

**Baltimore City
Commission for Historical and
Architectural Preservation**

**Landmark Designation Report
July 11, 2017**



Chick Webb Recreation Center

623 North Eden Street
Baltimore, Maryland



Commission for Historical & Architectural Preservation

ERIC HOLCOMB, *Executive Director*

Charles L. Benton, Jr. Building 417 East Fayette Street Eighth Floor Baltimore, MD 21202-3416
410-396-4866



CATHERINE E. PUGH
Mayor



THOMAS J. STOSUR
Director

Significance Summary

This property is significant for its association with Chick Webb, its role in the broad patterns of Baltimore history, and its architecture. This was the first recreation center and pool built for African Americans in segregated East Baltimore. The impetus and seed money for the construction of this recreation center came from members of the community, who fundraised and advocated for years for a recreation center, even purchasing the property for the center with their own money. Even after its construction, the community stayed involved, advocating and even paying for programming and upgrades to the facility. The recreation center was built to honor William Henry “Chick” Webb, internationally renowned drummer and bandleader from East Baltimore, who, before his untimely death in 1939, had promised to raise money for a community center in his neighborhood so that children would have opportunities that he lacked as a child. After his death, Webb’s doctor, Dr. Ralph J. Young, and others determined to complete his dream, beginning a decades-long fundraising and advocacy campaign to build the recreation center, which for almost 70 years has served a critical role in East Baltimore’s large African American community as a center for recreation, education, and community. The building itself is designed in the Art Moderne style by Baltimore architect Frederic A. Fletcher, and is an excellent example of the style.

William Henry “Chick” Webb

William Henry “Chick” Webb, a drummer and jazz bandleader known as the “King of Swing” was born in East Baltimore in 1909. He lived at 1313 Ashland Street with his mother, Mrs. Marie Webb, his grandparents, and his two older siblings.¹ This house is no longer standing. Chick Webb suffered from serious life-long health issues, which caused him to be very diminutive in height. His short stature led to his nickname of “Chick.”² Frank J. Graziano, jazz historian, wrote that Webb was “dwarfed by tuberculosis of the spine since birth, he had a head that was too big for his body, a grin that was too big for his face, and a soul that wasn’t content merely sitting between his broad shoulders, but had to make itself known in fiery, flailing, precise bursts of his arms.”³ An *Afro-American* article referred to him as the “little giant of rhythm.”⁴

As a child, Webb worked as a paper boy selling papers on the streets of East Baltimore, but had a passion for drumming.⁵ He played drums on household items like skillets and washboards with other children, playing for pennies on Pennsylvania Avenue. His mother bought him a mail order drum set, which his grandfather would carry for him when Webb could not.⁶ As a teenager, he played drums on Chesapeake Bay steamships, and later moved to Harlem with nothing but “a set of drums and plenty of ambition,” quickly putting together a band and rising through the ranks, playing at the New Savoy Ballroom, the Cotton Club, and on national radio programs.⁷

Chick Webb’s band was characterized as “strictly a red hot jazz band in every sense of the word.”⁸ Webb was the band leader, drummer, and composer - he wrote his band’s theme song “Let’s Get Together”, and co-authored a number of songs.⁹ In 1934, the Chick Webb Orchestra recorded an album with Decca.¹⁰ His band had the distinction of being the first jazz band to play at the Metropolitan Opera House.¹¹ Ella Fitzgerald was the protege of Chick Webb, who discovered her when she was just sixteen years old. He invited her to join his band in 1935 as a singer, and taught her how to be a bandleader.¹² Chick was known as the “King of Swing” a title that he defended against others, including the white bandleader Benny Goodman in 1937, which

brought him national attention, including from white Americans.¹³ The following year, he defended his title against “newcomer” Count Basie in 1938.¹⁴

Webb’s health started failing in 1938, with bouts of debilitating pain that left him unable to play full sets. He spent a couple weeks in the hospital in 1938, and had a surgery at Johns Hopkins in April 1939. He never fully recovered, and died from complications of tuberculosis and kidney failure on June 16, 1939 at age 30.¹⁵ An opinion piece published by the *Afro-American* following his death stated that “for as much as any self-made American, he fought and overcame great difficulties to reach the top of his profession as an orchestra leader.”¹⁶ It goes on to state, “But it seems important to us to point out that he became a fine musician despite two handicaps. One is bad enough. First, he was a hunchback, crippled by tuberculosis of the spine; second, he was poor. Eventually tuberculosis reached his kidneys and cut him down...[D]espite his life-long illness and life-long deformity, Chick Webb carved him a place in life. It took courage and determination and will. But he said he could do it and he did.”¹⁷

His funeral was in Baltimore. After his body lay in state at his childhood home on Ashland Street, his funeral services were held at his childhood church, Waters AME Church on Aisquith Street. Ten thousand people crowded outside, blocking traffic in the street and standing up on rooftops, but the police and Boy Scouts ensured that only friends and family of Chick Webb were allowed inside.¹⁸

The History of the Recreation Center

Prior to his sudden death, Webb had made a promise to Dr. Ralph J. Young, his doctor since childhood, that he would bring his band to Baltimore to give a series of benefit concerts to raise money for a recreation center for African Americans in East Baltimore.¹⁹ Dr. Young was very involved in improving the recreational opportunities in segregated East Baltimore for African American children. During his last visit to Baltimore prior to his death, Webb had volunteered to raise money for a recreation center “such as he had never had when he was a little boy peddling papers,” and he was going to enlist his friend, heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis to help.²⁰ Playing fundraiser benefits for good causes was nothing new for Chick Webb and his band.²¹

After Chick’s death, Young determined to move forward with the plans for a recreation center in East Baltimore in memory of Webb.²² He formed the committee for the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center, comprised of professionals, patients of Dr. Young, and citizens in East Baltimore.²³ This committee fought for ten years for the construction of this recreation center.²⁴

Ella Fitzgerald, Chick’s protegee who was the “First Lady of Swing” and the leader of his band following his death, paid tribute to Chick every year after his death. In 1948, she did so by entertaining children at a Christmas party at the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center. In order to ensure that an unexpected engagement would not prevent her from attending, she booked Baltimore’s Club Astoria for the ten days spanning Christmas and New Year’s Eve so that she would definitely be in town for the party at Recreation Center.²⁵

The necessity of building a recreation center in East Baltimore was backed by the findings of the Baltimore Council of Social Agencies study in September 1938 of the juvenile delinquent gang activity in East Baltimore. The dedication booklet for the opening of the Chick Webb Recreation

Center states that “After study, this group decided that the conditions of affairs was due to poor housing, broken homes, and the lack of facilities for recreation; this section having been woefully neglected by the city government all these years. The committee decided to contact the Y.M.C.A. to see if a branch could be established in this area. This idea soon fell through as the Y.M.C.A. at that time claimed to be financially unable to take on more responsibilities. So the committee decided to try to do something themselves.”²⁶

The Committee organized a highly successful, star-studded fundraiser. On February 12, 1940, close to 7,500 people attended the Chick Webb Memorial fundraiser at the Fifth Regiment Armory, “crowding into every available space in the exhibition hall.”²⁷ The event was headed by heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis and Ella Fitzgerald, who was leading Webb’s band. More than fifty African American entertainers, including Duke Ellington, Mercer Ellington, Taps Miller, the Ink Spots, Jackie “Moms” Mabley, the Nicholas Brothers, and Claude Hopkins, performed at the event.²⁸ The *Afro-American* called the event “Baltimore’s greatest attraction in years” drawing attendees from all sections of Baltimore and Washington. Governor Herbert R. O’Conor, Senator George Radcliffe, Congressman Ambrose Kennedy, Acting Mayor Richard O’Connell, and former Mayor William F. Broening attended.²⁹

This fundraiser, a baseball game by the Elite Giants, and a fashion show sponsored by the AFRO, raised over \$10,000 for the new recreation center.³⁰ The Committee tried to give the money to Mayor Howard Jackson, but no plans for the center were begun. When World War II broke out, the Committee invested in war bonds to help the national effort.³¹ This money was finally used by the Committee to purchase a lot with an unused ice plant in the 600 block of North Eden Street for the Recreation Center in 1945, which was gifted to the City.³²

A 1943 study of Baltimore recreation completed by the National Recreation Association found that African American communities in Baltimore were severely underserved in terms of recreational facilities.³³ The Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center was intended to serve the entire African American community of East Baltimore.³⁴ The general location for the new recreation center was chosen by the East Baltimore Recreation Center Committee, which studied census data and determined that the site on Eden Street was centrally located in terms of population density and proximity to an elementary, junior high, and high school. A representative from Dunbar High School was also involved in the planning for the facility to ensure that it would also meet the needs of the school, which lacked recreational facilities.³⁵

Plans for the Center were completed by 1946.³⁶ The original intent was to demolish the majority of the former ice plant building in order to construct the new Center, though it was determined that “[s]ome of the walls may, if it proves feasible be incorporated into the new structure to cut building costs.”³⁷ The recreation center was built in stages, with the first portion of the building constructed in 1947. This portion of the building held several meeting, club, and game rooms. It was “sandwiched between the remainder of an old icehouse and a dwelling” on either side of it, to the north and south.³⁸ The building itself was described as “an imposing gray building” that cost \$120,000 to construct. The interior was finished with polished tile.³⁹ The building was constructed from reinforced concrete, steel and brick, with an exterior finishing of limestone, and was “approached through steps flanked by concrete courts, with circular grounds for planting on either side. A 7-foot fence, with a gate, is on the sidewalk level.”⁴⁰ The entrance was set back

from N. Eden Street, so that there was a small courtyard in front of the Recreation center to prevent damage of the front wall of the center by loiterers on Eden Street, which was heavily trafficked with pedestrians because of the adjacent movie theater.⁴¹

This first portion of the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center was completed at the end of August, 1947.⁴² The furnishings were finally supplied in November 1947.⁴³

The building was dedicated on November 30, 1947 in a ceremony at Dunbar High School. The dedication booklet for the opening of the Center states that the building was dedicated “to youth and old alike, for the development of better morals, high standards of living, and above all Better Citizenry.”⁴⁴ It was dedicated in Chick Webb’s name “with the hope that, through its use, the youth of East Baltimore will be developed to face and overcome the obstacles and handicaps that they may encounter during their lives.”⁴⁵ When it opened, there was a plaque dedicated to Chick Webb and a picture of him placed in a prominent position in the lobby.⁴⁶ The building was opened to the public on December 2, 1947.⁴⁷

This long-awaited recreation center did not at first include the swimming pool that was so desired. The Committee considered the pool to be a “very necessary part of that center, because the city provides only one public pool at Druid Hill Park, no private swimming facilities at all, and none in the schools.”⁴⁸ The 1948 budget request from Recreation and Parks included a request of \$125,000 for the pool.⁴⁹ Yet in November 1947, the Board of Recreation and Parks postponed the construction of the swimming pool at the Chick Webb Recreation Center “because of the cost involved and difficulty in obtaining construction materials.”⁵⁰ At the dedication ceremony, Mayor D’Alesandro addressed this issue, promising to find the funding for the swimming pool.⁵¹

Mayor D’Alesandro did not go back on this word. In March of 1948, the Board of Estimates, at the recommendation of Mayor D’Alesandro, authorized the transfer of \$75,000 from the real property account to the fund for the swimming pool at Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center. The Board of Recreation and Parks already had \$125,000 allocated for the pool, but needed a total of \$200,000 in funds. The \$75,000 made up the difference.⁵² It was decided that the roof over the pool would be a temporary one, so that an auditorium could later be constructed above the swimming pool.⁵³

The contract for constructing the pool was awarded to Baltimore Contractors, Inc. in June 1948.⁵⁴ The unused ice factory that was extant on the property was repurposed to house the swimming pool, which had been noted as a cost-effective possibility when the property was purchased.⁵⁵ In March 1949, the swimming pool was under construction, but apparently the costs were higher than anticipated, because in June 1949, the Board of Estimates authorized an extra work order for close to \$22,000 for the completion of construction for the pool.⁵⁶ In July 1949, the Board of Recreation and Parks voted to name the pool the "Dr. Ralph J. Young Pool" to recognize Dr. Young's "outstanding service in making the Chick Webb recreation facilities possible."⁵⁷ After the swimming pool was completed, the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center was the “largest and most elaborate” community center for African Americans in Baltimore, and it was a reality due largely to the fundraising, planning, and development by citizens.⁵⁸

After it opened, the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center served children and adults alike with a variety of programs, including traditional recreational activities, but also other activities like singing and band, photography, drama, sewing, cooking, home nursing, and nutrition classes.⁵⁹ In 1950, the Bureau of Recreation requested additional budget requirements for 1950 in order to operate the swimming pool on Saturdays to better meet the needs of the community.⁶⁰ In 1951, four years after opening, the recreation center had an average attendance of 400-500 per day, which included the swimming pool.⁶¹

In February 1959, the Department of Recreation and Parks announced that there was \$125,000 in funding available for completing the gymnasium/multipurpose room above the swimming pool. The original architect, Frederic A. Fletcher was retained to revise his plans.⁶² The City sought bids for the construction of the multipurpose room in September 1959, which was completed soon after.⁶³ The same year, the Bureau of Recreation acquired title to the Chick Webb Playground in the Broadway Redevelopment Area of Monument and Eden Streets in Baltimore, Maryland, which likely comprised of the properties that are located to the north of the Recreation Center that are today playgrounds and ballcourts for the Recreation Center.⁶⁴

Throughout the Center's almost 70-year history, it has been considered a valuable resource for the individuals who use it, and for the larger community. Community organizations and individuals have volunteered their time, advocacy, and money to ensure that the recreation center had the resources that it needed to serve the community and the wide variety of constituents that it serves.⁶⁵ Multiple generations of Baltimore citizens, especially but not limited to African Americans in East Baltimore have used this recreation center, learning to swim there, taking classes, participating in after-school activities, clubs, summer camps, carnivals, or a multitude of award-winning sports teams. One club that began at Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center grew into the Sigma Phi Sigma fraternity.⁶⁶ Many social and political leaders grew up as active members of recreation center, and many former members of the center cite the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center as one of the foundations for their success.⁶⁷

Property History and Architecture

The plans for the recreation center were drawn up in 1946.⁶⁸ The architect was Frederic A. Fletcher, and the contractors for the main portion of the building were Joseph F. Hughes & Co.⁶⁹ The original portion of the recreation center was designed in the Art Moderne architectural style, which is notable for its simple form, and strong lines. On this building, the Art Moderne is emphasized through the strong linear and geometric patterns created by minor projections and recesses on the facade. It is two stories in height and five bays wide with balanced fenestration, a flat roof, and clad with a limestone face on the facade. The middle of the building projects slightly forward. The entrance to the building is in a vestibule in the central bay of the first floor that projects out, and which is accessed from a wide set of stone stairs that leads to the double door entrance surmounted by a transom. Above the doorway is the Baltimore City Seal. The remainder of the bays on the facade feature tripartite metal casement windows. Above the second story, pin-mounted metal letters spell "CHICK WEBB MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTER".

On the rear of this main block, there is a short corridor connecting to the two-story swimming pool and gymnasium. The floor levels between the two buildings do not match up, a by-product

of the fact that the swimming pool building is an adaptively-reused ice factory originally built in 1919, as evidenced in the 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. This portion of the building is brick, and the different eras of construction and window infill are visible on the various elevations of this portion of the building, as evidenced by different bricks and mortar. There are no windows on the first floor, but there are windows on the second floor for the multipurpose room. This portion of the building is very utilitarian in nature.

The entire parcel includes paved play spaces and courts located to the north of the recreation center, adjacent to North Monument Street. The majority of the lot is enclosed with chain link fence or, by the front entrance to the building, decorative iron fencing. The gate at the entrance is set into large limestone pillars that have decorative stone urns on top.

When it was first designed, it was described in this way: “An imposing structure, with a two-story facade set well back from Eden street, it will cover a site of approximately 75 by 120 feet. Irregularly shaped, it will consist of three main sections. Beginning at the front, the first floor or Section 1 will consist of a spacious foyer with a corridor, running lengthwise of the section, flanked by a lounge... a meeting room... and on the opposite side an office, checkroom and comfort rooms. The second floor of the front section will provide space for a poolroom... a boys’ and girls’ gameroom...and a general clubroom... Section 2, a two-story unit, to the Eden street front of the structure and that to front on Spring street, will provide space for a kitchen and clubroom. Section 3 will house one of the most modern swimming pools in the city, 25 by 60 feet, a spectators’ gallery to accommodate 125, as well as comfort rooms, shower rooms, and dressing rooms...”⁷⁰ There was also an intention to construct a multipurpose room above the swimming pool, which was completed in 1960. Section 1 is the main portion of the building. Section 2 was never constructed. Section 3 is where the swimming pool is located, with the multipurpose room above.

The building, as first constructed, had a basement for utilities and two floors for recreational and community use, with a “lounge, clubrooms, game rooms for children and older youths, a kitchen and rest rooms. Space also is provided for an office, a check room, and a general utility room.”⁷¹ The large meeting room also had a motion picture projector.⁷² When it first opened, it also had two pool tables, purchased by Dr. Ralph Young.⁷³

The architect of the Recreation Center was Frederic A. Fletcher, who had a long and distinguished career in Baltimore and Maryland at large. He opened his architectural firm in 1919. Fletcher was a member of the American Institute of Architects, where he served as the regional director for two years, was the president of the Maryland Society of Registered Architects, and was a director and president of the Building Congress and Exchange of Baltimore.⁷⁴ He designed many building in Baltimore that contribute to National Register and Baltimore City historic districts. Other Baltimore buildings designed by Fletcher include the Old Town National Bank Building, which is a Baltimore City Landmark, and several large apartment buildings in Charles Village, including The Charles, Homewood, Hopkins, The Blackstone, and the Greenway.⁷⁵

Application of Landmark Designation Criteria

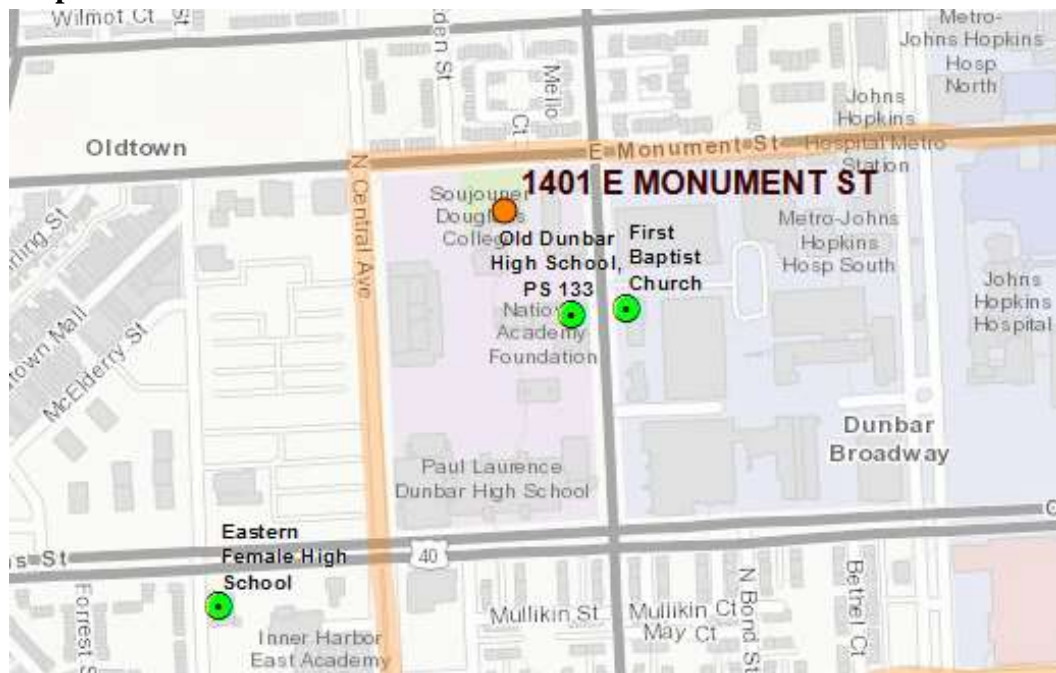
The property meets CHAP Landmark Designation Standards:

B. A Baltimore City Landmark may be a site, structure, landscape, building (or portion thereof), place, work of art, or other object:

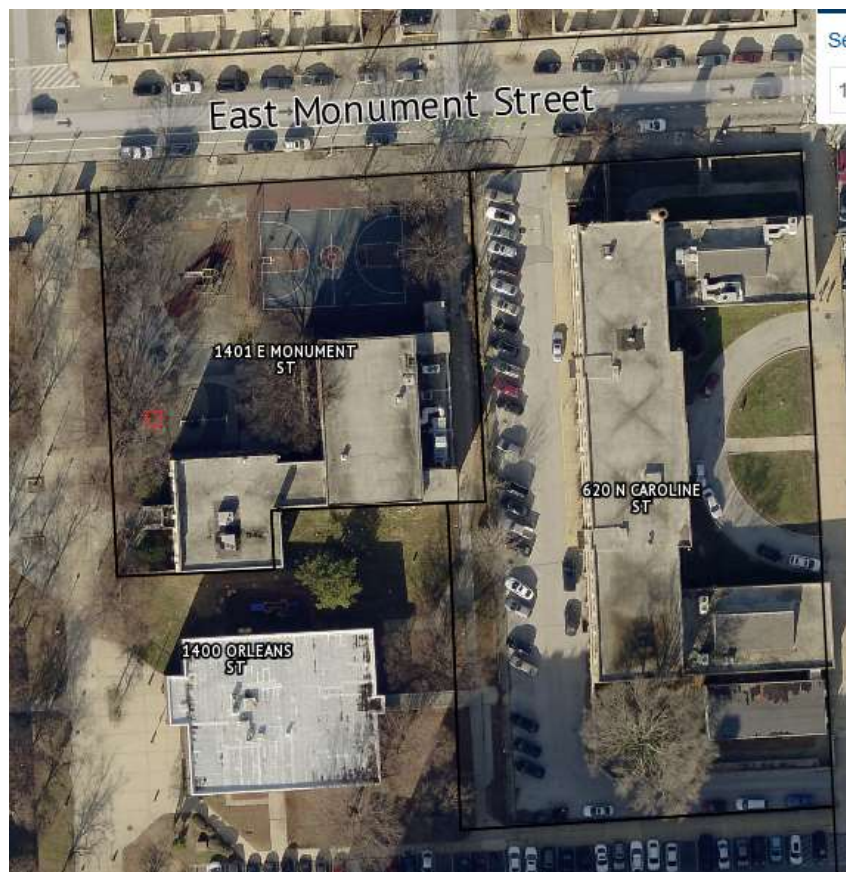
1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Baltimore history;
2. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in Baltimore's past; or
3. That embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

This property is significant for its association with Chick Webb, its role in the broad patterns of Baltimore history, and its architecture. This was the first recreation center and pool built for African Americans in segregated East Baltimore. The impetus and seed money for the construction of this recreation center came from members of the community, who fundraised and advocated for years for a recreation center, even purchasing the property for the center with their own money. Even after its construction, the community stayed involved, advocating and even paying for programming and upgrades to the facility. The recreation center was built to honor William Henry “Chick” Webb, internationally renowned drummer and bandleader from East Baltimore, who, before his untimely death in 1939, had promised to raise money for a community center in his neighborhood so that children would have opportunities that he lacked as a child. After his death, Webb’s doctor, Dr. Ralph J. Young, and others determined to complete his dream, beginning a decades-long fundraising and advocacy campaign to build the recreation center, which for almost 70 years has served a critical role in East Baltimore’s large African American community as a center for recreation, education, and community. The building itself is designed in the Art Moderne style by Baltimore architect Frederic A. Fletcher, and is an excellent example of the style.

Maps

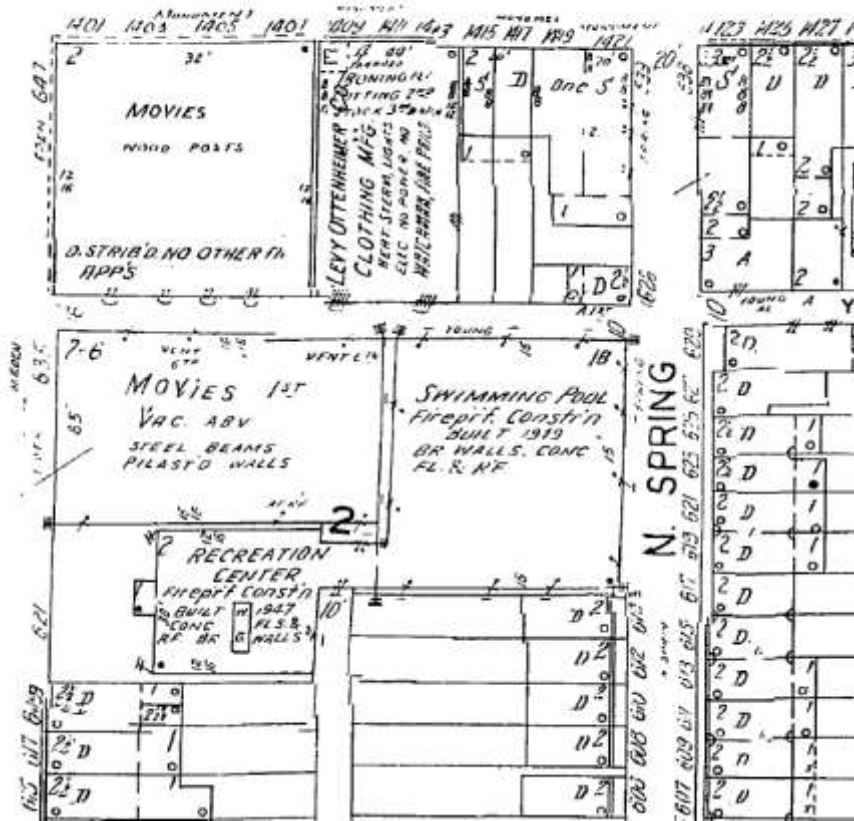


Map 1: Map of the property, showing nearby landmarks.



Map 2: Property boundary.

30' 6" WP E. MONUMENT



Map 3: This Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from 1951 depicts the Chick Webb Recreation Center, hemmed in by a movie theatre to the north and dwellings to the south. The swimming pool that was added in 1949 was built inside an old ice plant, which explains the construction date of 1919 on that portion of the Recreation Center. Notably, the only outdoor play space is in the front of the Recreation Center. (Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1914-1951, Vol. 3, 1951, Sheet 250.)

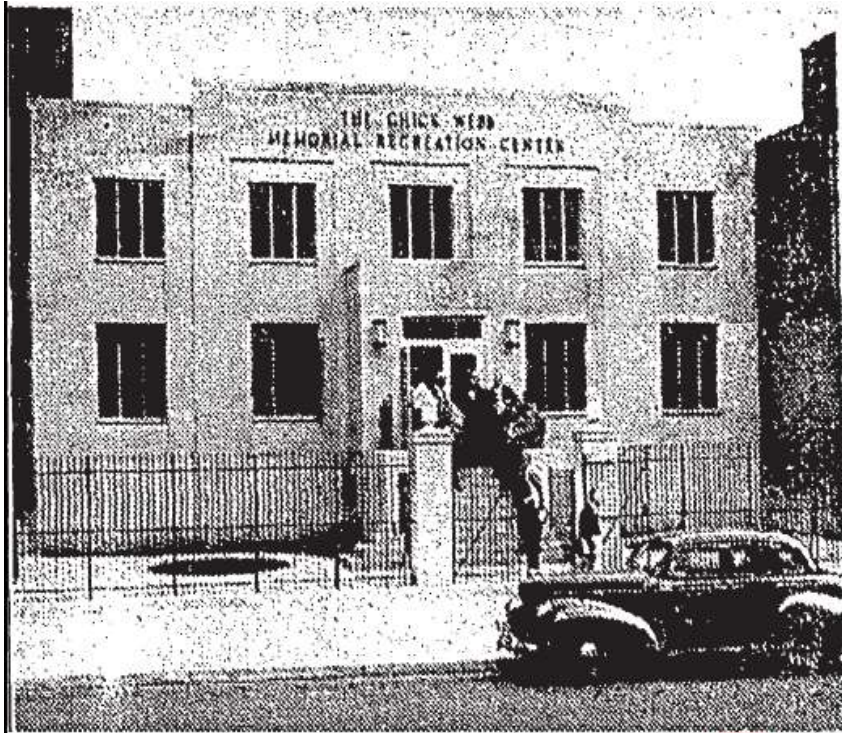
Images



Image 1: Aerial view from the west.



Image 2 – The façade today.



DRUMMER'S MEMORIAL—City officials pay a visit to **the Chick Webb Memorial** Recreation Center, developed by the city to honor the memory of the late Negro musician. Located in Eden street, the center will be accepted officially by the city on Friday.

Image 3 – Image of the Rec Center just before it opened in 1947.



Image 4: North elevation of the swimming pool and multi-purpose room.



Image 5: North and east elevation



Image 6: South elevation; showing the reused industrial building and 1960 second-floor addition.



Image 7: South elevation of main portion of Rec Center, and façade (west)



Image 8 – Plaque on the interior of building.



Image 9 – Plaque on the interior near the pool.

¹ Leon Hardwick, “Swing Is Newer Form of Old Art--Chick Webb: NOTED DRUMMER, A NATIVE ...” *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Oct 16, 1937; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 10; “The day they buried: Chick Webb” *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Apr 30, 1977; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 14A; Frank J. Graziano “Chick Webb: Coup in the Kingdom of Swing” in *Music at the Crossroads: Lives & Legacies of Baltimore Jazz*, Mark Osteen and Frank J. Graziano, editors (Baltimore: Apprentice House, 2010), page 32.

² Graziano, page 32.

³ Graziano, page 30.

⁴ “Chick Webb Heads Howard Stage Bill” *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Mar 27, 1937; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 24

⁵ Wilbur Young, “Chick Webb: Another Baltimore Boy Who Made Good 13 YEARS AGO HE HAD ...” *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jun 13, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 10

⁶ Leon Hardwick; Lee McCardell, “Webb Memorial Dedicated; Swimming Pool Promised”, *The Sun* (1837-1991); Dec 1, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 26

⁷ Graziano, page 32; Wilbur Young

⁸ William Young, “THE MAN WHO REALLY INVENTED JAZZ: IS NOT PERMITTED TO PLAY IT JELLY ...” *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Apr 11, 1936; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 11

⁹ Hardwick

¹⁰ Graziano, page 37.

¹¹ Wilbur Young.

¹² “Ella Remembers Chick, Who Made Her a Star” *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jan 8, 1949; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 7; Graziano, page 41-42.

¹³ Graziano, page 38-41.

¹⁴ “Chick and Basie Join in Swing Battle” *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Feb 5, 1938; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 11;

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- ¹⁵ Graziano, page 44.
- ¹⁶ "OPINION: Chick Webb Said He Could" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jun 24, 1939; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 14.
- ¹⁷ "OPINION: Chick Webb Said He Could"
- ¹⁸ Alfred D. Charles, "Swing Yields Sway To Dirge At Chick Webb Funeral Rites: Thousands ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Jun 21, 1939; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 24; Nell Dodson, "Full page of Pictures of Local Graduates Inside: 10,000 AT CHICK WEBB ..." *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jun 24, 1939; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 1
- ¹⁹ McCardell; Fred Rasmussen "The band played on: [FINAL Edition]" *The Sun*; Baltimore, Md. [Baltimore, Md] 28 July 1996: 6J; "Joe Louis To Head Tonight's Show For Chick Webb Fund: Heavyweight ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Feb 12, 1940; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 7
- ²⁰ Alfred D. Charles, "Thousands Jam Into Armory To Help Chick Webb's Dream: The Little ..." *The Sun* (1837-1991); Feb 13, 1940; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 22; "Friends of Chick Webb Rally Behind His Project" *Evening Sun*, February 9, 1940, quoted in Shirley Massenburg, "A History of the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center, Baltimore, Maryland" Morgan State University Master of Science Thesis, May 1985, page 72.
- ²¹ "Chick Webb's Band to Play Benefit" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Apr 20, 1935; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 8
- ²² "Joe Louis To Head Tonight's Show For Chick Webb Fund: Heavyweight ..."
- ²³ Massenburg, page 74.
- ²⁴ "Webb Center Receiving Portrait Of Dr. Young" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Mar 22, 1952; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 22I
- ²⁵ "Ella Remembers Chick, Who Made Her a Star" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jan 8, 1949; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 7
- ²⁶ Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center Dedication Ceremonies, November 30, 1947, quoted in Massenburg, page 6.
- ²⁷ "7,500 Attend Chick Webb Memorial Benefit: 7,500 at Chick Webb Memorial" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Feb 17, 1940; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 1
- ²⁸ Rasmussen.
- ²⁹ "7,500 Attend Chick Webb Memorial Benefit: 7,500 at Chick Webb Memorial"
- ³⁰ "Lack of Funds Perils Center: City's \$75,000 Gift Only Half Enough" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Aug 17, 1946; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 15
- ³¹ "Lack of Funds Perils Center: City's \$75,000 Gift Only Half Enough"
- ³² "Chick Webb Memorial Center Bids To Be Sought Shortly"; "Lack of Funds Perils Center: City's \$75,000 Gift Only Half Enough"; Massenburg, page 78.
- ³³ Massenburg, page 75.
- ³⁴ "Chick Webb Memorial Center Bids To Be Sought Shortly" *The Sun* (1837-1991); May 27, 1946; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 24.
- ³⁵ Massenburg, page 78.
- ³⁶ "Chick Webb Memorial Center Bids To Be Sought Shortly"
- ³⁷ "Chick Webb Memorial Center Bids To Be Sought Shortly"
- ³⁸ "37 Acres In East Baltimore Agreed On For Playgrounds"
- ³⁹ "37 Acres In East Baltimore Agreed On For Playgrounds"
- ⁴⁰ "Guard Put On Webb Memorial After Bullet Damage Is Found" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Aug 23, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 20;
- ⁴¹ Frederic A. Fletcher to the Department of Public recreation, "Explanation of Design for Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center," File, Bureau of Recreation, Baltimore, Maryland, February 27, 1946; quoted in Massenburg, page 82.
- ⁴² "37 Acres In East Baltimore Agreed On For Playgrounds" *The Sun* (1837-1991); Aug 20, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 28.
- ⁴³ "Chick Webb Center to Open During November" *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Nov 8, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 8.
- ⁴⁴ Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center Dedication Ceremonies, November 30, 1947, quoted in Shirley Massenburg, "A History of the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center, Baltimore, Maryland" Morgan State University Master of Science Thesis, May 1985, page 6.

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- ⁴⁵ Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center Dedication Ceremonies, November 30, 1947, quoted in Shirley Massenburg, page 6.
- ⁴⁶ “Guard Put On Webb Memorial After Bullet Damage Is Found”; Lee McCardell.
- ⁴⁷ “Photo Standalone 2 -- No Title” *The Sun* (1837-1991); Dec 1, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 7
- ⁴⁸ “Lack of Funds Perils Center: City’s \$75,000 Gift Only Half Enough”
- ⁴⁹ “37 Acres In East Baltimore Agreed On For Playgrounds”
- ⁵⁰ “PARK BOARD O.K.'S PLAYGROUND PLAN: Approves Elaborate Program, Delays Action On 3 Projects” *The Sun* (1837-1991); Nov 18, 1947; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 30
- ⁵¹ McCardell
- ⁵² “Machinery Transfer O.K.'d” *The Sun* (1837-1991); Mar 4, 1948; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 9
- ⁵³ “WEBB CENTER POOL PLANNED: \$200,000 Made Available For Recreation Project” *The Sun* (1837-1991); Mar 3, 1948; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Sun pg. 6
- ⁵⁴ Chick Webb Memorial Community Center Unit "B", File, Bureau of Building Construction of the Department of Public Works, August 31, 1949; cited by Massenburg, page 87-88.
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