



Local Landmark Designation Application

Type of property nominated (for staff use only)

- building structure site object
- historic district multiple resource

1. NAME AND LOCATION OF PROPERTY

historic name Jennie Hall Pool

other names/site number Wildwood Pool/Municipal Negro Pool

address 2650 10th Avenue South

historic address _____

2. PROPERTY OWNER(S) NAME AND ADDRESS

name City of St. Petersburg

street and number _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

phone number (h) _____ (w) _____ e-mail _____

3. NOMINATION PREPARED BY

name/title Emily Kleine Elwyn, MHP

organization Wildwood Neighborhood Association & St. Petersburg Preservation

street and number _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

phone number (h) _____ (w) _____ e-mail _____

date prepared _____ signature _____

4. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Describe boundary line encompassing all man-made and natural resources to be included in designation (general legal description or survey). Attach map delimiting proposed boundary. (Use continuation sheet if necessary)

SEE ATTACHED

5. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage of property _____

property identification number _____

Jennie Hall Pool Complex

Name of Property

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions

Swimming Pool

Current Functions

Swimming Pool

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification

(See Appendix A for list)

Masonry Vernacular

Materials

Concrete Block

Narrative Description

On one or more continuation sheets describe the historic and existing condition of the property use conveying the following information: original location and setting; natural features; pre-historic man-made features; subdivision design; description of surrounding buildings; major alterations and present appearance; interior appearance;

8. NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY

Contributing

Noncontributing

Resource Type

Contributing resources previously listed on the National Register or Local Register

3

Buildings

Sites

Structures

Objects

Number of multiple property listings

Total

Jennie Hall Pool Complex

Name of Property

9. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria for Significance

(mark one or more boxes for the appropriate criteria)

- Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state, or nation.
- Its location is the site of a significant local, state, or national event.
- It is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the City, state, or nation.
- It is identified as the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose work has influenced the development of the City, state, or nation.
- Its value as a building is recognized for the quality of its architecture, and it retains sufficient elements showing its architectural significance.
- It has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials.
- Its character is a geographically definable area possessing a significant concentration, or continuity or sites, buildings, objects or structures united in past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development.
- Its character is an established and geographically definable neighborhood, united in culture, architectural style or physical plan and development.
- It has contributed, or is likely to contribute, information important to the prehistory or history of the City, state, or nation.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property as it relates to the above criteria and information on one or more continuation sheets. Include biographical data on significant person(s), builder and architect, if known. Please use parenthetical notations, footnotes or endnotes for citations of work used.)

Areas of Significance

(see Attachment B for detailed list of categories)

Ethnic Heritdgc

Community Planning & Develpent

Entertainment & Recreation

Period of Significance

1954-1962

Significant Dates (date constructed & altered)

1954

Significant Person(s)

Cultural Affiliation/Historic Period

African American, 1954-1962

Builder

Logan Construction, pool & filter building

E. S. Moore & Sons, bathhouse

Architect

City Engineering Department

10. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please list bibliographical references.

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Continuation Section

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundary consists of all of the resources historically associated with the Jennie Hall Pool Complex located at 2650 10th Avenue South in Wildwood Park.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Constructed in 1954, the swimming pool measured 82 ½ feet by 42 feet with a depth of 10 feet at the diving end and 3 feet at the shallow end. The pool could accommodate 250 bathers at a time. It held 151 gallons of water and was filtered with a Bouser filtering system, which filtered 25,000 gallons an hour. The pump house, or filter building, measured 28' by 22 feet. Logan Construction of Tampa constructed the pool and filter building with a total budget of \$58,963. The pool had a single diving board at the deep/north end.

High raised-curb, concrete coping surround the perimeter pool with a roll-out, open gutter-type gutter system with a sloping drain channel, allowing for surface level skimming and drainage. Pipe ladders are positioned on the east and west sides of the pool. The pool originally had a single diving board at the deep/north end, which photographic evidence show was moved to the west side of the deep end, and finally repositioned back again to the north end. A high dive once stood at the north end, but has since been removed.

According to the Property Card, the city issued a permit to the Federal Construction Company to demolish and construct a new swimming pool in January 1981. Photographic evidence yields very little change in the appearance of the pool over time. The "demolition" and "construction" most likely refer to the demolition and removal concrete or marcite pool facing and resurfacing it with upgraded materials now available. This should be considered routine maintenance as pool facings typically have limited life span (Gabrielsen, 72). The Federal Construction Company also expanded the south, shallow end of the pool with two rectangular protruding stair entrances to better accommodate the needs of bathers. Additional work involved replacing the existing pool deck. A more recent addition of a waterside and tower have been added to the south end of the pool.

Photographic evidence shows that the alterations did not substantially change the pool's design. The distinctive raised concrete coping and roll-out gutter system remain intact, as do all surrounding sight structures. Thus the alterations did not impact the integrity of pool's setting, craftsmanship, design, materials, location, feeling, or association.

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The bathhouse, constructed by St. Petersburg contracting firm Edward S. Moore and Sons for \$28,890, measures 85 ½ feet by 31 feet with a central entrance. The bathhouse remains almost completely intact with only limited alterations. The bathhouse, constructed in 1954 is of utilitarian concrete block construction. The symmetrical front or east, façade features a centered projecting front entrance with replacement steel doors. The projecting concrete entrance is faced with concrete stucco, flanked by paired deeply set vertical sidelights with concrete sills and replacement frosted glass. Red brick knee walls frame the three painted concrete steps. The highly functional structure has minimal ornamentation with only horizontal concrete stringcourse encircling the upper portion of the structure. The upper eighth of the structure has horizontal 12-vent concrete vent openings encircling the building; five vent blocks on each side, allowing air circulation. The roof system is a flat roof with wide, overhanging eaves. Gutters are interior with exterior downspouts. A concrete walk leads to the front of the structure.

The west, or pool-facing façade has openings for the men's and women's changing rooms, guard office, first aid station and storage room. Jalousie windows have been replaced with double-hung aluminum windows. Diamond steal caging protects the windows. Recessed porcelain drinking fountains, at an appropriate height for children, are located on the east and west corners of the south façade.

The south façade has the two original exterior entrances to the restroom facilities for non-swimmers. These doors were removed in the 1980s, but the openings remain. Two 12-vent concrete vents are also present on the lower portion of this façade. An original poured concrete walk travels from the front façade of the structure to the former restroom entrances.

The interior is one room deep and is divided into three sections with a central desk area for ticket sales and lifeguard office and first aid facilities, and men's and women's changing and restroom facilities. This area was enclosed in approximately 2000 in order to add air conditioning to the office. On either side of the central room are separate facilities men and women with 6 showers, 5 toilets and 2 sinks for the women and 6 showers, 3 urinals, 3 toilets, and 2 sinks for the men. A storage room and slop sink are also included in both the men's and women's areas. The interior fixtures appear original. Separate restroom facilities were also provided for non-swimmers with entrances on the south side of the structure. Although these facilities are still in place, they have been closed since approximately the early 1980s.

The pump and filtration room measures 28' by 22 feet and were constructed of concrete block with a flat roof. The original pump and filtration building has the same 12-vent concrete openings as the pool house.

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A small, flat-roof concrete block addition to the filtration room was added after the historic period. An additional pent roof, concrete block storage structure on the northeast corner of the property was added and is also outside the historic period. The addition of these structures do not impact the historic integrity of the complex.

The pool deck is poured concrete and was resurfaced in 1981. On the south end of the deck, the original concrete decking with holes for the grandstand structure are evident.

A chain-link fence encircles the property.

Summary

Located at 2650 10th Avenue South, the Jennie Hall Pool Complex was constructed in 1954 as a segregated swimming pool serving the African American community in St. Petersburg. The complex consists of the rectangular swimming pool, decking, concrete block bathhouse and the concrete block pump and filtration house.

Setting

Located within the Wildwood Neighborhood, the Jennie Hall Pool Complex at 2650 10th Avenue South is situated in the Wildwood Park, adjacent to Wildwood Park Youth Center. The neighborhood is largely residential with the Jordan Park Apartments located approximately two blocks away. The original row of one-story bungalows along 12th Avenue South are still visible from the site. 10th Avenue South originally ran through to 28th Street South, but was closed when the new Wildwood Recreation Center was built. The modern intrusions of Interstate 275 and 375 border the site but are only minimally within the viewshed, and do not alter the historic feel of the surrounding park and adjacent neighborhood.

Integrity

The Jennie Hall Pool Complex has endured remarkably few alterations since its construction in 1954. The utilitarian concrete block construction of the bathhouse and pump house remain fully functional today. The pool, although resurfaced and possibly minimally expanded in 1981, as needed to remain functional, retains tremendous integrity of use, location, design, materials workmanship, feeling and association. Additionally, since the Jennie Hall Pool complex derives its significance primarily from its association with segregation, some loss of

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historic fabric is acceptable. Minor alterations, such as have occurred, do not disqualify a property from listing since sufficient material evidence remains to illustrate the experience of segregation.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Context

Swimming Pools in America

Public swimming pools first became popular in America in the urban, working class neighborhoods in Philadelphia, New York and Boston in the 1870s and 1880s. The austere municipal pools were little more than public baths and were rigidly segregated by gender and class, but not by race. These public bathing pools underwent a social and cultural transformation in the 1920s gaining immense popularity with the middle class when cities redesigned the pools as leisure resorts and located in parks rather than high poverty urban areas. Municipal officials also promoted pools as places of family and community scalability. From the 1920s through the 1950s, swimming pools were considered as popular and all-American as going to the movies (Wiltse, 2-6).

However African Americans, particularly in the South, were not included in this all-American activity. According to Jeff Wiltse in *Contested Waters, a Social History of Swimming Pools in America*, the “visual and physical intimacy that accompanied swimming made pools intensely contested civic spaces” (Wiltse, 3). African Americans were excluded from swimming with whites of any gender or class. This was the case for African American in St. Petersburg, who had no access to swimming pools and only extremely limited access to the waters of Tampa Bay and no access to the Gulf of Mexico.

Segregated Pools & Beaches in St. Petersburg

In 1950 St. Petersburg had a population of 97,738 according to the U.S. Census. 14% of the population was African American. The majority of these citizens lived in segregated neighborhoods south of 15th Avenue South. As typical for a Southern city, St. Petersburg was strictly segregated.

Unlike many places in the South, the segregation of municipal pools and beaches was not by local ordinance, but rather segregation was upheld by social tradition (Paulson, 6). As early as the early 1920s, local papers reported African American swimming in Tampa Bay at Jordan Beach, near the present St. Petersburg Clearwater Airport and Maximo Point and local attempts to open a municipally permitted Negro beach (“Tampan’s are held for circuit court,” *Evening*

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Independent, 29 September 1930; "League opposes land transfer, *Evening Independent*, 17 May 1938; "Scout Cleaning Camp Property," *St. Petersburg Times* 7 April 1940; "Take no action on Negro beach," *Evening Independent*, 26 June 1923). Surreptitious beaches also opened without municipal approval, such as the beach operated by Lester Harvey south of Bayboro harbor, for which he was arrested and the beach shut down after a judges ruling in 1929 ("Lester Harvey's case dismissed, *Evening Independent*, 10 September 1929).

The South Mole near the railroad pier provided the primary swimming venue for the African American community. The white establishment tolerated the use of the South Mole by African Americans, at best. They could swim at South Mole, but "not in large numbers." (*St. Petersburg Times*, 30 June 1937). Often times, African American's use of the South Mole for swimming was outright challenged. In 1933, the City Council voted to "suspend immediately the privilege of Negroes to bathe in bay" ("Negro Bathing Beach Ordered Discontinued," *St. Petersburg Times*, 1933).

Swimming continued at the South Mole beach and the complaints from residents and business owners mounted. The numerous objections forced the city to reconsider its use as a bathing area for the African American population. Residents and council members suggested several new locations as potential bathing sites, including an area near Salt Creek, south of the waterfront park, and even proposed damming Booker Creek to create a "waterhole," but neighbors and property owner rejected every proposal, always concerned about "large numbers of Negroes passing and re-passing along that thoroughfare," ("Proposal to Dam Creek for Negro Pool is Studied," *Evening Independent* 24 June 1937).

The difficulty in identifying a mutually satisfying location for an African American beach, lead to several alternative proposals for pools, but the political will power and funds were never available for their construction. In August 1944 the *Evening Independent* & the *St. Petersburg Times* reported that the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Recreation voted unanimously to recommend a swimming pool for the African American community be constructed as soon as possible. Professor Perkins of Gibbs High School, chair of the committee, suggested that the preferred location of the pool would be the east section Campbell Park. The Citizen's Advisory Committee also recommended upgrading the swimming facilities at Maximo Point, which unofficially served the African American Community. By 1951, the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Recreation was still advocating for a pool to be included in the Campbell Park master plan, but to little effect. (*Evening Independent*, 9 August 1944; *St. Petersburg Times* 9 August 1944). *St. Petersburg Times* 13 April 1951; "Hopkins Will Receive Views on Negro Pool, *St. Petersburg Times* 24 June 1937; "Mauer seeking views on three local projects." *Evening Independent*, 5 August 1937; "Negro Swim Pool Recommended for Campbell Park," *St. Petersburg Times*, 9 August 1944).

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One particularly distasteful solution to the conundrum of the swimming pool and beach location was suggested by former Mayor John S. Smith. It called for a series of portable sprinklers attached to fire hydrants to be set up by the fire department in Methodist Town, Gas Plant, and the Southside section of town. According to an interview with Smith in the *St. Petersburg Times*, these sprinklers would be inexpensive, "simple to operate, and a good deal more sanitary than a large pool." ("Former Mayor for Sprinkler Bathing Plan," *St. Petersburg Times*, 30 June 1937).

The decision to build a pool or open a beach languished on the city priority list. St. Petersburg meanwhile tacitly accepted African American's use of the South Mole and meager funds were directed towards its maintenance and staffing. By the 1950s, the City operated a small "learn to swim" program at South Mole and employed N. L. Brown as a lifeguard. Brown supervised activities for several hundred swimmers at South Mole ("N. L. Brown, swimming instructor at South Mole," *St. Petersburg Times* 5 July 1953; *St. Petersburg Times*, 11 November 53).

The debate over segregated swimming facilities would most likely have continued for years had Jennie L. Hall, a white retiree from the Midwest, not stepped forward to fund a municipal pool for African Americans.

Jennie L. Hall

Very little is known about the benefactor of the Jennie Hall Pool. Most of what is known comes from interviews with the *St. Petersburg Times* and *Evening Independent* as well as from the Registrar of the University of Chicago, and from primary sources such as City Directories. Jeannie Hall was born on December 13, 1869 on a farm near the small town of Butler, Missouri. She attended Missouri State University (also reported as the University of Missouri) and from 1897-1898 she was enrolled in the University of Chicago's chemistry program. Like many women, Hall funded her studies by teaching school. Teaching being one of the few available jobs to educated women. After leaving the University of Chicago she taught and later became the principal in Jamestown, North Dakota ("Petite Miss Jennie Hall's..." *St. Petersburg Times* 17 June 1953).

Hall later states that her two brothers persuaded her to go into the lumber business with them and she left her position in North Dakota to start a lumber mill in Idaho. The family members sold the mill at a profit and opened a lumber business in Butte, Montana. After selling that business, Hall retired to St. Petersburg in 1921 at the age of 53 where she moved in with her sister Mamie Hall ("Hall's Washtub Grew into a Swim Pool," *St. Petersburg Times* 18 June 1954; "Petite Miss Jennie Hall's..." *St. Petersburg Times*, 17 June 1935).

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According to the City Directories, from 1922 until 1952 Hall was listed as renting from her sister, Mamie Hall at 1203 7th Ave North. William B. Hall, Jennie Hall's brother is listed as living at 1203 ½ 7th Avenue North beginning in 1951. Hall became the owner of the property when her sister died in 1952. In 1953 William B & Gussie Hall are listed as owners of the home. In 1955 Jennie Hall is listed in the Directories as living at 125 56th Ave S, also known as Sunny Shores Villas of the St. Petersburg Methodist Home, which is where she remained until her death in 1955 (Polk Directories 1921-1955). The house at 1203 7th Avenue North is now demolished.

Like many retired professional middle class women, Hall was active with several civic and religious groups in St. Petersburg. According to a mention in the *Evening Independent* on 14 March 1929, she used her educational background in assisting the Euclid Middle School, with costumes for production of Yanki San. On 22 June 1929 the *Evening Independent* also mentioned her work with the Ladies Aid of the Ninth Avenue M E Church, hosting a silver tea for 50 at her home with her sister, Mamie.

In June 1953, at the age of 85 Jennie Hall, described in the *St. Petersburg Times* as a "petite spinster wearing a jaunty sailor and a tropical dress," approached the City Council with the intention of donating \$25,000 for a swimming pool to serve the African American community. To prove the seriousness of her intentions, she wrote a check for \$10,000 at the meeting, and promised another \$15,000 as soon as she divested from the stock market. The City Council, somewhat cowed, agreed to match her gift with \$35,000 of City funds.

Hall told the *St. Petersburg Times*, she was frustrated with lack of progress on the building of the Negro pool, "every place suggested had to be turned down because someone always objected." She met with Archie Dunlap, the writer of the Rambler column for the *Times*, and he told her that a Negro pool would never be built. According to Hall's account in the *St. Petersburg Times*, this is what she needed to be spurred to action, "I went back home and talked some more to my brother. I had saved money for my old age, but we both agreed I'd never need it all. The more I thought about the pool, the more it appealed to me." ("Jennie Hall's Washtub..." *St. Petersburg Times*, 18 June 1954.)

Hall was not known locally as a wealthy woman and was not evidently active in philanthropic circles. She told the *St. Petersburg Times*, "I do not have a great deal, but I live frugally in order to be able to do things for others." ("Petite Miss Hall..." *St. Petersburg Times* 17 June 1953.) She claimed to have saved

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her money and invested wisely in the stock market, buying bonds and government securities.

Hall also asserted not to be an avid swimmer, and recalled to the *St. Petersburg Times*, not knowing anything about pools until she arrived at the University of Missouri. However, she was deeply committed to the cause of a Negro swimming pool, "I got to thinking it just wasn't right for little Negro children not to have a place to swim. Then my mind went back to when I was a little girl on the farm. I remembered the old washtub and basin. I made up my mind these children would have the advantage of something I never enjoyed." ("Jennie Hall's Washtub..." *St. Petersburg Times*, 18 June 1954.)

After funding the pool, Hall continued to give generously in the African American community. She donated \$500 of the \$3,000 needed for renovations of the Council House belonging to the Metropolitan Council of the National Council of Negro Women. ("Trustees Reveal Council House renovation data," *St. Petersburg Times*, 15 August 1954) The club expressed their continued appreciation of Miss Hall and delivered a floral gift basket after a leg injury suffered in a fall left her in the hospital. ("Miss Jennie L. Hall gets floral basket," *St. Petersburg Times*, 11 January 1955.)

In February of 1955, just prior to her death, the B'nai B'Brith awarded Jennie Hall the St. Petersburg Brotherhood Award because of her long history of efforts on behalf of the African American population of St. Petersburg. Hall was the first woman to win such an honor. Harold Ballew, managing editor of the *Evening Independent*, nominated Hall for the award. According to Warren Pierce, former associate editor of the *St. Petersburg Times* speaking of Hall at the award ceremony, "Aunt Jennie said her only regret is that she had to spend her money for hospitalization which she had planned to use to set up a Negro scholarship." ("Jennie Hall Given Brotherhood Award," *St. Petersburg Times*, 22 February 1955.)

Hall died April 4, 1955. Her death was reported in the *New York Times*, ("Jennie Hall, Aided Negroes in Florida" *New York Times*, 5 April 1955). At the end of the swimming pool season in August 1958, the community paid tribute Hall with a full afternoon of programs in her honor including music by the 16th Street School Music Department, a devotional service lead by Dr. Enoch D. Davis, speeches by Rev. Ben F. Wyland of the Florida Council for Racial Cooperation and J. P. Moses of St. Petersburg Non-Partisan Voters League. Kaybee Credit Clothiers provided awards for the swimming exhibition and a special inspection was lead by the lifeguards and Mrs. Beatrice Monroe, the cashier. ("Tribute to Miss Hall scheduled for Sunday," *St. Petersburg Times* 29 August, 1958). In later years programs continued to honor Hall's contributions including a "Jeannie Hall Swim Week" in May of 1961 ("Swim Week Observed," *St. Petersburg Times* 5 May 1961.)

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Building of a segregated pool did little to solve the inequalities for African Americans in St. Petersburg. The desire to build a segregated pool rather than integrate the existing Spa Beach and Pool illuminates the paternalistic feelings held by many of the liberal white citizens towards African Americans. Hall states in a June 1953 interview with *the St. Petersburg Times* that, "The Negro population of St. Petersburg is ambitious and holds higher standards than those in most cities, North or South" ("Petit Miss Hall..." *St. Petersburg Times* 17 June 1953). Leaders in the African American community, although pleased to have the Jennie Hall Pool, found it "far too small to adequately serve the growing community" ("Negro's seek city beach, youth center," *Evening Independent* 24 February 1957). It would be 1959 before the St. Petersburg's municipal pools and beaches were fully integrated.

Building of the Pool

The donation of \$25,000 by Jennie Hall was the impetus the city needed to finally begin construction on the long-awaited segregated pool. However, the location and construction debate continued. Hall herself seems to have been the force behind choosing the site. In a *St. Petersburg Times* article she mentions selecting the site for the pool. ("Jennie Hall's washtub..." *St. Petersburg Times* 17 June 1953). The site selected by Hall was an eight-acre site in Wildwood Park, an African American recreation area between 26th & 28th Streets South and 9th & 11th Avenue South. According to Leroy Lewis, a school-age child at the time the pool was built, the site in Wildwood Park was a small swampy pond that the neighborhood children used for swimming. The city previously considered building the pool at the location of Moffett Cemetery because it was thought to be more easily accessible to the majority of the African American population. However, the city with Hall's input, finally settled on Wildwood Park because of its proximity to the Jordan Park Apartments and the popularity of the Wildwood Park's recreation center programs. Additionally, the *St. Petersburg Times* noted that, "the city is moving west, and most Negro home sites are being constructed in the areas near Wildwood" (*ibid*). No Sanborn maps are available for this site and the City Directories do not list any residents on the block.

Construction of the pool complex began in the fall of 1953 after some early debate on the cost of the ancillary structures such as the bathhouse, fencing, and parking. The city broke ground on September 1, 1953 on the \$90,000 project, which included the total cost of the pool and the bathhouse. Logan Construction of Tampa was awarded the contract to build the pool and began work on the site in November of 1953. The city set the budget for the pool at \$53,963 and gave Logan construction a 120-day deadline for completion. Logan's bid for the bathhouse was rejected as too expensive. The city awarded the contract for the

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construction of the bathhouse, on a scaled down design, to St. Petersburg contractor Edward S. Moore and Sons. The budget for the bathhouse was set at \$28,890 and a similar 120-day deadline was given to the contractor. The Council also appropriated an additional \$5,000 to Edward S. Moore and Sons to cover the cost of concrete pilings for the foundations, outside lighting, and a fence around the pool. ("Bathhouse Cost to Delay Pool for Negroes," *St. Petersburg Times*, 2 September 1953).

Opening and Use of the Pool

The Jennie Hall Swimming Pool at Wildwood Park opened on June 16, 1954. The first manager of the pool and chief lifeguard was Ernest A. Fillyau. Fillyau previously had been a lifeguard and taught swimming lessons at South Mole, and later went on to become a leader in the community and a member of the City Council. William Cutleff was the assistant manager and lifeguard and Jake Murray, a member of the Florida A & M Swimming & Diving team, was the diving instructor. Beatrice Monroe was the cashier. The city held a dedication ceremony on June 14, 1954 honoring Jennie Hall. In attendance were the mayor, Sam Johnson, and City Manager, Ross Windsom, and recreation manager, Jack Puryear. They dedicated a bronze plaque, located in the bathhouse, in her honor. She received letters and telegrams from all over the United States and Canada thanking her for her contributions toward the pool.

The recreation department set entrance fees at fifteen cents for children under the age of fourteen, twenty cents for children under seventeen, and twenty-five cents for adults. Lockers were available for twenty cents for children, twenty-five cents for under seventeen, and thirty-five cents for adults. Bathing suits could be rented as well at a cost of ten cents for children, fifteen cents for under seventeen, and twenty cents for adults. However, it was not uncommon for Beatrice Monroe to let the swimmers in for a reduced rate. Towels rented for ten cents each. The recreation department offered free swim classes for children in the mornings. (*St. Petersburg Times*, R. Lewis interview.) Numerous philanthropic groups also raised funds to cover the cost of "free swimming days."

The concession contract for the pool was awarded to J. P. Moses, an African American business man and community leader. He agreed to pay the city six percent of all gross sales on soft drinks, food, and similar items. He also agreed to pay the city fifteen percent of all novelty and swim equipment sales, and forty-five percent on all permissible advertising ("City Council Gives Moses Pool Concession Contract," *St. Petersburg Times*, 17 June 1954). The concession stand was a separate structure located next to the bleachers on the south side of the pool. A popular past time for swimmers and non swimmers alike was to enjoy refreshments from the concession stand in the covered

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bleachers or “grand-stand” while listening to music from the jukebox and watch others swim (R. Lewis interview).

From the outset, the African American community heavily used Jennie Hall Pool. The pool staff conducted free swimming lesson for children and competitions for older children (“City’s top swimmers ready to compete for first Jennie Hall Pool meet honors,” *St. Petersburg Times* 20 August 1954, “Don Butler wins swim contest,” *St. Petersburg Times*, 20 August 1954; “Free Swimming,” *St. Petersburg Times*, 12 August 1955.) Intra and inter-city swimming competitions began soon there after. Neighborhoods, such as Jordan Park, and Melrose Park formed their own swim teams and would compete against one another. Competitions against teams from other Tampa Bay pools, including the Cyrus Green Pool in Tampa and the Holt Avenue Pool in Clearwater also took place (“Bartow wins tri-city swimming meet at Jennie Hall Pool,” 2 July 1958; R. Lewis interview). The Pinellas County Health Officials also declared Jennie Hall Pool one of the cleanest pools in the county and praised the staff (“Jennie Hall Pool One of County’s Cleanest,” *St. Petersburg Times* 26 June 1955.) By 1958 and estimated 10,000 children had learned to swim at the pool (“City Honors Jennie Hall,” *Evening Independent*, 1 September 1958).

The construction of Jennie Hall Pool was at the tail end of the segregation era. A year after the opening of the Jennie Hall Pool, on August 21, 1955 seven black youths attempted to desegregate Spa Pool. The 1954 Supreme Court Ruling *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka Kansas* found the separate but equal doctrine in public education unconstitutional. Southern states argued that this ruling did not apply to other areas, including recreation, despite two closely following Supreme Court cases ruling in favor of desegregating recreational facilities. (Paulson, 6-17).

By 1957 the legal challenges to St. Petersburg’s segregation of swimming pools and beaches was found to be illegal, but future attempts in the summer of 1958 to integrate the Spa Beach and Pool were met with resistance from the city in the form of closures of all pools and beaches. The summer of 1958, Spa Beach and Pool remained closed and were not opened as a fully intergraded pool until January 6, 1959 (Paulson, 17).

The Jennie Hall Pool remained open during this time and was used by the African American community. As a reaction to the integration of Spa Beach and Pool, a rumor that a group of white youths would also attempt to integrate the Jennie Hall Pool, but the rumor proved to be false (“Spa Beach closed by City after its use by Negroes.” *St. Petersburg Times*, 6 June 1958). However, according to Mr. Leroy Lewis, a young swimmer at the time, there were several white children living in the area who regularly used the pool (L. Lewis interview).

The Jennie Hall Pool continues to operate to this day.

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Significance

Ethnic Heritage

The Jennie Hall Pool Complex is significant at the local level in the area of Ethnic Heritage as a tangible example of the omnipresent racial discrimination of African American in the St. Petersburg community. The pool complex is an expression in physical form of the legal and cultural manifestations of segregation in St. Petersburg. Rather than integrate existing swimming facilities, the City of St. Petersburg, with funds donated from an elderly white woman, constructed a segregated facility for African Americans. It meets the following criteria for designation of a property found in Chapter 16, Section 525(d) of the City of St. Petersburg Code:

- (1) Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state or nation.

Community Planning and Development

The Jennie Hall Pool Complex is significant at the local level in the area of Community Planning and Development as an example of the community planning and architecture of racial segregation, which designed and planned places that shaped behavior and managed contact between whites and African Americans. The City of St. Petersburg constructed the Jennie Hall Pool to meet the recreational needs of needs of the African American community in St. Petersburg, rather than integrate existing white-only facilities. It meets the following criteria for designation of a property found in Chapter 16, Section 525(d) of the City of St. Petersburg Code:

- (1) Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state or nation.

Entertainment/Recreation

The Jennie Hall Pool Complex is significant at the local level in the area of Entertainment/Recreation as the only segregated pool built for African Americans in St. Petersburg. At a time when the municipal recreation options and access to swimming locations for African American were extremely limited, the City of St. Petersburg, with donations from a local white woman, constructed the Jennie Hall Pool to meet the recreational needs of needs of the African American community, rather than integrate existing white-only facilities. It meets the

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following criteria for designation of a property found in Chapter 16, Section 525(d) of the City of St. Petersburg Code:

- (1) Its value is a significant reminder of the cultural or archaeological heritage of the City, state or nation.

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Hall Pool c.1972 courtesy of St. Petersburg Museum of History