ "Join YMCA Staff" *New Journal and Guide*. 9 November 1957. 13

⁹⁶ "Lynchburg YM To Give Show" *New Journal and Guide*. 10 May 1958. A8

⁹⁷ Udine Davis Young. "Women in the News: National Social Whirl" *New Journal and Guide*. Norfolk, Va. 26 July 1958. 5

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

host a physical education and health workshop that drew members throughout Virginia.⁹⁸ Additionally, it also appears that Driskill may have become more involved in the composition of the board overseeing the Hunton YMCA throughout the mid-twentieth century.⁹⁹ Meanwhile, the Moore and Stroud continued to create extensive programs for ages seven and up. Youth programs included football, tumbling, weight-lifting, drill team, basketball, volleyball, craft club, teenage council and glee club. Adult programs included everything from choir to monthly radio broadcasts. They also sought to add art appreciation and parliamentary procedure classes to hone members' cultural and organizational awareness. The Hunton offered something for every stage of life, including meetings for young married couples.¹⁰⁰

The Hunton Branch opened a new decade with an ambitious membership drive in 1960; they hoped to expand membership by 400 men and 400 boys and closed the year with a membership of 1207.¹⁰¹ M. W. Thornhill, Jr., dedicated to the Hunton Branch for years and noted Civil Rights activist, led the management committee. Hunton members won the Tri-States Sports Festival that year with participants in basketball, ping-pong, checkers, weightlifting, volleyball, billiards, and swimming.¹⁰² Moore, Stroud, and Edley continued to lead the administrative office with the addition of Mrs. L. D. Pullen, office secretary.¹⁰³ The 27th annual Hill City Youth Conference took place in May the same year sponsored by the Hunton with the theme of "Intergroup Relations In A Confused and Complex Social Structure." Prominent Lynchburg NAACP members Reverend R. Earl Bartley of Dearington Baptist Church presented "Integration" and Reverend V. A. Wood of Diamond Hill Baptist Church lead a session on "Realistic Goals for Community Action" while other sessions included negotiation techniques and related topics.¹⁰⁴ Reverend Wood lead a committee in February that year to request that the Woolworth's lunch counter be desegregated. These discussions indicate the shift that was taking place in Lynchburg as actions against segregation intensified. Community leaders gathered around anchor institutions, like the Hunton, to organize, educate, and respond to the political and social moment.¹⁰⁵ While protests continued in downtown Lynchburg throughout that year, the first lunch counter sit-in resulting in trespassing arrests took place on December 14, 1960 with six local college students – four white and two Black – participating. After an appeal in February 1961, the students were sentenced to thirty days. The sentencing further exacerbated tensions throughout the city.¹⁰⁶

Sit-ins continued into 1961 with Bates Huston Ford, listed as an employee of the Hunton Branch in reports, entering Patterson's Drug Store with Reverend Wood as a follow-up to the students' earlier protest. Both were arrested and Ford testified during the trial, using the stand to explain

⁹⁸ "Lynchburg YM To Host Physical Ed Conference" *New Journal and Guide*. 20 September 1958. 3

⁹⁹ "Lynchburg" *New Journal and Guide*. 31 December 1960. 16

¹⁰⁰ "Lynchburg YM Announces Fall Program Schedule" *New Journal and Guide*. 10 October 1959. 4

¹⁰¹ *YMCA Year Book 1960*. <https://umedia.lib.umn.edu/item/p16022coll351:38144>

¹⁰² "Hunton Branch YMCA Wins Sports Festival" *The Daily Advance*. 14 April 1960. 26

¹⁰³ "Lynchburg YMCA Opens Drive with Goal of 800" *New Journal and Guide*. 2 April 1960. 4

¹⁰⁴ "Youth Confab Is Held In Lynchburg" *New Journal and Guide*. 28 May 1960. 12

¹⁰⁵ "NAACP Group Requests Service At Lunch Counter" *The Daily Advance*. 10 March 1960. 15

¹⁰⁶ Laurant *A City Unto Itself* 116-117

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

his actions and their significance. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail.¹⁰⁷ These events forecast other dramatic changes throughout Lynchburg in the early 1960s. On July 4, 1961 all of the public pools in Lynchburg closed after a wade-in by seven Black swimmers at Miller Park pool, depriving the African-American community of another recreational space – swimming pools. The story reached national attention when *The Washington Post* 12-year-old Brian Robinson drowned in an abandoned canal without access to a safe, monitored swimming facility. The ongoing battle over reopening the pools received attention from *The Call* in Kansas City, Missouri, to the *Afro-American* in Baltimore, Maryland. Unfortunately, the Hunton did not receive funds for a pool during its building campaign and the Church Street facility remained whites-only. Only a few months later, in November 1961, Judge Thomas Michie ordered the integration of E. C. Glass High School with Lynda Woodruff and Owen Cardwell admitted to the school in January 1962 after a lengthy court battle.¹⁰⁸ That November the Hunton hosted a fall carnival with “fortune telling, fishing pond, amusement rides, card tournaments, dancing, nail board, concession stand, ping-pong, hat toss and other games and entertainment.”¹⁰⁹ Meanwhile, the National YMCA was tracking the successes and failures following the dissolution of black YMCA branches around the country whose members were expected to transfer their memberships to the formerly all-white local YMCAs. Harold Harlow, Jr., of Springfield College found a rush to close black YMCAs lead to a lack of planning and appropriate facilitation for the experience of black patrons and employees. Lynchburg’s Hunton Branch managed to avoid this fate through one of the primary reasons identified in Harlow’s study – their modern building.¹¹⁰

Despite a United States District Court ruling on September 16, 1962 that the city could not operate segregated swimming pools, they remained closed until 1965 when plans developed for new pools at E.C. Glass High School and Dunbar High School.¹¹¹ Hunton members wishing to swim were bussed to Camp Kum-Ba-Yah in Boonesboro.¹¹² Driskill had noted the clear need for a gymnasium and swimming pool at the Hunton Branch in a June 7, 1962 article in *The Daily Advance*. Lynchburg adopted a one-grade-per-year school desegregation policy that, when coupled with the impact of the Pupil Placement Board, essentially kept students at the schools they attended prior to the court order. Placing the pools at each school insured a de-facto segregation feeding from the racial composition of Lynchburg’s neighborhoods. In the intervening period, Civil Rights leaders promised a swim-in at the Church Street YMCA in 1963 if the national YMCA did not respond to their requests for integration.¹¹³ Councilman Harold Leggett noted in the 1965 pools vote that “had a swimming pool been built at the Hunton Branch YMCA some time ago, which he [Leggett] tried to get started, ‘we might not have this situation now’.”¹¹⁴ Records are largely missing from that time, but student organizers continued to focus

¹⁰⁷ “60-Day Jail Terms Given to 4 Men In Lynchburg Sit-In Demonstration” *Daily Press*. Newport News, Va. 10 March 1961. 19

¹⁰⁸ Laurant *A City Unto Itself*. 128

¹⁰⁹ “Hunton Branch Y Plans Carnival” *The Daily Advance*. 3 November 1961. 19

¹¹⁰ Harold Harlow, Jr. *Racial Integration in the Young Men’s Christian Associations*. New York: National Council of Young Men’s Christian Associations, 1962. 1-3

¹¹¹ “Desegregation Suit Reduced by Court” *The Washington Post*. 16 September 1962. B5

¹¹² DJ Madlad “Historic | Hunton Branch YMCA” <https://djmadlad.com/hunton-branch-ymca-historic/>

¹¹³ “On Library in Lynchburg” *Staunton Leader*. 22 July 1963 10

¹¹⁴ “Pools Approved By 4 To 2 Vote” *The News and Advance*. 27 January 1965. 8

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

on pools, libraries, and recreational facilities throughout the city. Additionally, newspaper coverage for the Black community is noticeably reduced during this time. Despite the events throughout the community, general secretary Moore continued extensive program offerings with everything from candy making led by Mrs. Dorothy Stone to basketball.¹¹⁵ Physical director Stroud took an instructor position at Payne Elementary School in 1961 and positions shifted as individuals focused on certain programs and sports.

While desegregation and racial conflict continued in Lynchburg, some things remained consistent. The Hunton YMCA stayed open and serving its members throughout the period. Friendly sports rivalries between neighborhood hills continued and the community found ways to sustain both recreational and educational activities.¹¹⁶ The organization instituted a cookie sale to help raise funds to send youth to the annual Camp Bibee summer camp. Otis Tucker Jr. became the new full-time physical director in October 1963, providing additional assistance to Moore. Hill City baseball continued with Dearington, Hunton Branch, White Rock, Tinbridge Hill, Armstrong, and Dunbar teams all playing against each other.¹¹⁷ The Hunton actively integrated the city's men's basketball league by joining in 1963.¹¹⁸ Committees organized annual dinners, membership drives, and sports tournaments. However, that same year the Hill City Youth Conference was postponed indefinitely.

Tragedy struck the Hunton during the summer of 1963 when 10-year-old John Dickerson drowned after jumping from a canoe during the annual Camp Bibee summer camp. Moore, who was rarely quoted in newspapers, gave several statements about the accident emphasizing that Dickerson was wearing a life vest and that "a full staff was on hand. The same number of lifeguards were on duty as were on hand when the Central YMCA used the camp the past month."¹¹⁹ Staff consulted with the campers following the accident and all wished to continue the camp for five days that remained in the schedule. Carl Mansfield, of the Church Street (Central) YMCA, reflected back on those events and felt that it "did more than anything else to speed desegregation of the Lynchburg YMCA. When I became camp director in 1969 there were still only a few non-white campers but by then were doing everything...to make them feel a part of the camp community."¹²⁰ The accident clearly initiated conversations about resources and administration within the Lynchburg YMCA.

C. C. Moore had worked tirelessly on behalf of the Hunton and Lynchburg's African-American community since he joined in 1956, but his tenure came to a close in November 1964 when he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, to serve as general secretary for the Walnut Hills Branch.¹²¹ Tucker became active secretary for the Hunton after Moore's departure for nearly a year and a half then

¹¹⁵ "Hunton YMCA Schedules Classes" *The Daily Advance*. 13 September 1963. 22

¹¹⁶ Hunton Memories Listening Session. Doris L. Waller, Phillip Edley, David L. Moseley, Lynn and Mike Cassidy, Phyllistine Mosley, Elmer W. Reid Jr., Misty V. Spitzer, Cynthia Coles, Tyrhee Williams, and Robert Goins, discussion lead by Laura R. Purvis. May 25, 2024.

¹¹⁷ "Sandlot Baseball Little League" *The News and Advance*. 5 June 1962. 15

¹¹⁸ "Mens Basketball Unit Integrated For The First Time" *The Daily Advance*. 5 January 1963. 2

¹¹⁹ "Negro Boy, 10, Drowns At Bibee" *The News and Advance*. 1 August 1963. 27

¹²⁰ Tomlin 236-237

¹²¹ "Moore Gives Up Hunton YM Post" *The News and Advance*. 10 October 1964. 10

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

took a position as Dunbar High School's head football coach in 1966.¹²² During his short tenure, the YMCA board of directors overseeing both the Church Street and Hunton Branch locations voted in 1965 to create an open membership policy following two years of discussion. This vote came 19 years after the national YMCA adopted their anti-discrimination policy. However, Driskill explained in *The News and Advance* in January 1968 that open membership did not mean that memberships transferred between organizations. Someone with a Hunton Branch membership would also need to purchase a membership at the Church Street (Central) location, which created a financial barrier to integration even though policies no longer excluded African Americans. The two locations still essentially operated separately although now formally integrated.

The Hunton Branch After 1965

Lynchburg's YMCA operations remained tacitly segregated. Langston Walker, formerly the youth director, took the acting executive secretary role when Tucker resigned for the coaching position. Walker was formally appointed in 1967 and remained at the Hunton until 1993.¹²³ Driskill retired in 1971, and Jim Raines became general secretary. Raines was a former youth director at the Church Street (Central) YMCA who had taken appointments around the country before returning to Lynchburg. By the mid-1970s the Lynchburg YMCA and the Hunton Branch were experiencing financial strain which initiated a full review of programs and a reorganization of the Lynchburg YMCA, which became the YMCA of Central Virginia, with Raines as general director of the umbrella organization and secretaries for each physical location. Along with these changes, many programs were decentralized and met off-site at schools and businesses. In the planning process, the Hunton Branch became the subject of debate. With membership at the Church Street location open to Blacks, and the lack of a pool as well as other facilities, leadership suggested that the Hunton close and all memberships be transferred to the Central location. Walker, Hunton representatives, and the Black community rejected the prospect of abandoning their building. As a result, the Hunton Branch petitioned the national YMCA to become an independent YMCA outside of the YMCA of Central Virginia administrative structure, which was granted in 1976. While there are other cases of Black branches appealing for independent status, this remains a unique and distinct moment in the history of the Hunton Branch. Walker, now executive director, established programs, fundraising events, and activities as a separate nonprofit organization in Lynchburg. Although finances remained difficult, the Hunton Branch continued its role as a community hub.¹²⁴ The YMCA of Central Virginia retained ownership of the Hunton building and land until deeding it to the independent branch on December 6, 1988.

The 1990s proved to be another decade of significant change for the Hunton. Kevin Bolding became the executive director in 1994 following Artemus Dixon who was interim in the role.¹²⁵ Bolding noted during a June 1995 fundraiser that "most of our members are older people from the surrounding community who grew up with the 'Y'...this campaign is not just about helping

¹²² "Tuker Named Dunbar Coach" *The News and Advance*. 26 May 1966. 45

¹²³ "Organ Gets YMCA Post" *The Daily Advance*. 2 June 1966. 28

¹²⁴ Tomlin 243-245

¹²⁵ "Bolding To Lead Hunton YMCA" *The News and Advance*. 5 May 1994. 15

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

out kids...parents can go to work while their children are here...”¹²⁶ The Hunton began working with the United Way for service days, like Day of Caring, for landscape maintenance and other tasks. In 1996, Bolding left to work at a YMCA in Detroit and the board advertised the job in local newspapers with a salary range of \$17,000 to \$23,000.¹²⁷ Artemus Dixon resumed his role as interim director while the Hunton continued its basketball program and other sports offerings.

When the Hunton celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1997 based on the 1922 founding date, Dannette McCain had been hired as the new executive director. Day camps and other activities continued while there was a shift away from some of the adult programs featured in the past. Building renovations also began that year with new carpet, paint, and equipment.¹²⁸ The football team remained active and more players joined throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s to become competitive again. However, the Hunton closed in December 2003 when administrative gaps, including the loss of corporate status disaffiliation from the national YMCA in 1999, challenged its continued operation.¹²⁹ As a testament to the ongoing importance of Hunton Branch YMCA within Lynchburg, the building reopened as the Hunton-Randolph Community Center in 2008.

¹²⁶ “YMCA” *The News and Advance*. 25 June 1995. 11

¹²⁷ Nicki Campbell “Heritage Plays A Key Role Making Up An Achiever” *The News and Advance*. 24 May 1996. 24

¹²⁸ Kayce Ataiyero “Hunton YMCA Mirrors Community” *The News and Advance*. 24 July 1997. 5-6

¹²⁹ Conor Reilly “Its building closed, city’s Hunton YMCA sits at a crossroads” *The News and Advance*. 29 January 2006. 1, 4

Hunton Branch YMCA
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory*. London and New York: American Institute of Architects, 1970.

Architectural Drawings. *Lynchburg Architectural Archive*. Jones Memorial Library.

Ascoli, Peter M. *Julius Rosenwald: The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South*, Indiana University Press, 2006.

Blanton, Alison Stone. "Rivermont Historic District National Register Nomination" Virginia Landmarks Register. National Park Service, 2003. https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/118-0334_Rivermont_HD_2003_NRHP_Final_updated_2020.pdf

Burleson, Bill. "Lynchburg Profiles: Boy Who Liked to 'Draw Things' Became a Leader in Architecture" *Lynchburg News*. 17 December 1959. Section B-1.

Chambers, Jr., S. Allen. (2017 Fall/Winter). "Pen Clark's Architectural Career Between the Wars." *Lynch's Ferry: A Journal of Local History*, 4-21.

Chambers, Jr., S. Allen. *Lynchburg: An architectural history*. University of Virginia Press, 1981

Clark, Pendleton S. (1954). Hunton Branch Y.M.C.A. [Architectural Drawings]. The Lynchburg Architectural Archive, Lynchburg, VA.

Coker, Kathryn. "Black Suffragists and Activists: Addie Waites Hunton" <https://rvalibrary.org/shelf-respect/black-history-month/black-suffragists-and-activists-addie-waites-hunton/>

Goins, R. (2021). "Historic Hunton Y." <https://www.djmadlad.com/lynchburg-hunton-ymca/>.

Harlow Jr., Harold C. *Racial Integration in the Young Men's Christian Associations*. New York: Research and Planning Department, National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations 1962.

Laurant, Darrell. *A City Unto Itself: Lynchburg, Virginia in the 20th Century*. Lynchburg, Va: News and Advance, 1997.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

Laurant, Darrell. *Inspiration Street: Two City Blocks That Helped Change America*.
Lynchburg, Va: Blackwell Press, 2016.

Lynchburg Daily Advance. 1956, November 19. "YMCA Milestone."

Lynchburg Museum. "Seven Hills of History" <https://www.lynchburgmuseum.org/7-hills>

Lynchburg Museum. "Hill City Roots: A Guide to Black History in Lynchburg, Virginia"
<https://www.lynchburgmuseum.org/hill-city-roots>

Lynchburg News & Advance. 2004, February 6. "Hunton Y Questions Merit Real
Response."

Mjagkij, Nina, "Light In The Darkness: African Americans and the YMCA, 1852-1946"
Muncie, IN: Ball State University, African American Studies, 2003.
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/upk_african_american_studies/30

Potter, Dorothy and Clifton. *Images of America: Lynchburg 1757-2007*. Charleston, SC:
Arcadia Publishing, 2007.

Property Information Report. Parcel ID 02607002. City of Lynchburg Assessor's Office.

Property Information Report. Parcel ID 02607001. City of Lynchburg Assessor's Office.

Property Survey Form. File # 118-0225-558. Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia. Sanborn Map
Company, Jan, 1885. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_001/.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia. Sanborn Map
Company, Sep, 1895. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_003/.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia. Sanborn Map
Company, Feb, 1902. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_004/.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia. Sanborn Map
Company, 1907. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_005/.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia. Sanborn Map
Company, - Feb 1951, 1951. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_006/.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Lynchburg, Independent Cities, Virginia. Sanborn Map
Company. Republished 1955 Vol. 1, 1955. Map.
https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09040_007/.

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

Taylor, Michael Eric. *The African-American Community of Richmond, Virginia: 1950-1956*.
Richmond, Va: University of Richmond, 1994.

Tomlin, Gene. *A History of the YMCA in Central Virginia*. Lynchburg, Va: Warwick House
Publishers, 2006.

University of Minnesota Libraries. Special Collections. "African Americans and the
YMCA." 2020

Personal Communications

Doris L Waller, interview by Laura R. Purvis. March 18, 2024

Shirlee Raines, interview by Laura R. Purvis March 21, 2024.

David L. Moseley, interview by Laura R. Purvis, April 25, 2024.

Natalie Robinson, interview by Laura R. Purvis, April 25, 2024.

Hunton Memories Listening Session. Doris L. Waller, Phillip Edley, David L. Moseley,
Lynn and Mike Cassidy, Phyllistine Mosley, Elmer W. Reid Jr., Misty V. Spitzer, Cynthia
Coles, Tyrhee Williams, and Robert Goins, discussion lead by Laura R. Purvis. May 25,
2024.

William Inge, email communication with Laura R. Purvis, October 8-10, 2024.

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 # _____

Hunton Branch YMCA
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR #118-0225-0558

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.259 acres

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: 37.406834 Longitude: -79.148474

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:

Hunton Branch YMCA
Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA
County and State

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

The boundary follows the current parcel lines for City of Lynchburg tax parcel # 02607001, as shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries include all property historically associated with the Hunton Branch YMCA, as originally purchased from Inez Wells Holt in 1945. The Hunton did not acquire additional property during the period of significance, and the adjacent parking lot did not come into Hunton ownership until the 1990s. Prior to that time, that lot contained several residences and a drug store. As a result, the boundaries do not include this former residential and commercial space.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Laura Purvis, Architectural Historian
organization: Purvis Historic Preservation
street & number: 635 Chestnut Avenue
city or town: Waynesboro state: VA zip code: 22980
e-mail purvishistoricpreservation@gmail.com
telephone: 434-242-7091
date: October 2024

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.)

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Hunton Branch YMCA

City or Vicinity: Lynchburg

County: Independent City State: Virginia

Photographer: Laura Purvis

Date Photographed: November 30, 2023

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

- 1 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0001
- 2 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0002
- 3 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0003
- 4 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0004
- 5 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0005
- 6 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0006
- 7 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0007
- 8 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0008
- 9 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0009
- 10 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0010
- 11 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0011
- 12 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0012
- 13 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0013

Hunton Branch YMCA

Name of Property

City of Lynchburg, VA

County and State

14 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0014

15 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0015

16 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0016

17 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0017

18 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0018

19 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0019

20 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0020

21 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0021

22 of 22. VA_Lynchburg_HuntonBranchYMCA_0022

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.



LOCATION MAP

Hunton Branch YMCA
City of Lynchburg, VA
DHR ID# 118-0225-0558

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
A: 37.406834, -79.148474

 Nominated Boundary

0 100 200 300
Feet




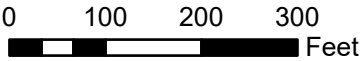


LOCATION MAP

Hunton Branch YMCA
City of Lynchburg, VA
DHR ID# 118-0225-0558

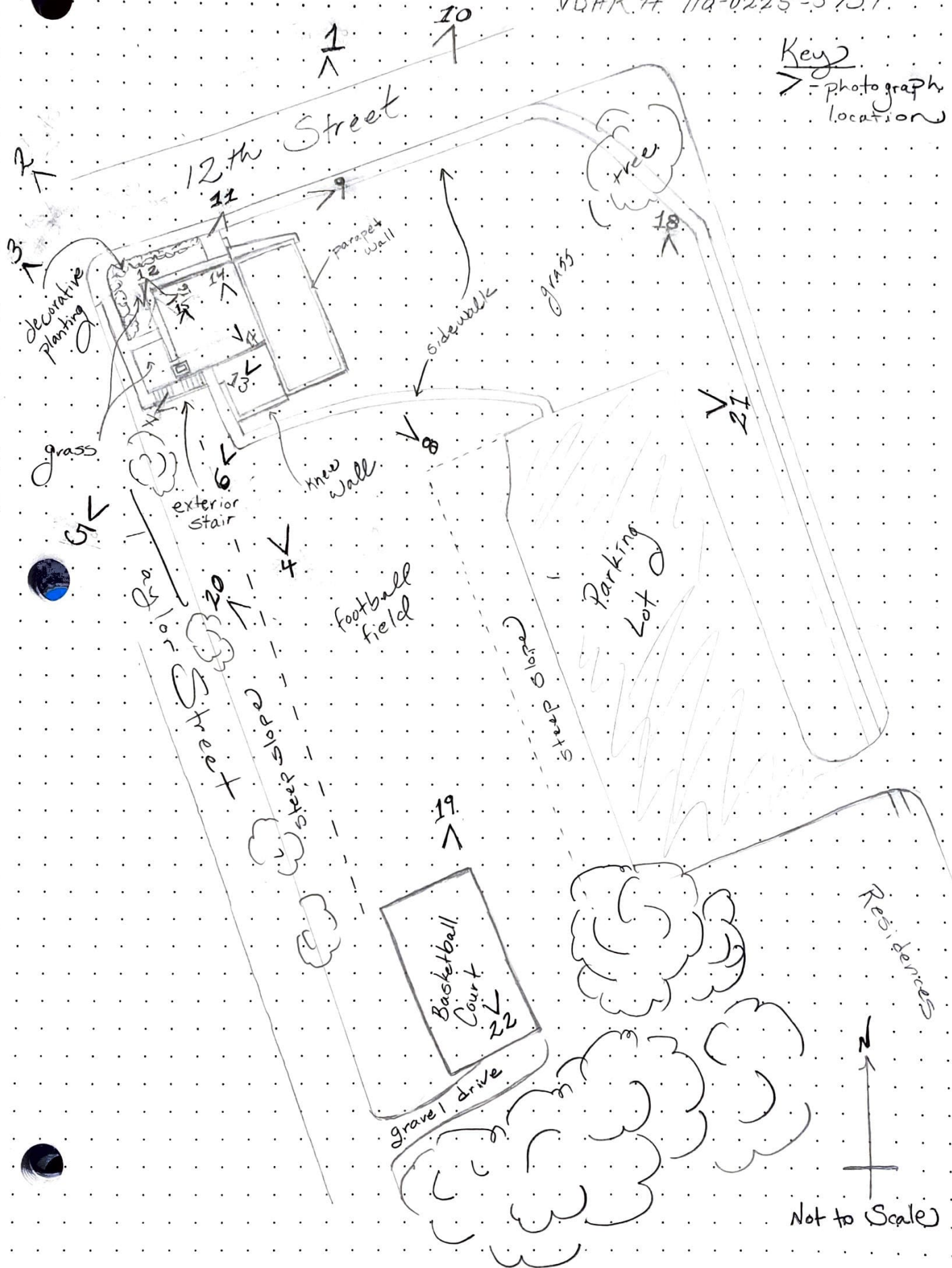
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
A: 37.406834, -79.148474

 Nominated Boundary



Hunton Y MCA
1120 12th Street
Lynchburg, Virginia
VDHR # 118-0225-5734

Key
➤ - photograph location































BATHROOM
Rules
WASH YOUR *Hands*
USE ONLY AS MUCH
Water AS YOU NEED
HANG UP YOUR *Towel*
REMEMBER TO ALWAYS
...Flush...
TURN OFF THE *Lights*



