

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Kurtzman Park
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 331 S. Wehe Avenue not for publication
city or town Pasco vicinity
state Washington code WA county Franklin code 021 zip code 99301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

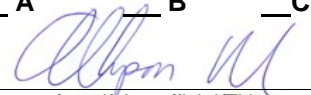
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural 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 C D

 November 11, 2022
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

WASHINGTON STATE SHPO
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In 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

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

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
3	1	site
2		structure
		object
6	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

The Black Experience in Pasco, Washington

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

GOVERNMENT: Correctional Facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE, WOOD

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Kurtzman Park is located on the east side of the city of Pasco, in Franklin County, Washington. The roughly five-acre park is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of E. Alton Street and S. Wehe Avenue, and contains the historically significant Kurtzman Park Youth Center (currently functioning as the Kurtzman Park Police Mini-Station), as well as a variety of sports fields, other recreational facilities. Virgie Robinson Elementary School is located adjacent to the north side of the park proper as well as a newer community center.

The youth center and historically associated baseball field lie at the southwestern corner of the larger park property. It is surrounded on the west, south, and east side by concrete curbing which separates a narrow band of foundation plantings (ornamental shrubs and grasses), from the more expansive grass lawn. Mature shade trees are located adjacent to its east and south walls. The baseball field is located adjacent to the east side of the building, and a contributing, open-sided pavilion is located directly adjacent to the north wall of the center.

Kurtzman Park (one contributing site) – 1953

The Park is a large open space and contains several sub areas for various forms of recreation and social interaction. The Park is primarily flat but has a recessed center area below the street level which housed open lawns and basketball courts as well as play equipment. The site has a scattering of trees throughout the park. Along the edge of Alton Street is a row of eight American Elm Trees. Near the basketball court is grouping of White Pine trees, and two large Silver Maple trees grace the south and east sides of youth center. Other specimen trees include a Sweetgum tree at the southwest corner of the park and a White Pine near the current playground areas. The Park has been expanded over the years and contains additional resources outside of the nominated boundaries. This includes a soccer field/football field and community garden.

Baseball field (one contributing site) - 1958

A baseball field is located southeast of the youth center, adjacent to Alton Street. This ballfield has a simple chain-link backstop, with movable bleachers on either side. The metal bleachers have wood bench seats. There is no pitching mound, nor outfield fence line, and the infield is a dirt/sand mixture.

Comfort Station (one contributing structure) - 1960

The comfort station is a simple side-gabled structure with exposed and extended purlins on the gable ends. The building has a concrete foundation, and the walls are constructed of blond Roman-style brick, often referred to as Adobe block. There are no windows in the building. Restroom doors are found on each gable end of the building and a central maintenance closet door is centered on the west façade. All doors are metal.

Basketball Courts (one contributing site) – c.1962

Originally a grass court, the basketball courts are comprised of a simple asphalt pad marked for two separate courts. The courts contain four fixed, fiberglass basketball back stops attached to simple metal poles. The courts were installed around 1962.

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Kurtzman Park Youth Center (one contributing building) - 1964

The youth center is a one-story masonry building, built on a concrete slab foundation, with a flat roof. Originally constructed with a simple rectangular plan, an addition extends along a portion of the north wall, creating the current irregular plan. The walls of the original component are made with concrete blocks, 15 courses high and laid up in a running bond pattern. While also made of concrete blocks laid up in running bond, the addition is only 12 courses high. The roof has wide, plywood enclosed eaves with metal vents, and board soffits, currently painted blue. Window openings throughout the building have brick sills and contain metal sash with single fixed lights. A free-standing metal sign printed with the words "Kurtzman Park Police Mini-Station" and the Pasco Police shield, is mounted between two wooden posts at the edge of a concrete walk leading from Wehe Ave. to the main entrance to the building.

North (front) wall: The main entrance to the building is located at the west edge of the north wall of the original component and contains a flush metal door. A curved, stucco-clad marquee extends over the walkway in front of this entry. "ENTRANCE," is spelled out in metal letters affixed to the front of the marquee. The top of the marquee extends above the roofs of both the original volume and the addition. A recessed can light in the enclosed ceiling of the marquee illuminates the area in front of the door. An intercom marked with a sign that reads "Emergency Help Phone," is mounted on the west wall north of the entrance.

One window opening with a single fixed light is located at the east edge of the north wall of the original component. The north wall of the addition (which extends between the main entry and the window) contains a doubly entry in the middle of the east half of its north wall. This entry contains a pair of flush metal doors, each with a single narrow rectangular wire-reinforced light. (These doors open directly onto the adjacent pavilion.)

East (side) wall: On the east wall of the building, the original volume has two window openings, one at each end of the wall. There are no door or window openings in the east wall of the addition.

South (rear) wall: The rear wall of the building has two window openings, one at the east end and one at the west end of the wall. A concrete block chimney extends the full height of the wall adjacent to the west edge of the east window opening. The top of the chimney extends three courses above the edge of the roof.

West (side) wall: The west wall of the building faces on to Wehe Ave. The original volume has one window opening centered in the wall. The addition has an entry with a pair of wood double doors in the center of its wall. A window opening, currently boarded over with plywood, is located north of this entrance.

A low concrete pier with a beveled top is located adjacent to the west wall, where a concrete walk extends from Wehe Ave. to the main entrance in the north wall of the building. A brass plaque with an embossed dove holding an olive branch, is mounted atop the post, and reads:

THE JUNTEENTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL / ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMMITMENT / THAT WAS
REQUIRED TO BUILD / THE KURTZMAN YOUTH CENTER / 1961-1964

WE SALUTE THE AFRO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, PASCO YMCA, CITY OF PASCO AND
THE MANY VOLUNTEERS AND BUSINESSES WHO GAVE THEIR TIME AND ENERGIES
TO MAKE THIS DREAM A REALITY.

DEDICATED THIS DAY JUNE19, 1993

Covered Play Shed (one contributing structure) – 1968

The hexagonal pavilion is located directly adjacent to the north wall of the youth center. The structure sits atop a hexagonal concrete pad, just feet from the north wall of the youth center addition. Six laminated wood columns which are vertical on the exterior and arched towards the interior, support the hexagonal roof, which is covered with steel roofing.

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Splash Pad (one Non-contributing site) - 2014

The splash pad is located on the site of the former pool which was demolished in 2013. The site originally contained two open-air pools and a locker/shower room. The new Splash Pad is a concrete pad with various types of metal sprinkler heads at different heights.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY: Civil Rights

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance

1953-1975

Significant Dates

1953

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Hawkins, Thelmer (Builder)

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Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Established in 1953, Kurtzman Park in Pasco, Washington is historically significant under criteria A for its direct connection to the Black community of East Pasco. The Park was formed at the urging of local youth who had a strong need and intense desire to have their own public space on which to recreate. Over the years it became host to countless sporting events, social gatherings, and educational opportunities for East Pasco residences of all ages.

The Park, its Youth Center and additional infrastructure were built through a prolonged collective effort by the Black community, and after its completion, the Park and Youth Center became its physical and cultural core. Kurtzman Park served as one of two primary bases for a broad array of community organizing, especially civil rights organizing, in East Pasco, at the time the Tri-Cities only Black neighborhood.

The Park meets the registration requirements as set forth by *The Black American Experience in Pasco, WA Multiple Property Documentation*. Kurtzman Park is directly tied to two of the three defined historic contexts: 1) The Tri-Cities' Black Community in Postwar Pasco, 1940s-70s; and 2) Civil Rights, Integration, and the Changing Racial Landscape of the Tri-Cities, 1940s-1970s.

The property's period of significance extends from its date of establishment in 1953 through 1975, the year that a new, larger youth recreation facility was built at the north end of the park. This timeframe encompasses several improvements to the park over the course of its use. The Park continues today to be an important community asset.

Building Community, and Kurtzman Park, in 1950s Black East Pasco

In the immediate postwar Pasco, in the context of the segregated and discriminatory landscape, recreational opportunities for the Black American community were in short supply. The community was prohibited from many public spaces, and isolated from others by virtue of being segregated into a destitute, underdeveloped neighborhood—on the wrong side of a big, busy industrial railroad and highway corridor. Pasco's Black residents, who for the most part lacked even adequate housing, struggled to find simple space in which to gather. To this end, one of the biggest early Black community organizing efforts focused on developing a public park space in East Pasco, so that people in the larger Tri-Cities areas only African American neighborhood had a place to interact, and children had a place to play.

During the 1940s, in the absence of such a space, neighborhood children played on nearby vacant lots. Foremost among them was a large undeveloped lot owned by the Kurtzman family, for whom one of the additions underlying East Pasco, i.e., Kurtzman's Addition, was named. Local children recalled playing especially in the expansive, undeveloped Kurtzman tract, which included "a swale in the northwest corner" that they called the Lizard Hole.ⁱ The Kurtzman lot was big enough it could hold a makeshift baseball diamond, which neighborhood kids eventually roughed out. When brothers Edmon and Vanis Daniels moved to Pasco to join their parents—who'd come in the early '40s to work at Hanford—in 1951 (when Vanis was 13 or 14), they recalled, as Vanis put it, that

"we didn't have any place to play ... then we started making our own baseball diamonds in vacant lots and things. And as the lots would be developed, they would—well, naturally, they'd run us out because there wasn't enough room for us to play. So one evening, we didn't have any place to play baseball and we wanted to play baseball. Two blocks from my house, where I grew up at was Well, actually, it's a block and a half. But it was just a vacant field. And we took shovels, a bunch of my friends and me, and

ⁱ Morning Star Church Interview with Pastor Albert Wilkins, Dr. Dallas Barnes, and Mr. Webster Jackson.

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we went out there and we cleared all the tumbleweeds out, took the shovels and kind of levelled it off, and started playing baseball.”ⁱⁱ

As Vanis Daniels noted that they subsequently lobbied the Kurtzman family to turn their makeshift ballfield into a park for East Pasco. One day when the Daniels boys were playing

“a lady named Rebecca Heidelbar happened to come by there and see us. I don't know exactly what period of time, how long we'd been playing there. And she stopped and asked us if we had a park that we could play in. We told her no. ... And she went to the courthouse, found out who the land belonged to where we were playing. She helped us to draft a letter to Mr. Kurtzman, which she found out lived in Seattle and ask him to donate enough land for us to have a baseball diamond. Well, it took him the better part of six months to answer us, but ... He got back to us and told us that ... He would donate six acres of land to the city if they named the park after him.”ⁱⁱⁱ

True to his word, on May 1, 1953, H. Allan Kurtzman deeded a five-acre parcel, i.e., the southwest corner of his much larger vacant tract, to the City of Pasco, with the deed specifying “the property herein conveyed is for park purposes only.”^{iv} Kurtzman was President of the James Henry Packing Company in Seattle and was a former resident of Pasco. He most likely acquired the land from his father Fred. When he passed away in 1962, Kurtzman had no known relatives which may indicate a reason why he donated the land and asked for the family name to be put on the park.

After Kurtzman deeded the land to the city, residents watched hopefully as the city commenced planning for park development. In June 1953, the month after Kurtzman deeded the parcel to Pasco, the city council officially “named the new park in the eastern part of the city Kurtzman Park after the donor of the land, H.A. Kurtzman, Seattle, former resident of Pasco, and his father, Fred Kurtzman, one of the founders of the city.”^v A few days later, regional papers reported that “two [state park] officials will move across the river to Pasco for meetings with the Pasco park board on the development of Kurtzman park, newly created recreational area in East Pasco.”^{vi} The next month, the city park board requested “\$8,000 in funds in its 1954 budget for development of Kurtzman Park in East Pasco,” to help pay for “the first part of the program for development of the new park [which] call[ed] for seeding the five-acre tract into grass.” The park board also “hoped to have the city purchase about three pieces of playground equipment ... The budget also called for three ballfields with backstops.”^{vii}

Then in late 1953 Franklin County’s engineering department completed initial grading of Kurtzman Park, and city officials announced that “the east part of the five-acre site will be prepared for a ballpark and the west side for other recreation activities.” However, despite this, and Allan Kurtzman’s stipulation, the City of Pasco development of the park quickly fell short. It became clear that city leaders were reluctant to invest any further in a park space in the Black neighborhood, just as it had long refused to invest in other basic East Pasco civic infrastructure (like paved streets, streetlights, water, and sewer, etc.).^{viii}

Even as the park board professed plans for developing Kurtzman, it hinted they might not be carried out, and this fact rapidly became readily apparent. When City Parks superintendent Harry Wyman detailed his 1954 budget requests in July 1953, he was careful to qualify his professed East Pasco funding proposals. “Wyman emphasized that the whole park system is growing and that the new park will have to compete with expenses for the other recreation areas.” In other words, the city had no intention of prioritizing development of a park in the Black neighborhood, where there was none, over expanding and improving the several ample parks in

ⁱⁱ Interview with Vanis Daniels.

ⁱⁱⁱ Interview with Vanis Daniels; Interview with Vanis and Edmon Daniels.

^{iv} “Statutory Warranty Deed (H. Allan Kurtzman to City of Pasco).”

^v “Street Oiling Job Awarded.”

^{vi} “Inspection Is Slated on Columbia Park Site.”

^{vii} “\$8000 Is Asked for Park Work.”

^{viii} “Kurtzman Park Grading Done in East Pasco”; “County Will Rent Grader.”

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White Pasco.^{ix} When the City released its “revised preliminary budget” for 1954 that September, it was clear that it would not develop Kurtzman for park-less East Pasco. Regional newspapers reported that the budget revealed “that an almost fatal blow has been dealt early development of the planned Kurtzman Park in east Pasco. The Park Department had asked for approximately \$8,000 to make a recreational site out of the land given to the city last April by Alan Kurtzman. This has been slashed to \$1,500 by the city council.”^x

In October 1953, the city park commission reported that “grading and seeding of Kurtzman Park on the east side was given a boost when the city arranged to rent a grader from the county for the heavy work...[and] that an underground sprinkler system will be installed. The east part of the five-acre site will be prepared for a ballpark and the west side for other recreation activities.” In doing so it specified that at Kurtzman, “other than the leveling, seeding, and installing of sprinkler system, the development will be by volunteer work.”^{xi} A few days later park board chairman Gordon Mercier, announced that “the new Kurtzman Park in southeast Pasco will soon be the scene of grading and bulldozing activities.... The grading work will be done at cost by the Franklin County engineering office.” Meanwhile, “pipe for the underground sprinkler system” would not be laid until “early next year when 1954 funds are available and seeding will follow in the spring ... laying out of a ballpark and other play areas will be done after the grading is completed.”^{xii} By the end of the year, reports from the Park Board said simply that “grading work on Pasco’s new Kurtzman Park has been completed and further work will be held up pending the issuance of 1954 funds.”^{xiii} By all indications, the City completed little further work on Kurtzman, and by August 1954 it was defending itself in the face of public demands that the city council “explain the delays on the park project.”^{xiv}

Despite the funding and preliminary work at Kurtzman, in the months that followed the city announced it would cut its professed development plans for the park. Kurtzman, it seemed, had been added to the long list of civic infrastructure that the city would not provide in Pasco’s Black neighborhood. When “Mayor Harry V. Custer ... assured members of the Tri-City human relations committee that the city wants to get Kurtzman Park on the east side completed as soon as possible,” he was also reluctant of specific commitments. Reportedly when the mayor “outlined some proposals for water, sewer, and street developments in that part of the city.” The mayor and Councilmen Del Avery and Cecil Combs discussed water and sewer extension problems on the east side, noting that street problems were another subject of consideration. Councilman “Combs explained that the difficulty in getting service extended to some parts of the area was that not enough people could be signed up to pay the necessary front footage charges.”^{xv} This was a familiar line of argument in Pasco, which essentially held that the impoverished Black neighborhood could not be improved because it was impoverished and unimproved. And as with parks, City officials would not prioritize building basic infrastructure in the Black neighborhood that needed it but would instead devote itself to the White areas that already had it. Mayor “Custer pointed out that all revenue available to the city for streets was being spent on maintenance.”^{xvi}

To the Black community that developed in Pasco during the Second World War, this was by now a familiar pattern. They’d heard the city make excuses and false promises about investing in basic civic infrastructure in East Pasco for over a decade. Anyone familiar with local practices would likely have held little hope that the city would fulfill its obligation to develop Kurtzman Park. In light of this evidence and enduring discrimination, the Black community and its allies decided to forge ahead on their own to create a public neighborhood space and place for its children to play. However, building the park required funding and labor. The community began to tackle both of these tasks shortly after Kurtzman deeded the property to the City of Pasco.

Community fundraising efforts, which entailed a multi-pronged campaign and the participation of an array of local organizations, began making news even as the city purported to be moving forward with initial park

^{ix} “\$8000 Is Asked for Park Work.”

^x “Park Planners Receive Blow.”

^{xi} “City Will Rent County Grader.”

^{xii} “New Pasco Park Work to Begin.”

^{xiii} “Kurtzman Park Grading Work Done in East Pasco.”

^{xiv} “Pasco City Council Working to Speed Park Development.”

^{xv} “Pasco City Council Working to Speed Park Development.”

^{xvi} “Pasco City Council Working to Speed Park Development.”

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development. In July of 1953, the Water Follies, a big annual summer event in the Tri-Cities, netted \$3,000 in profits, and announced it would “contribute \$500 toward the development of Kurtzman Park in East Pasco.”^{xvii} By the following year, when it had become evident that the Park would not be built if it were left up to the City, the fundraising campaign intensified. In September 1954 the East Side Improvement Association “sponsor[ed] a dinner Saturday night at the new Labor Temple in Pasco to raise funds for development of Kurtzman Park.” The “civic affairs and planning committee of the Pasco Chamber of Commerce,” which reported it had “been working toward development of the east side park for several years ... urged chamber members to attend the dinner.”^{xviii} A month later, the local Kiwanis Club authorized “a donation of \$300 for the development of Kurtzman Park on Pasco’s east.... The move came after officials of the Tri-City human relations committee appealed to civic clubs to provide support for the park project. According to the committee some \$1,100 would be needed for leveling work at the park.”^{xix} Within a few days “Mrs. Florence Merrick, chairman of the Tri-City Human Relations Committee,” was reporting “progress in the group’s efforts to raise funds for leveling work at Kurtzman Park on the city’s east side. So far, she indicated, the committee has raised \$1,132. She said more would be needed to handle the job.”^{xx} By December the Tri-City Human Relations Committee “had raised a total of \$1,782 for development of the park on Pasco’s east side and said that to date \$1,452 had been spent.”^{xxi}

While local leaders of both Black and White organizations worked to raise funds in their adult realms, Pasco’s children also joined in the effort. On Halloween in 1954, some local youth, “solicitation of funds for Kurtzman’s eastside park replaced the usual tricks or treat operation on Halloween.” The youngsters collected a total of \$255. Their activities were sponsored and supervised by the ministerial association of the city and the various churches gave parties for the kiddies following their canvasses. After subtracting the cost of armbands and collection boxes a net of \$222.20 remained for the park.^{xxii} The Rev. Andrew Daughters of the Episcopal Church was in charge of the drive.

As an array of Pasco residents worked on fundraising, others recruited the volunteer labor needed to complete the park. As early as April 1954, regional newspapers featured public calls for “volunteer workers [who were] sought to launch the development of the Kurtzman park in East Pasco.”^{xxiii} That fall, even basic “leveling and seeding work remain[ed] to be done,” with much additional development needed thereafter.^{xxiv} However, by mid October 1954, Mrs. Ivan Merrick, committee chairman of the Tri-City Human Relations Committee reported that the L.M. Jones Excavating Company had been awarded a leveling contract.” Over the next year progress on the park was slow (in 1955 the Tri-City “committee spent \$2,500 ... on [further] leveling the site and purchasing materials”), and in October 1955 H. DeSchepper announced hopefully that “the development of Kurtzman Park would be completed next year.... He said the committee will supply \$507 for welding irrigation pipe and the Water Follies corporation will buy grass seed.” Moreover, proclaimed DeSchepper, “the city council ha[d] agreed to spend more money on the park next year. The money is expected to be available in May.” However, judging from period newspaper coverage, the city said, or did, little more on the subject in subsequent years.^{xxv}

By this point the Black community of East Pasco was resigned to the City’s inaction and had commenced developing the park with its own hands. The collective construction effort in the face of the City’s stalling features prominently in community memory. As Vanis Daniels put it, “we didn’t even have a park. And when the park was built, the city didn’t build the park... The community built the park.”^{xxvi} Other community members like Morning Star Church’s Rev. Albert Wilkins, Dallas Barnes, and Webster Jackson echoed this refrain: when

^{xvii} “Water Follies Take Is \$3000.”

^{xviii} “Club Dinner Tonight Will Benefit Park.”

^{xix} “Kiwanis Group Gives \$300 to Park Project.”

^{xx} “More Funds Necessary to Level Park Area.”

^{xxi} “Tri-City Racial Problems Shake Junior College Plans.”

^{xxii} “Park Fund Gets \$222 at Pasco.”

^{xxiii} “Parks Are Planned.”

^{xxiv} “Kiwanis Group Gives \$300 to Park Project.”

^{xxv} “Park Project to Get Money”; “East Pasco Residents Wrathful.”

^{xxvi} Interview with Vanis and Edmon Daniels.

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it came to "Parks. [They] didn't really have any until we ... until we built Kurtzman Park.....the community built that park."^{xxvii} It was, in the words of James Pruitt, "a community involvement project," it was "the black men that put that park together that was given to us."^{xxviii} Black women of course worked on the project too, often in less visible and less recognized ways. Edmon Daniels described how "the men's of the community...[his] father, uncles, cousins, just men's of the community, put the park in," but also "remember[ed] one Sunday, the ladies, they got together and cooked up some food and got a big picnic for all the guys that was working."^{xxix} Histories of Kurtzman note especially the critical work of Virgie Robinson, who "came to Pasco in 1949 from Seattle and ... was instrumental in getting Kurtzman Park in Pasco completed and was its first director."^{xxx}

Specific tasks stood out in community recollections of the park-building project. Dallas Barnes summarized the process succinctly: "Kurtzman donated the land, and the community helped go seed it and so forth and so on."^{xxxi} James Pruitt offered more detail, remembering that "every tree that was sent out over there, these hands dug them up. Me and one white boy, Roy Hagerton. ... We went out to Job's and we went out there and worked four hours on a Saturday morning, and he gave us those trees. While we would go in there, other men was digging the trenches for the waterlines. Some of the guys were out at the old navy base up there digging up the pipes that had been given to us, and St. John's Trucking was hauling them over to Kurtzman Park, free."^{xxxii}

Vanis Daniels also detailed the community's labors, and the city's lack thereof: "as far as the city go. The only thing they did to get that park in there was they gave some used pipe that they had laying around out there at what we call the Navy Base, which is out by the airport. And the black parents went out there and broke all this pipe apart and everything, took it down to the park, actually took shovels--we took shovels--dug the trenches for the water system down there, put the pipe back together, put the water system in."^{xxxiii} Eventually, "the park was finished and the city put up the sign,... Then they had the teeter-totter, they had the monkey bars, we called them, all that stuff, swings, all that stuff there and everything was like a peppermint stick. It was painted red and white stripe."^{xxxiv} Initial amenities also included "a merry-go-round, ...[and] an elephant slide."^{xxxv}

The Park construction process reflected, and fortified, the collective Black community in Pasco and the Tri-Cities, and once completed the Park would become its center. It served thereafter as both the literal and figurative center of the community. Aubrey Johnson recalled how the park, as process, product, and place, anchored the Black community:

"to the community, Kurtzman Park was kind of like a volunteer-type situation. Of course, we didn't have a park. And so when that was put in, it even brought our community together even more because of the camaraderie that they had they built ... I can remember them putting in the trees around the park and help dig the lines they had around there for water. When we were kids, Mom would tell us, go down to the park. We'd go down there and play, so it was like a safe haven. I remember there was a lady across the street, Big Irene, and the Butchers lived over across the street. Then there was California Street was a street there that nobody even knows about, probably, anymore, and Wehe, they intersect. And they intersect right in front of the park and there was a row of houses there and I could probably name you everybody that lived in those houses. We would go there, and we could stay there all day long and our parents didn't have to worry about us, because that was a safe haven and that's where all the kids would go. So it was a very important place for us."^{xxxvi}

^{xxvii} Interview with Dallas Barnes, Webster Jackson, Albert Wilkins at Morning Star Baptist Church, Pasco, WA.

^{xxviii} Interview with James Pruitt.

^{xxix} Interview with Vanis and Edmon Daniels.

^{xxx} Hayes and Franklin, *Northwest Black Pioneers*, 11.

^{xxxi} Interview with Dallas Barnes, Webster Jackson, Albert Wilkins at Morning Star Baptist Church, Pasco, WA.

^{xxxii} Interview with James Pruitt.

^{xxxiii} Interview with Vanis Daniels.

^{xxxiv} Interview with Vanis and Edmon Daniels.

^{xxxv} Interview with James Pruitt.

^{xxxvi} Interview with Aubrey Johnson.

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Rickie Robinson put it simply that “the focus of our activities as kids in east Pasco was Kurtzman Park. That was the spot.”^{xxxvii}

Adults, too, gathered in Kurtzman, East Pasco’s only dedicated public space. In the words of Bobby Sparks—who had in Pasco “a huge, huge extended family. The Miles, the Davises” etc.— “the community, when we get together at Kurtzman Park, I mean, it was like a family reunion. Everybody was there.”^{xxxviii} It became not only a casual children’s play area and adult social space, but also the center of organized public life, of celebrations and special occasions. Donald Bell Sr. “remember[ed] being at Kurtzman Park, every year there was some type of celebration going on down there,” recalling especially, “because so many being from the South, that Juneteenth there was a big thing.”^{xxxix} Juneteenth stood out too in Gordon Guice’s memory of community events. He recalled:

“Juneteenth was a big one.... that’s when the slaves got their rights and stuff. And we always celebrated and it was a big deal down at Kurtzman Park. We would have basketball tournaments against Yakima, the black people from Yakima. We’d invite people from Richland. There wasn’t many people in Kennewick, so they were kind of left out. But it was mostly Juneteenth and barbecues. And then back then, east side would play against Navy homes in sports. Because there were a lot of black people in Navy homes, where I grew up. You could just see them walking down the street, and we would meet and have these big baseball tournaments and stuff like that. But official stuff, it was Juneteenth.”^{xl}

While it doggedly built its own, and only, public space, the Black community also continued to pressure the city to erect basic park infrastructure at Kurtzman (and basic East Pasco infrastructure more generally). In 1958, George Heidlebaugh, an attorney for the “East Side Citizens’ committee” served the City of Pasco with a “redress of grievances” which forcefully reiterated the residents’ request that the City commit to four things, “construction of a sanitary sewer system in east Pasco; to gravel and pave all residential streets in east Pasco; to construct a grade crossing over the railroad tracks to link Court street with North Oregon avenue and to provide comfort stations at Kurtzman Park.” Pasco Mayor Raymond Hicks responded that “all the requested improvements would be impossible since insufficient taxable property exists in east Pasco to finance it,” or, in other words, yet again, that the impoverished Black neighborhood would not be improved because it was impoverished and unimproved.^{xli}

The Youth Center and the 1960s

Faced with ongoing refusal by the City to fund further improvements, the Black community continued to work together to build and improve the park. William Henrick was hired by the city to complete a comfort station at the park in the October of 1959. Then in March of 1960 the East Pasco Improvement Association helped plant new trees in the park under the supervision of landscape architect V.D. Rouse. Previously the local Camp Fire Girls had planted a tree at the park in 1956.

In 1961, residents began to erect a building that physically embodied their efforts, a youth center. Like the park itself, construction of the youth center depended almost exclusively on volunteer labor and community contributions, and it would take nearly four years (i.e., early March 1963) before concrete-block “walls . . . constructed by volunteer workers” were up.”^{xlii} James Pruitt, initial chairman of the building committee noted that the Garrison Construction Company had volunteered equipment and services as early as 1961. Vanis Daniels recalled that his cousin, Mr. Luzell was prominent among the people who “put up, free of charge,” the Youth Center. According to Daniels, “right where U-Haul is on Fourth Street in Pasco now [in 2013], used to be a brick place where they made brick blocks, your cinder blocks. And they donated the blocks. We did the labor

^{xxxvii} Interview with Rickie Robinson.

^{xxxviii} Interview with Bobby Sparks.

^{xxxix} Interview with Donald Bell, Sr.

^{xl} Interview with Gordon Guice.

^{xli} “East Pasco Residents Wrathful.”

^{xlii} “Walls Put Up by Volunteers”; “Building Dedication Set in Pasco”; “Unsung Volunteers Teach Pasco’s ‘Ghetto’ Children.”

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and put it up.”^{xliii} Others in the community remember that “Thelmer Hawkins was the lead in building that building that’s up there in Kurtzman Park.”^{xliv}

On Saturday, March 2, 1963, a crew of some “20 volunteer workers toiled away ... until darkness fell,” raising the walls of the Youth Center, and they came close to laying the last concrete-block course before nightfall: as one volunteer opined, “we’d have finished the job if the day had only lasted a little longer.” The volunteer “crew, which included four block-layers, was led by Luzell Johnson, Thelmer Hawkins, and Wilbur Wright.” Although “contributions of cash and building material [were] still needed to complete the center” (and were “being solicited by the Lower Columbia YMCA”), “bricklayer and sometimes contractor” Thelmer Hawkins, indicated that the community hoped to have the center completed by early that summer, with “a library, craft room, and multi-purpose room” inside the building.^{xlv}

But it would end up being another year before volunteers were able to open the center. The slow, unfunded volunteer process was further delayed when the humble building was vandalized right before opening. On March 26, 1964, Pasco Park Superintendent Harry Wyman noted that, “vandals ...destroyed small trees and did extensive damage to the Youth Center Building in Kurtzman Park...the building was defaced with paint on walls and doors were dented with rocks.” Repair was “expected to cost several hundred dollars.” In the face of this latest anti-Black attack, however, the Black community forged ahead. Various community groups also continued to help with fundraising. Among them was the Kiawanis Club donated \$700 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars local chapter. The city waived the building permit fee, and the Tri-City Committee on Human Relations donated the proceeds of a play they sponsored by the Washington State University Drama Club.

After five years of planning and work the Youth Center was formally dedicated on September 27, 1964. Tom Jackson, YMCA Board of Trustee member played master of ceremonies. The Tri-City Drum and Bugle Corp presented the colors. Speakers included Gil Lloyd, work-relief program director for the State Department of Public Assistance; Randall Brown, YMCA Board member; Paul E. Keyser, YMCA General Secretary; and Mrs. Rochard Robinson, special program supervisor for the center. Thelmer Hawkins, the building committee chairman and building superintendent, presented the new building to Joe Bailey, Pasco Mayor pro-tem, and Harry Wyman, city park superintendent.

It was a proud event for all, and local politicians jumped at the chance to show their support. Among them was Representative Catherine May (republican) who presented a former flag flown over the Capitol to the city of Pasco which was to be flown over the Youth Center once it was completed. That was followed a year later by the presentation of a state flag to the Youth Center by several democratic candidates for State offices including Mike McCormack, Doris Johnson, and Dan Jolly.

Immediately the Youth Center began hosting “recreation programs, tutoring of students during the late summer months, and holding a variety of adult meetings.”^{xlvi} Plans included a day nurse, a tutoring program for elementary and high school students, supervised study hours, boys club activities and outdoor sports. The Pasco Library also established a branch at the facility with about 2,000 books. With anticipation of the center’s opening, “the summer enrollment at Kurtzman Park, always higher than in other parks, jumped to a new high. The week of July 13-17, 1,800 children were signed in.”^{xlvii} Members of the Tri-Y, YMCA Auxiliary actually had the first meeting in the building in November of 1963 prior to its completion.

Completion of the Youth Center, like the park that preceded it, cemented Kurtzman as the Black community core—both physically and metaphorically—and a base from which to continue ongoing community and civil rights work. Indeed, the Youth Center itself became a civil rights institution, and the successful construction of

^{xliii} Interview with Vanis Daniels.

^{xliv} Interview with Dallas Barnes, Webster Jackson, Albert Wilkins at Morning Star Baptist Church, Pasco, WA.

^{xlv} “Progress Made on Kurtzman Park Youth Center.” “Walls Put Up by Volunteers”; “Building Dedication Set in Pasco”; “Unsung Volunteers Teach Pasco’s ‘Ghetto’ Children.”

^{xlvi} “Vandals Spoil Park Property”; “Youth Center Is Opened”; “Unsung Volunteers Teach Pasco’s ‘Ghetto’ Children.”

^{xlvii} “Recreation Pioneer Views Pasco Growth.”

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Kurtzman stood as a prominent pivotal, tangible, and enduring civil rights victory. When asked years later if he'd been "directly involved in any civil rights efforts?" Vanis Daniels responded "yeah...It was like, see, we didn't even have a park," and recounted the role he played in securing and developing Kurtzman.^{xlviii} Meanwhile, when an interviewer asked Aubrey Johnson to recount "some of the notable successes of the [civil rights] movement," Johnson responded first and foremost that "the successes was Kurtzman Park."^{xlix}

In a testament to the Kurtzman Park Youth Center's status as an important civil rights victory, with its completion the Tri City Committee on Human Relations shut down. Much of its work had focused on securing basic infrastructure for East Pasco residents, and completion of the Youth Center was a milestone. The Center also established a base for continuing that work, and to some extent the Tri-City Human Relations committee "dissolved into the newer and expanded Youth Center group." As committee founder and leader Florence Merrick wrote in retrospect, "the last money in the treasury of the Tri-City Committee on Human Relations was donated to the center for an air conditioner, and the Committee's work was done."^l

The Youth Center at 500 S. Wehe Ave. immediately established itself as the center of the Black community and a core institution for community support and assistance. It did so despite the fact that it remained, by many standards, unfinished and inadequately equipped. As the center began an ambitious slate of programs that first summer, newspapers reported that inside "the furnishings are crude basics, a barrel with a board across the top serves as a study table in one of the classrooms. The one large room had to be petitioned [sic] off with large pieces of cardboard to give the teacher and pupil some semblance of privacy." A year-and-a-half later the center was still in need of "wood, insulation, and paint to finish one of the rooms." (To this end, three Pasco churches donated a total of \$50, "proceeds left from a church sponsored forum two years ago"). Meanwhile, the building was "kept clean by the donated services of the Dependable Janitor Service with the aid of many of the older students."^{li}

Despite these ongoing obstacles, the Youth Center immediately embarked on an impressive array of projects that involved—and shaped the lives of—thousands of people. The center was led first by Virgie Robinson, who was the "manager" from ca.1964-66, and then by Lozie S. Barnes ("manager" ca. 1967-69) and Delores Groce ("supervisor" ca. 1970-75, during which time the address was listed in city directories as 333 S. California Ave.).^{lii}

Under the guidance of these dedicated Black women, the Youth Center became one of the most important institutions in the history of Pasco's Black community. It facilitated programs for thousands of people, young and old, many of whom had never had a public space open to them, much less a supportive and welcoming one that cared about their needs. Alone and in conjunction with other organizations, it ran, hosted or otherwise supported youth tutoring and adult education and training programs; formal and informal sports programs and leagues; handicraft programs; checkers tournaments; dances; music classes; talent shows; special events; guest speakers of various stripes; political candidate meet-and-greets; and civil rights organizing meetings and actions, while facilitating others, like swimming lessons and free or reduced-price pool passes. In this way, it became, from the start, not only a Youth Center, but an East Pasco—a community center writ large. Aubrey Johnson limned this truth in a 2018 interview: "when we had our little meetings and stuff, we would have them there in the Kurtzman Building. Hey, we're having a meeting on voting or whatever it was, and we would go up there to the Kurtzman Building... It played a real big part because I played there for years as a kid and then after as an adult, Kurtzman Park still was a big thing for me. We'd go down there, and they'd have Juneteenth, and the Fun Day, and baseball."^{liii}

^{xlviii} Interview with Vanis and Edmon Daniels.

^{xlix} Interview with Aubrey Johnson.

^l Merrick, "A Condensed History of the Tri-City Committee on Human Relations."

^{li} "Unsung Volunteers Teach Pasco's 'Ghetto' Children"; "Cash On Hand for Park Work."

^{lii} R.L. Polk and Co., *City Directory: Tri-Cities, Washington* as transcribed in Holschuh and Harris Environmental Group, "Survey of Historic Properties Associated with the African American Experience in East Pasco," 90.

^{liii} Interview with Aubrey Johnson.

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The Youth Center and the park it anchored began a host of programs for neighborhood children almost as soon as the mortar in its walls was cured. As noted above, by early July 1964 Kurtzman was breaking records for the number of children it served—with 1,800 signed-in in one week—and it provided a remarkable array of services and programs for them: “under the direction of Lozie Barnes and Dallas Barnes,” Kurtzman had “the most active recreational program of the city.” Inside the center that first summer, kids learned handicrafts with Lozie Barnes and “about 100 Negro children [were] being tutored ... by volunteer teachers” through a program started by the community “seven years ago” that had never before “had a home of its own.” They used textbooks “donated by teachers, students, and from private homes.”^{liv}

The tutoring effort, under the auspices of federal Higher Horizon Program (a program designed to help underprivileged preschool children), continued to grow in subsequent years. In mid-June 1965 program officer Mildred W. Harrison urged parents to “register their children at the Kurtzman Park office in East Pasco,” and a few weeks later “about 150 schoolchildren” had “joined the Higher Horizons child-tutoring program.” With such growth, more space was needed, and in addition to the program’s Youth Center base, classes were taught at East Pasco’s Whittier School and at Navy Homes (a 231-unit WWII housing project just west of the railroad tracks where many Black families lived).^{lv} Kurtzman also hosted an array of other cultural and educational activities. These included a regular “music time,” a “park talent show,” “a community dance, for all age groups,” and “checker tournament” with three different age classes (10-12 years, 13-16 year, and 17 years and up).^{lvi}

There were, of course, many sports and recreation programs as well. Around 1965, when “Dallas Barnes direct[ed] organized play at Kurtzman,” such programs ranged from casual small-scale activities like “fun with tetherball” on the purpose-built court beside the Youth Center to major competitive events like the annual Pasco Park Department Jr. Olympics.^{lvii} In the 1960s Kurtzman was something of a powerhouse in the latter, taking the title around 1964 when “Jim Kinsey won three blue ribbons in the boys 6-8 class to lead Kurtzman Park to 1st place in the Pasco Jr. Olympics Track & Field meet,” winning the high jump, 20-yard dash and, with his brother Dennis, “the back-to-back race.” That year, “more than 150 youths participated in the meet” that pitted Kurtzman against Sylvester and Memorial parks.^{lviii} Kurtzman won the competition the following year as well, with its girls (including the Haythorne sisters) sweeping the softball throw and the 20-yard dash, while winning two of three age groups in the 40-yard dash.^{lix}

Kurtzman also facilitated access to opportunities that it could not itself offer neighborhood children. In the late 1960s, in conjunction with the Franklin-Benton County Community Action Committee (with funding from the Office of Economic Opportunity), it helped coordinate transportation to swim classes for Kurtzman kids (as well as for those around Navy Homes).^{lx} The CAC and its director Wally Webster also worked to secure “free or half-price swim tickets for poor Pasco youth,” who were disproportionately Black children in the Kurtzman Park and Navy Homes neighborhoods.^{lxi} Nor was programming limited to the summer, but continued during the schoolyear. People like Paul Walker organized “after-school sports at Kurtzman,” while others arranged special events like Halloween celebrations or an afternoon “tea” featuring gingerbread cookies for holidays for neighborhood children.^{lxii} By the Delores Groce era (beg. 1970), programming extended to Navy Homes as well as Kurtzman, and Kurtzman boasted longer daily open hours than any of Pasco’s other parks.^{lxiii}

As quickly as it did for children, the Kurtzman Park Youth Center became a crucial base—offering both support and space—for adults in the neighborhood, and for the Tri-Cities Black community more broadly. First and foremost, it served as a base for the community’s multi-pronged civil rights work. This work involved many

^{liv} “Recreation Pioneer Views Pasco Growth”; “Unsung Volunteers Teach Pasco’s ‘Ghetto’ Children.”

^{lv} “Tutoring Project Deadline Today”; “School Help Projects Get Under Way.”

^{lvi} “Park Talent Show Slated.”

^{lvii} “Kurtzman Park . . . Fun with the Tether-Ball.”

^{lviii} “Kinsey Leads Kurtzman to Track Victory”; “Race in Junior Olympics in Pasco.”

^{lix} “Kurtzman Park Boys Win ‘Olympic’ Prizes.”

^{lx} “Swim Classes Start Monday.”

^{lxi} “Pasco Calls Special Meet on Pool Tickets for Poor.”

^{lxii} “Ex-Coach Given YMCA Position”; “Breakthrough”; “She ‘Noze’ What She’s Doing”; “The Eyes Have It”; “Cookies in the Park.”

^{lxiii} “Recreation Directors.”

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different efforts. And it began immediately, commencing that July with a highly visible direct action aimed explicitly at local and national civil rights.

On July 24, 1964, in what was “the first of several racial demonstrations planned for the Tri-Cities,” “marchers gathered at Kurtzman Park, where Wallace Webster, a Negro organizer of Congress on Racial Equality in the Tri-City area, urged demonstrators to mourn the racial situation in Mississippi,” while working locally for change (“Webster also spoke on the need for more membership in CORE and said a demonstration will be held Monday in Richland”). Protesting “racial discrimination in the city’s hiring practices [and] ... inferior teaching and inadequate facilities at Whittier School in the Negro section,” the demonstrators, according to the local paper some “150 persons—about half of them white—congregated at the Pasco City Hall’s parking lot after a 10-block ‘freedom march’ from Kurtzman Park.” Participants had to keep to sidewalks during the march due to “the refusal of Pasco Police Chief A. L. McKibbin to issue them a parade permit for a street march.”^{lxiv} Thereafter, Kurtzman Park became the base for Pasco civil rights protests. Shirley Miller, a White woman who lived in Richmond and helped with civil rights efforts in the Tri-Cities, and her son Andy recalled that the CORE and NAACP marches in this period would start “in east Pasco. Kurtzman Park...[and] after we left Kurtzman Park ... through the underpass ... And then we went up usually to where that other park [i.e. Volunteer Park] was and the courthouse. And then we’d go back to Kurtzman Park.”^{lxv}

It also served as a center for a wide array of other, less explicitly civil rights, efforts that were nonetheless aimed at empowering and uplifting the Black community. Among such efforts were events like a June 30, 1964, 8 p.m. “Meet the Candidate” session where “most of the 17 candidates for the city council offices...[were] on hand” to discuss their positions with East Pasco residents.^{lxvi} Other efforts included things like an “old fashioned Labor Day picnic.” In keeping with the Labor Day intent, the celebration was “to show appreciation for the Higher Horizon program this year to help train persons to get jobs.” The Rev. F.A. Allen, of nearby Morning Star Baptist Church, “spokesman for the sponsoring East Pasco Self-Help Cooperative,” detailed festivities that would begin at 10 in the morning with a youth choir “car caravan forming on Lewis Street near 10th Avenue. It will go through downtown Pasco to Kurtzman Park.” The picnic that followed would feature speaker The Rev. William H Ritchey, Superintendent of the Walla Walla District of the Pacific Northwest Methodist Conference, “who has an active interest in the building trades and is a semi-skilled craftsman in several.”^{lxvii}

By 1968, Kurtzman—together with the foremost church of the neighborhood, Morning Star Baptist—was well established as the primary base of organizing for the swelling civil rights movement in the Tri-Cities. Itself a proud product of a civil rights process, and the Black community’s collective base for ongoing struggle, that tumultuous year the park also became symbolic of one of the most insidious aspects of systemic racism, i.e., police brutalizing the Black population. In the months after the April 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, mass unrest rocked urban areas around the nation, and civil rights protest—and white supremacist backlash against it—intensified in local Black communities, Pasco among them.

That July (on Saturday the 20th), after a problematic police interaction the week before and subsequent arguments between the police and a group of “Negro youth” witnesses, “an estimated 75 to 100 people gathered at Kurtzman’s Park.” Police arrived, sparking a “confrontation” (also termed a “melee,” “disorder,” “disturbance,” and “riot”) in which four “policemen were hurt, none seriously...[and] a patrol car . . . stoned.” On Sunday, carloads of “Richland teenagers” sped “through East Pasco shouting abuses,” and “a meeting was called Monday by the Young Adult Action Movement, a Negro group.... About 75 ... Negroes attended.” That Friday, police made the first arrest “in connection with [the] disturbances,” charging 26-year-old Robert Orange “with two-counts of second-degree assault and one of rioting.” At the time Orange was “co-manager of a

^{lxiv} “Rally Ties Up Traffic.”

^{lxv} Interview with Andy and Shirley Miller.

^{lxvi} “‘Meet Candidate’ Session Set.”

^{lxvii} “Group Plans Labor Day Picnic Fete.”

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migrant aid center [in Pasco] and a leader of the Young Adult Action Movement.” Upon arrest he “was held in lieu of \$2,500 bond.”^{lxviii}

Months of sustained pressure on City officials by the Black community followed, as did major racial unrest and alleged excess force by police—and a state investigation thereof—at Pasco High School.^{lxix} Moreover, the *Tri-City Herald*—the daily newspaper read by the entire region—was implicated in the turmoil, with the official report on the Pasco High events noting that community “anger was stimulated by the coverage given these events” in the *Herald*, in which articles from the period were characterized by a thinly-veiled racism and a practice of “repeatedly emphasiz[ing] the race of the participants.”^{lxx} Then, on March 6, 1970, two city policemen—who claimed to be serving on Orange an arrest warrant on a “domestic complaint” (which was not in their possession)—allegedly, without permission, forced their way into Orange’s 26 West A Street home. In the course of trying to arrest him, the policemen “sprayed a riot-control chemical...into the faces of children (“the man’s three- and four-year-old daughters”), injuring their eyes, and fired a gun at Orange and his brother, who were unarmed. This event triggered, over the next two months, repeated intense “black protests, [and] a boycott of downtown Pasco merchants,” actions which galvanized state authorities into ordering, in May 1970, “an independent investigation of the Pasco Police Department.”^{lxxi}

Another, bigger riot—in front of the Franklin County Courthouse—followed in July, as did life-threatening internal conflict in one of the Black community’s prominent institutions of the period (the East Pasco Self-Help Cooperative). Then in August someone bombed—on the eve of its opening—the Matrix building, a prominent black capitalism venture just up the street from Kurtzman Park.^{lxxii}

In some sense, Kurtzman Park played a pivotal role in all of these events, not only as location of the initial “riot” but also as a center of associated activity from 1968-1970. As protest swelled in the wake of police actions at the Orange residence, Kurtzman hosted numerous related meetings, including one at 7:30 p.m. on March 30, 1970, organized by the East Pasco Neighborhood Improvement Committee at which “a crowd of more than 100 ...packed the small Kurtzman Park meeting room.” Pasco City Manager Max Pope attended that meeting, as did City Councilman Sam Hunt and several journalists, which lasted until midnight (“around 10:30 p.m. Pope and news representatives were asked to leave”) and focused on six community demands “of city government,” “including the dropping of charges against Robert Orange.” Robert’s father Gilbert Orange spoke, and “received an ovation from blacks at the Kurtzman Park meeting last night when he told the crowd ‘We have been trampled on all the way. Because we want to make a chance for our families, we are called troublemakers.’”^{lxxiii}

That night, someone threw “a soft-drink bottle containing gasoline” into the living room of Robert’s wife Sarah Orange, then living at 400 C South Douglas Avenue (“children were in the home at the time”).^{lxxiv} Another Kurtzman Park meeting of the East Pasco Neighborhood Council was planned for the following week, and Gov. Dan “Evans offered to arrange for a lawyer from the American Civil Liberties Union to attend ... to advise on legal steps involved in filing charges against the city and police officers.”^{lxxv} At that April 6 meeting, “about 60 black” attendees voted to expand the boycott of downtown Pasco merchants they’d begun week before, which would “be strengthened by pickets.”^{lxxvi} The pickets commenced the next day.^{lxxvii}

^{lxviii} “Quiet Returns to Pasco After Disorder”; “Man Arrested in Rioting”; “Pasco Area Aid Center Manager Held by Police”; “Pasco Racial Disturbance Brings Arrest”; 78 Wn.2d 571, THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, Respondent, v. ROBERT ORANGE, Appellant. Interview with James Pruitt.

^{lxix} Whitman and Rosenfels, “Study and Evaluation of Racial Tension at Pasco High School”; “Pasco to Talk in Private with Negroes”; “Deficit Woes Face Pasco”; “Pasco Council Moves to Hold Closed Meets”; “Conference Due on ‘Urban Crisis.’”

^{lxx} Whitman and Rosenfels, “Study and Evaluation of Racial Tension at Pasco High School,” 37.

^{lxxi} “Pasco Police Deny Race Bias.” “Blacks, Council Face Off: Orange Arrest at Issue”; “Pasco Blacks Vote Downtown Boycott”; “Gas Bottle Lands in Orange Home.”

^{lxxii} “Pasco Laundromat Damaged by Bomb.”

^{lxxiii} “Max Pope Attends Meet on Demands.” “Pope Changes Mind on Black Meeting.” “Meeting Planned on Demands.” “Pasco Blacks Vote Downtown Boycott.”

^{lxxiv} “Gas Bottle Lands in Orange Home.”

^{lxxv} “Success Claimed in Olympia Meets.”

^{lxxvi} “Pasco Blacks Plan Shopping Boycott, Picketing.”

^{lxxvii} “Pickets Back Black Boycott in Pasco.”

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Several weeks later the black community organized a rally at, and march from, Kurtzman Park. On Friday April 17 "Judge Lyle Truax found no probable cause ...to think Pasco policemen Glen Butner, Gerry Miller, and Robert Alger committed any crime during the arrest of Robert Orange March 6" (he "reserved his ruling on the actions of officer Ron Morgan").^{lxxviii} On Saturday, April 25 "a racially mixed crowd of about 200 attended the Kurtzman Park rally and marched to the city's downtown business district to dramatize the black boycott of Pasco merchants." Art Fletcher's son Paul gave a speech and "following Fletcher's talk, the crowd marched in two columns to East Lewis Street, through the underpass, up West Lewis to North Fourth Avenue, turned north for a block, and then east on West Clark Street to city hall. The group paused to sing outside city hall and then retraced its path to Kurtzman Park."^{lxxix}

At the behest of Gov. Evans (after pressure from the Black community), the Washington State Board Against Discrimination then investigated the "racial" events in Pasco. Its May report featured twelve recommendations for city actions to rectify the situation. (Among them was "the city should simplify means of gaining access to the accommodations of city parks...Mayor Ed Carter is considering means of improving access by blacks to Kurtzman Park, which is one of the problems which gave rise to the complaint of difficulty in gaining access to park accommodations").^{lxxx}

In the face of ongoing inaction by the city, Pasco continued to churn. The week of July 6 brought "two nights of disorder and one night of closure by emergency curfew" initiated by a police raid in Volunteer Park (in front of the Franklin County Courthouse). The night after the raid (at which the police arrested and tear-gassed some of the "youth" present)

hundreds gathered again in the park. The neighboring sheriff's headquarters was attacked. A score of sheriff's men and city policemen were injured, a dozen more youngsters were arrested and a few hurt, windows of nearby fur and jewelry stores were broken, autos were damaged and two half-century old spruce trees on the courthouse lawn were set ablaze by bottled gasoline 'bombs.' At 1 a.m., Thursday, Pasco Mayor Edward Carter signed a proclamation. 'I declare an emergency to exist,' he formally said, 'and in order to protect the city and its citizens, I must declare the city closed and direct the police to arrest and take into custody all persons upon the streets.'^{lxxxii}

Although contemporary newspaper coverage assured there were "no racial overtones" in the Volunteer Park events, a retrospective article on Martin Luther "King's legacy" and the "struggle for equality . . . in Pasco" recounted how "the demolition of [social barriers] was speeded by both non-violent demonstrations (such as marches in Pasco and Kennewick) and by violence—such as a July 8, 1970 riot in which two giant spruce trees in front of the Franklin County Courthouse were burned."^{lxxxii}

Meanwhile, one of Black Pasco's most prominent organizations reeled with fierce in-fighting: in late July the East Pasco Self-Help Co-op met multiple times at Kurtzman Park (and elsewhere, like the Labor Hall) "to discuss the futures of the cooperative," with some "30 stockholders" meeting with Co-op board members and manager Nat Jackson at the Saturday July 18th meeting.^{lxxxiii}

Kurtzman bristled with organizing activity in this period, so it perhaps unsurprising that people were in the midst of a meeting there when, just after 9:30 p.m. on Monday, August 24, a bomb went off at the brand-new Matrix building just up the street.^{lxxxiv} As Wally Webster recalled "we had a number of meetings in Kurtzman Park that was very tense meetings. As a matter of fact, what used to happen is Carl Maxey from Spokane, prominent civil rights lawyer in Spokane, other lawyers from Seattle, would come to Pasco, because we didn't have any African American lawyers here at that time, and help us with civil rights issues. I remember I was having a

^{lxxviii} "Truax Clears 3 Officers in Orange Case."

^{lxxix} "Pasco Racist, Says Fletcher Son."

^{lxxx} "WSBAD Proposals Not Objectionable."

^{lxxxii} "Need for Parental Control Seen in Pasco Disorders."

^{lxxxiii} "Social Freedom Is King's Legacy."

^{lxxxiv} "[?Illegible] Co-Op Chief on Job." "Co-Op to Meet."

^{lxxxv} "Pasco Laundromat Damaged by Bomb."

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meeting in Kurtzman Park where it got pretty heated...And somebody set off a bomb. We were all in Kurtzman Park, having a big powwow when that happened, because everybody jumped and ran."^{lxxxv}

During these tense times, Kurtzman also continued to be a community center for social and recreational endeavors. Among the groups using the facility was Soul Sisters Action Committee, which in January 1970 held its meeting, presided over by "newly elected president" Rita Horton, at "7 p.m. Wednesday. The group of teenagers is interested in projects which benefit the community...the Soul Sisters are attending a ceramic class and are making plans to sponsor some record hops. According to their advisor, Norma Holt, the girls are attempting to locate some black bands so that they might have a dance with live music."^{lxxxvi}

While the Soul Sisters planned their varied projects, other Youth Center users dreamed of a bigger facility for the Black community and its Kurtzman core. By 1969, planning for a new community center was well underway, and that November proponent Wally Webster reported that "land near Kurtzman Park is already available" for the East Pasco Community Center. Project organizers, including the East Pasco Neighborhood Improvement Association and the Tri-Cities Community Action Committee (of which Webster was executive director), as well as other East Pasco civic leaders like the Rev. William Vaughn, "propose[d] to build on Central Labor Council land adjacent to Kurtzman Park. Labor donated the land to the city, with the stipulation [in an echo of the original 1953 Kurtzman deed] that it be developed during 1969." It would be another three years before workers broke ground on the project, and in November 1975—six years after the property was deeded to Pasco—the East Pasco Neighborhood Facility, on the north edge of Kurtzman Park, opened to the public.^{lxxxvii} A decade later, on the first Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday in January 1986, the center begun in the months after King's murder was renamed in his honor.^{lxxxviii}

Wally Webster later recalled with pride the completion of the neighborhood center, and the collective work of the Black community that made it happen: "I thought that Pasco needed a place, a neutral place, where people could go and they could call it a community center. And I could see the value of people gathering. We had a little place over in east Pasco called Kurtzman Park. It was a little building there. And I thought that we could do better. So I studied up and found that HUD had what they call block grants. ... We completed a HUD application and got some \$440,000-\$450,000 to build what is now known as the Martin Luther King Center in east Pasco. The central labor council owned the land where that building is. We worked with them, and they deeded that land as part of the in-kind contribution to match the HUD block grant. We were able to put that together. And it became a community center."^{lxxxix}

Since the 1975 completion of the adjacent East Pasco Neighborhood Facility, the Kurtzman Park Youth Center has been a quieter place. Delores Groce continued to supervise it through at least 1975. Sometime thereafter it was converted to use as a City of Pasco Police Mini-Station (Area 1), "designed with the purpose of creating a more personalized relationship between the community and the Police Department. Officers are assigned to a specific geographical area with the objective of developing an ongoing, proactive relationship with the community to address concerns in that specific area."^{xc}

Kurtzman continues to be a key base of Black culture in Pasco, and still hosts the Tri-Cities annual Juneteenth celebration (an event that features prominently on the calendar of the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs). Recently, Kurtzman's pivotal role in the history of the Tri-Cities' Black community has been recognized, and honored, in a series of historical publications and projects. These include a Kurtzman Park webpage on the National Park Service's Manhattan Project National Historic Park website; and some 13 interviews that touch on Kurtzman completed (in 2001, 2013, and 2018) as part of the Hanford Oral History project.^{xc}

^{lxxxv} Interview with Wally Webster.

^{lxxxvi} "Soul Sisters Elect."

^{lxxxvii} "East Pasco Facility Plan Gets Support"; "Pasco Center Gets Sponsors." Hayes and Franklin, *Northwest Black Pioneers*, 11.

^{lxxxviii} "Social Freedom Is King's Legacy." "Tri-City Memorial to King Fills Center."

^{lxxxix} Interview with Wally Webster.

^{xc} "Mini-Stations | Pasco, WA - Official Website."

^{xc} Holschuh and Harris Environmental Group, "Survey of Historic Properties Associated with the African American Experience in East

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.86 Acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Or Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>46.231858°</u>	<u>-119.075951°</u>	3	<u>46.230602°</u>	<u>-119.074109°</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	<u>46.231858°</u>	<u>-119.074046°</u>	4	<u>46.230617°</u>	<u>-119.075944°</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

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

The nominated area is located in Section 28 of Township 09, Range 30, east of the Willamette Meridian, in Franklin County, Washington and is legally described as a portion of Parcel No. 113840069 in Pasco, WA.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property encompasses all the land associated with the original land donation for Kurtzman Park. Since its establishment the park has been expanded, however this expansion area is outside the boundaries of the nominated area.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Delia Hagen, PhD (Edited by DAHP Staff)
organization Hagen Historical Consulting (HHC) date October 2022
street & number 210 N Higgins Ave, Suite 328 telephone (406) 360-0120
city or town Missoula state MT zip code 59802
e-mail deliahagen@yahoo.com

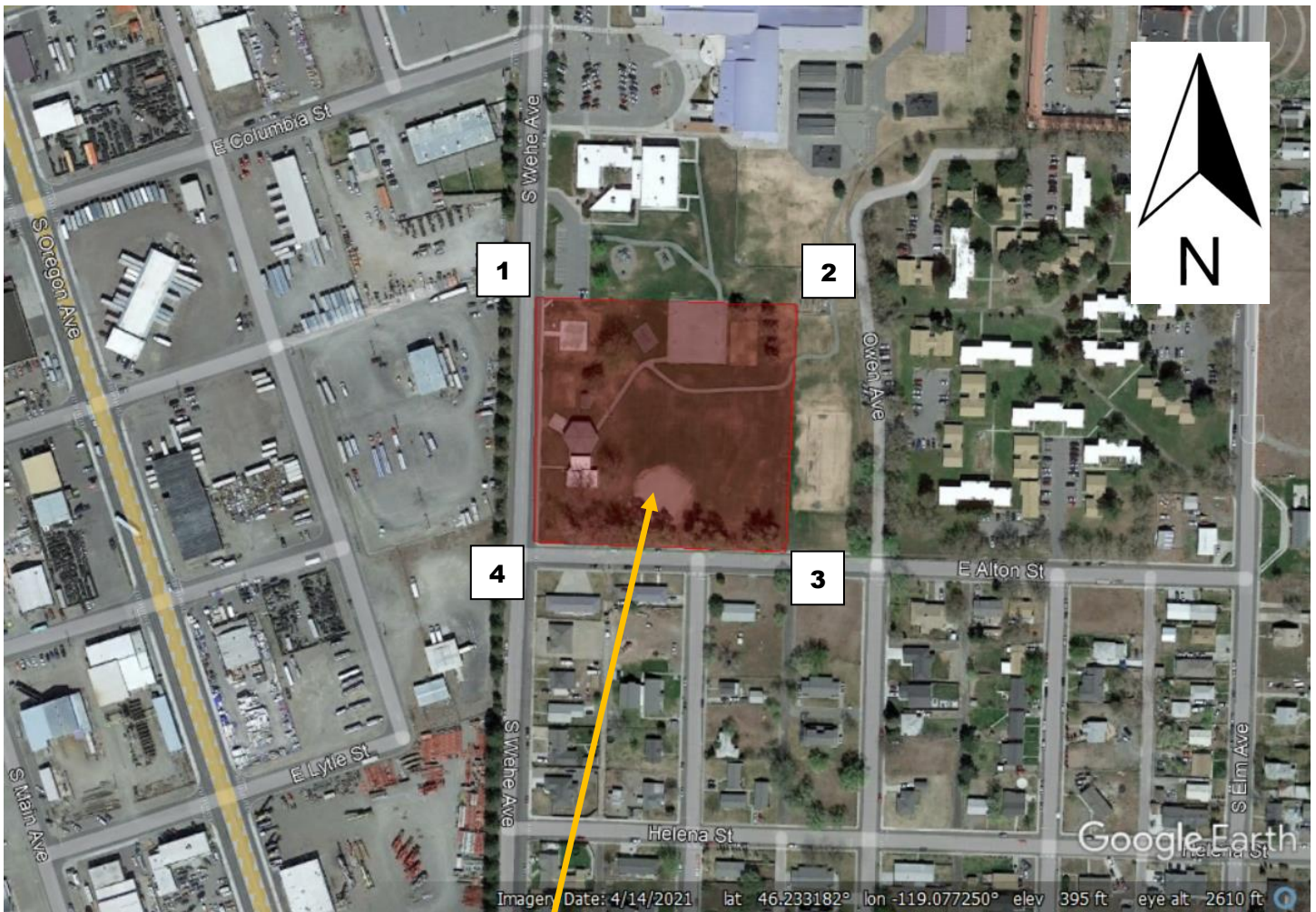
KURTZMAN PARK
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)



Google Earth Map
Kurtzman Park
Pasco, WA

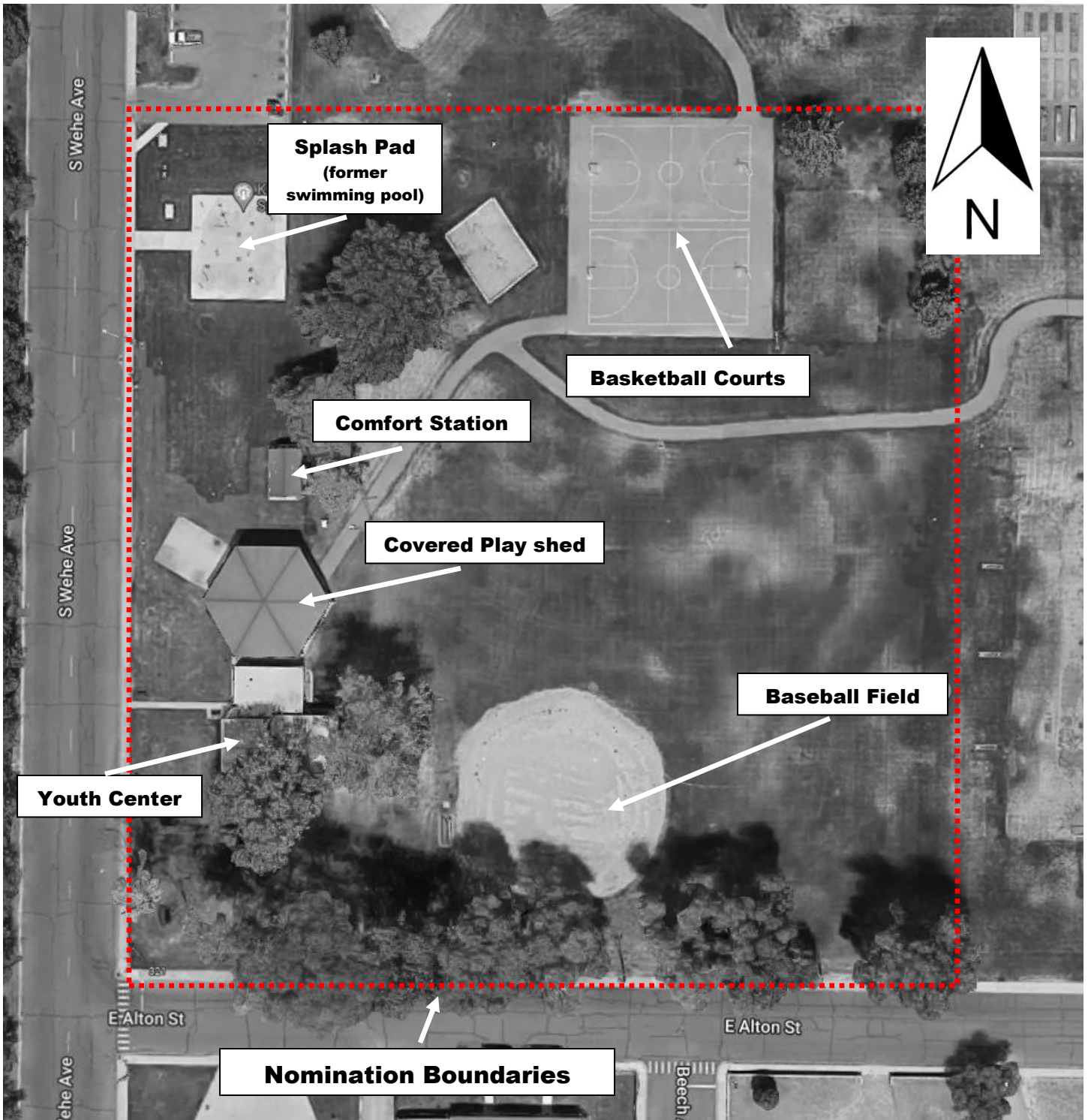
1	<u>46.231858°</u>	<u>-119.075951°</u>	3	<u>46.230602°</u>	<u>-119.074109°</u>
Latitude		Longitude	Latitude		Longitude
2	<u>46.231858°</u>	<u>-119.074046°</u>	4	<u>46.230617°</u>	<u>-119.075944°</u>
Latitude		Longitude	Latitude		Longitude

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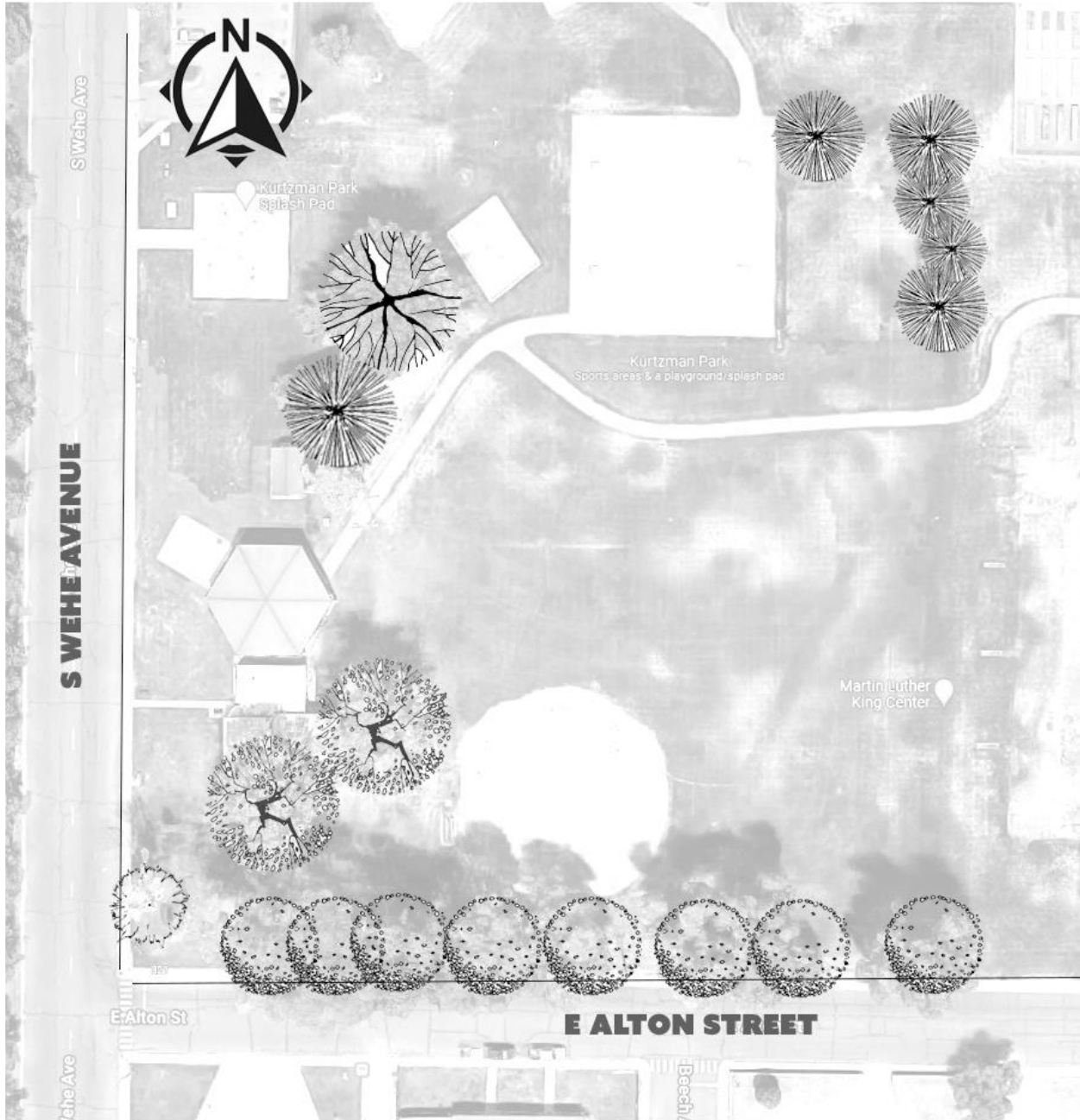
Site Plan
Kurtzman Park
Pasco, WA

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-  American Elm
-  Silver Maple
-  Amur Maple
-  Sweetgum
-  White Pine

Landscape Plan
Kurtzman Park
Pasco, WA

KURTZMAN PARK

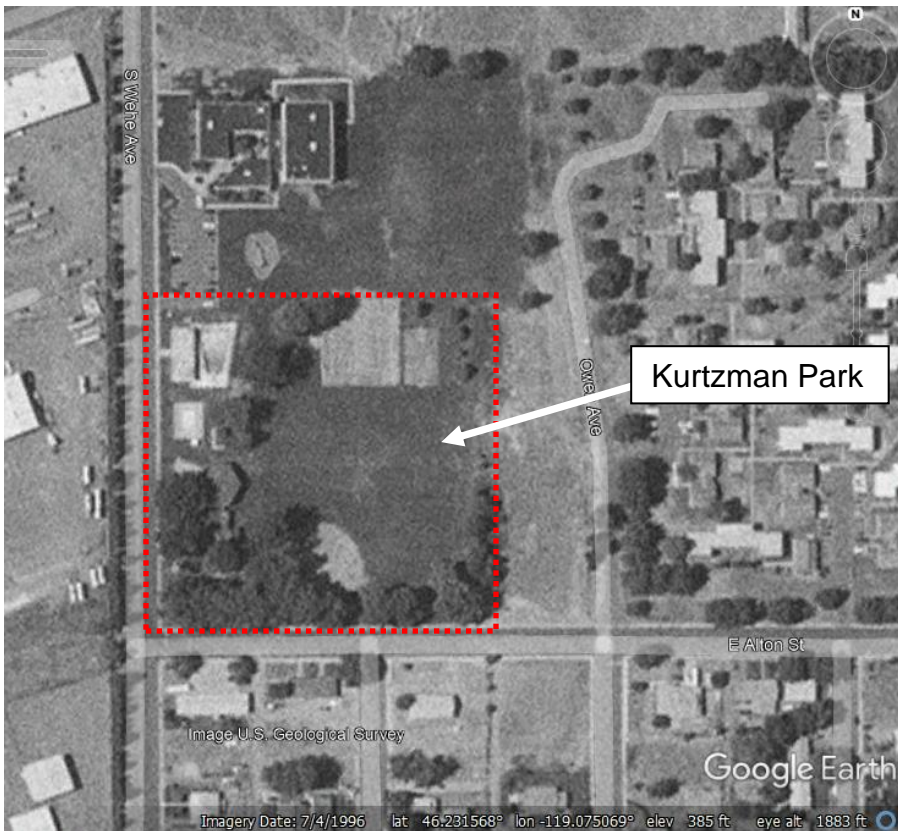
Name of Property

FRANKLIN CO., WA

County and State



Aerial Map - 1955



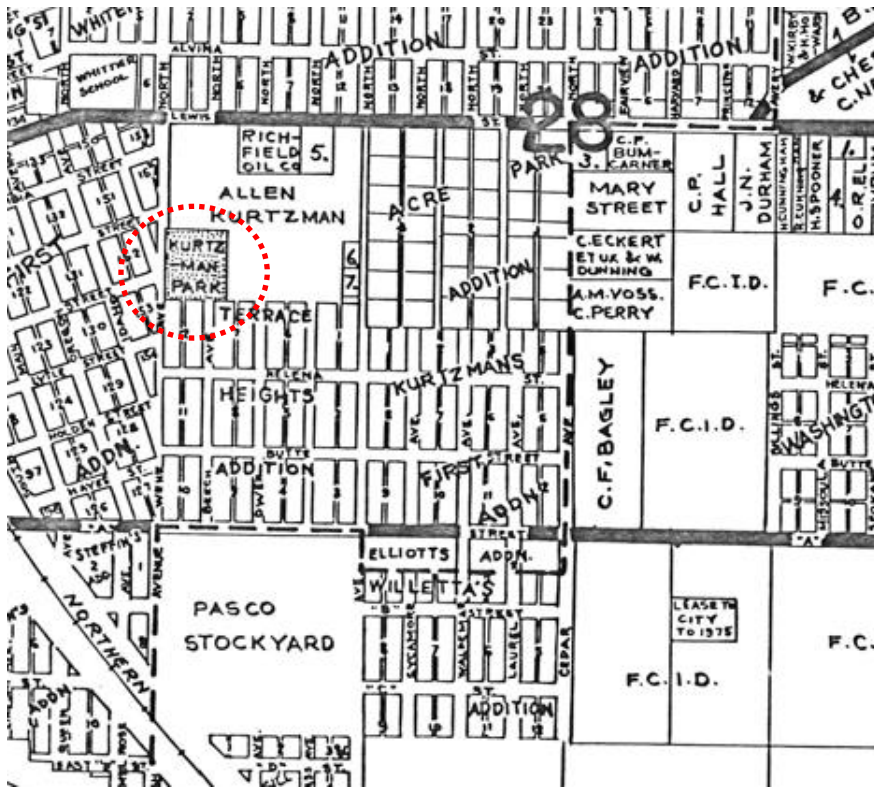
Aerial Map showing site of park improvements - 1996

KURTZMAN PARK

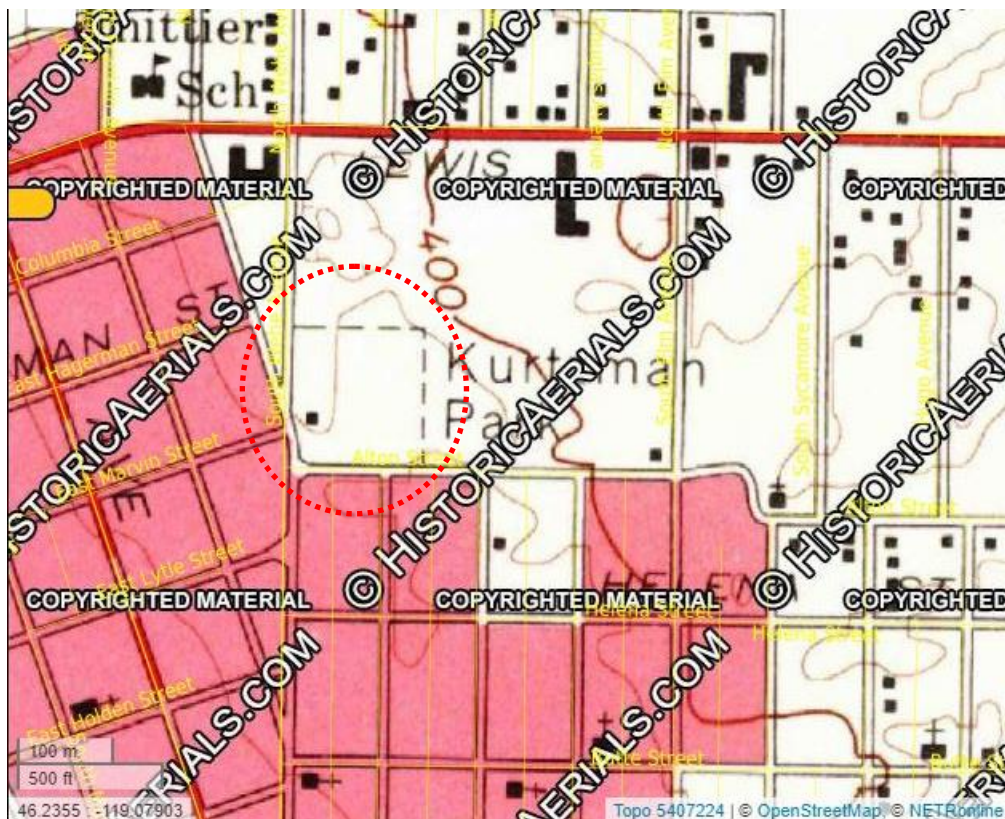
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Metsker Map - 1963



USGS Topo Map - 1967

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Pasco Panthers

Made up of Players from East Texas



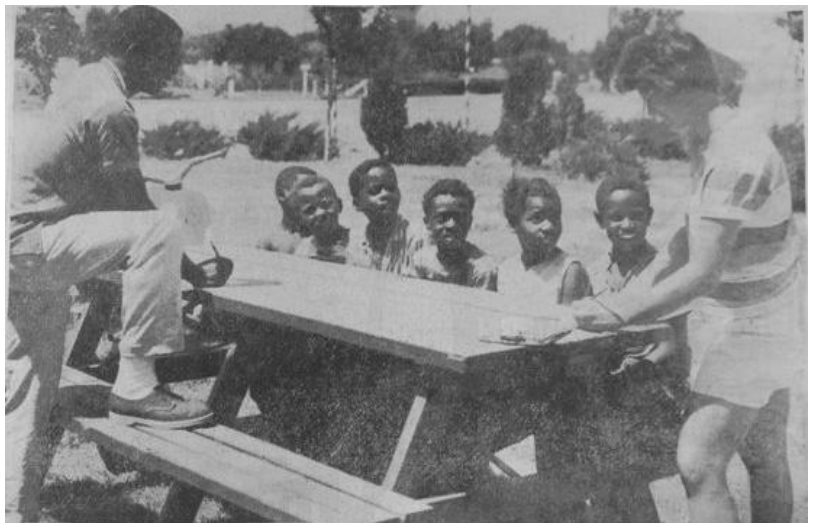
Top Row L. To R.
JD Lyles, Alfred Cole, Jack Sparks,
Willie (Bill) Daniels, Vanis Daniels,
Middle Row,
Jimmie Lee (Dee) Green,
Jack Williams,
Marion (Cracker) Barton,
Bottom Row,
Otho Patton,
Olanda Patton ,
(The Child),
James English

Pasco Panthers, ca. early 1950s



SPRING WEATHER — Norma Jean Walker, 5, and her sister, Nola 4, worked off energy stored up during the winter and enjoyed the sun in Candy Cane City park in Pasco, Friday. The two girls are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Junior Walker, 204 California. (CBNews Photo)

Kurtzman Park playground, Tri-City Herald, April 4, 1959.



Children Register In Pasco

Signing up boys for the Pasco summer recreation program in Kurtzman Park Monday were leaders Dallas Barnes (left) and Judy Moore. Turning out for the first day of the program, which will run from 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday at Kurtzman, Sylvester and Memorial parks, were (from left, seated) Jimmy Kinsey, Harry Douglas Tate, Denny Davis, and Steve, Lily Mae and Oscar Kinsey. No registration is needed. All parents need do is take their children to any one of the three parks.

Registering for Kurtzman Park summer recreation, Tri-City Herald, June 21, 1961.

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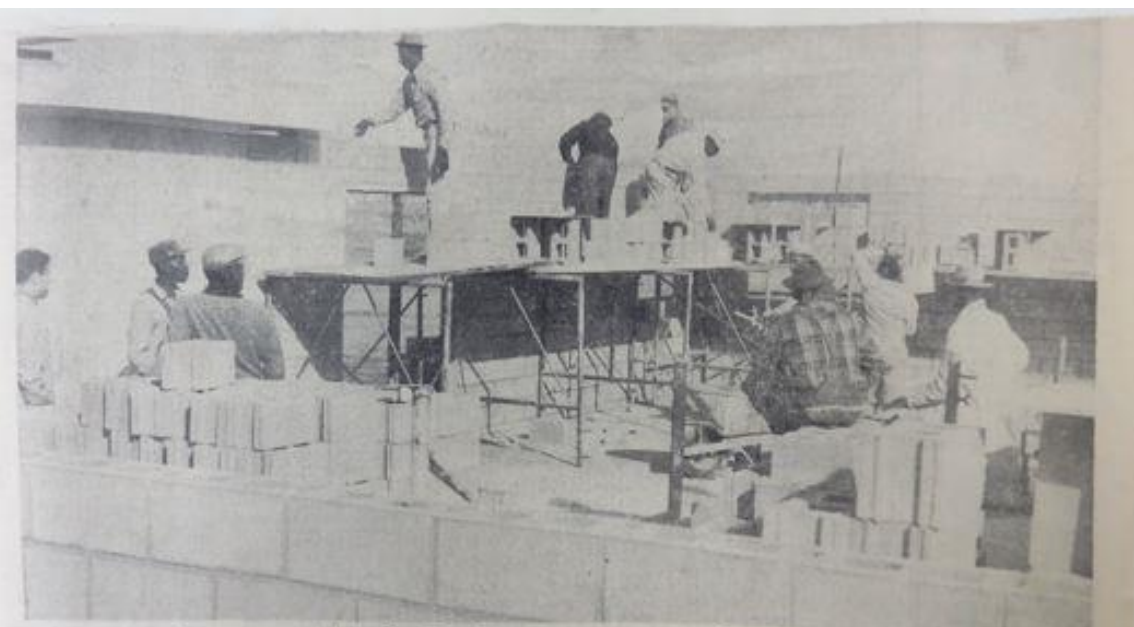


Work Starts On East Pasco Youth Center

Volunteer workers started pouring concrete for the floor of a proposed youth-center building at Kurtzman Park yesterday. The building is being constructed by volunteers with donated supplies and equipment. When completed the 1,300-square-foot

building will have an assembly room, small library and reading room and a craft room. The YMCA is trustee for the building fund. Sponsoring the project is the Y-program committee for East Pasco. It is expected to be completed this spring.

Work Starts at Youth Center, Tri-City Herald, February 20, 1963.



Progress Made On Kurtzman Park Youth Center

Rome wasn't built in a day, but the walls of the new Kurtzman Park Youth Center in East Pasco almost were. "We'd have finished the job if the day had only lasted a little longer," said one of approximately 20 volunteer workers who toiled away on the project until darkness fell Saturday. The crew, which included

four block-layers, was led by Luzell Johnson, Thelmer Hawkins and Wilbur Wright. Contributions of cash and building material, still needed to complete the center, are being solicited by the Lower Columbia YMCA.

Building Youth Center walls, Tri-City Herald, March 4, 1963.

KURTZMAN PARK

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'Cooperation' Is Forecast At Pasco Park Dedication

Five years of work culminated yesterday at the dedication of the Kurtzman Park Youth Center in East Pasco.

The concrete - block building, built with volunteer labor and supplies, will be operated by the Lower Columbia Basin YMCA during school months and by the Pasco Park Department during the summer.

GIL LLOYD, WORK-RELIEF

program supervisor for the Department of Public Assistance, called the building the beginning of a new era of cooperation between the people of east Pasco and the rest of the Tri-Cities.

"It takes well-meaning people at least a decade to learn you don't do things for people or to people but with people," Lloyd said.

"Kurtzman Park Youth Cen-

ter is more than a building.

It is a program of action. It is a grand opportunity for East Pasco to show the rest of our state how a community can pull itself up by its own bootstraps."

Randall Brown, YMCA representative, pointed out that the center will be the third YMCA building in the Tri-Cities. Some of the services offered include a day nursery, tutoring program,

library extension, group activities, sports programs, programs and courses for adults and provide a room for special events, concerts and speakers.

MRS. RICHARD ROBINSON will be part-time program director.

The Columbians provided drum and bugle music at the beginning of the program.



The Columbians performed at the dedication of the Kurtzman Park Youth Center in east Pasco yesterday afternoon. The center, five years in planning and building, boasts a fireplace, meeting room, kitchen and library. Gil Lloyd, work-

relief program supervisor for the Department of Public Assistance, warned that it doesn't take much responsibility to criticize a segment of a community but it will be a struggle for the people to work together with understanding.

Kurtzman Park dedication, Tri-City Herald, September 28, 1964.

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Kurtzman Park Gets State Flag

A state flag was presented to Kurtzman Park Youth Center in Pasco by Democratic candidates for state offices. From the left were Mike McCormack, state senator; Molly Pruitt, youth - center

librarian; Doris Johnson, state representative candidate; Virgie Robinson, youth - center YMCA program director, and Dan Jolly, state representative.

Kurtzman Park Youth Center Gets State Flag, Tri-City Herald, October 27, 1964.



Volunteer Arthur Brown, paints outside of Kurtzman Park Youth Center, Tri-City Herald, April 2, 1964.



Volunteer workers scramble to finish the inside of Kurtzman Park Youth Center, Tri-City Herald, December 31, 1963.

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Handicraft at Kurtzman is taught by Mrs. Lozie Barnes. . . young students are Sharley Davis, Aaretha Scott and Patrice Andrews.

Handicrafts in Youth Center with Lozie Barnes, Tri-City Herald, July 26, 1964.



Pasco Summer Recreation Program Will Start Monday In Four Parks

Supervisors for the summer recreation program in Pasco went over playground equipment to be used in the four city parks beginning Monday. Having fun themselves while taking an inventory were, standing, from left, Pache Ritter-spacher, Sylvester Park; Judy Moore, Memorial Park; Linda Genor, Richardson Park; and Lozie Barnes, Kurtzman Park. Kneeling, from left, Sandi Maurstad, Sylvester Park; Jack Coates, Memorial and Richardson parks; Scott Foxley, Memorial Park, and Dale Gier, Memorial Park. The parks will be unsupervised only from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays.

Kurtzman Park supervisor Lozie Barnes (standing, far right), Tri-City Herald, June 20, 1965

KURTZMAN PARK

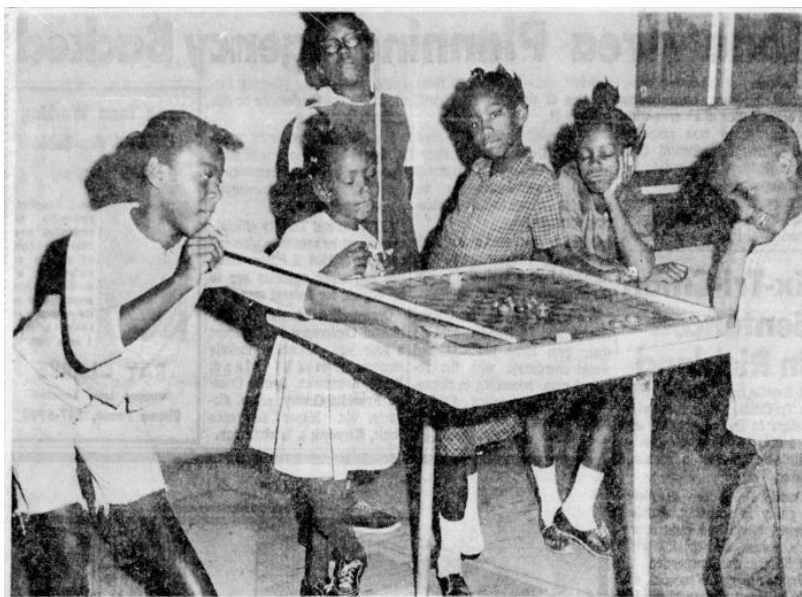
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Kurtzman Park . . . fun with the tether ball. Steve Kinsey and Linda Skinner. Dallas Barnes directs organized play at Kurtzman.



Bonita Walker, 10, lined up her cue for a shot during a table pool game at the after-school session at the recently re-opened recreation center in east Pasco's Kurtzman Park. Left to right, with their eyes on Bonita's cue were Jamie Black, 6; Terry Haythorne, 10; Linda Howard, 10; Veronica Howard, 9, and David Haythorne, 7.

Kurtzman Center Back In Action

Tether ball posts at youth center, Tri-City Herald, July 26, 1964.

Children playing table pool game at Kurtzman Youth Center, Tri-City Herald, March 5, 1967.



Race In Junior Olympics In Pasco

It was a wild time on the race track Friday night as youngsters 6 to 8 years old competed in the back-to-back race at Pasco's Memorial Park. The race was one of several events held in the Junior Olympics staged by

the Pasco Park's Department. Some 100 youths between the ages of 6 and 14 representing Sylvester, Kurtzman and Memorial parks competed. Story on results on sports pages.

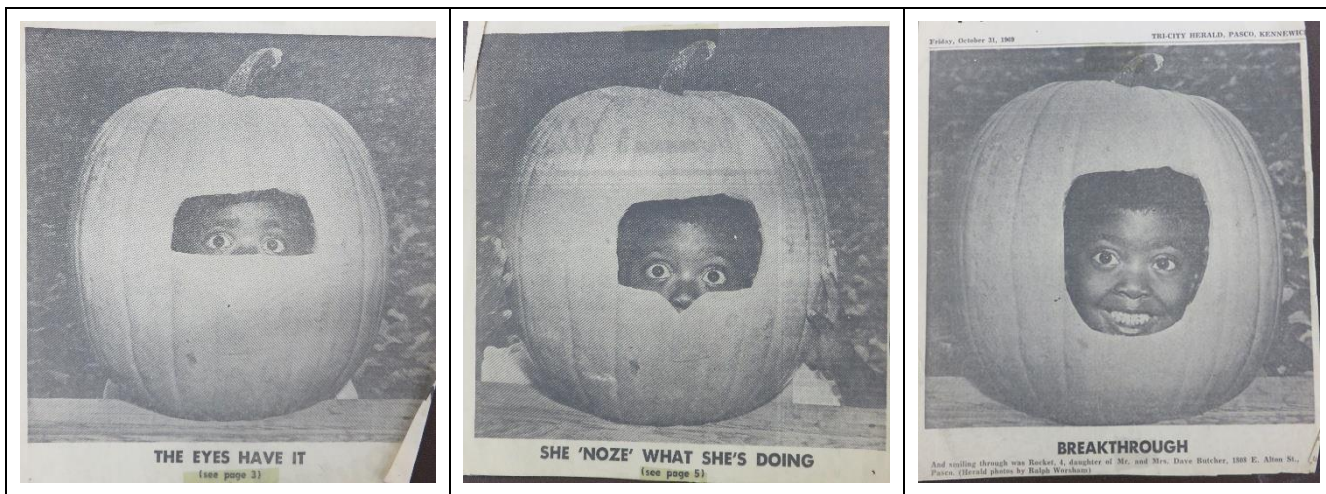
Back-to-back race, Tri-City Herald, August 4, 1963.

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Halloween 1969, Kurtzman Park, "Rocket, 4, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Butcher, 1803 E. Alton St." Tri-City Herald, October 31, 1969.



Cookies in the Park
Gingerbread cookies were offered to pre-school age youngsters at Kurtzman Park, Pasco, this week during a "tea" sponsored by the Pasco recreation department. Here, Carol, 3, and Steve, 5, children of Mr. and

Mrs. M. B. Sparks, 125 S. Elm St., were offered a cookie by Mrs. Bailey Groce, recreation supervisor. Mrs. Groce baked the cookies for about a dozen 3, 4 and 5-year-olds.



Pasco Parks & Recreation Directors, Kurtzman supervisor Delores Groce (right), Tri-City Herald, June 13, 1971.

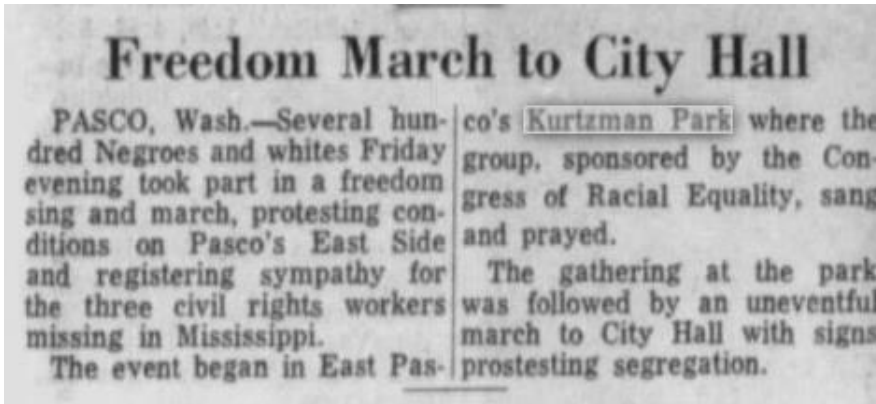
"Tea" at the Youth Center, Tri-City Herald, April 30, 1970.

KURTZMAN PARK

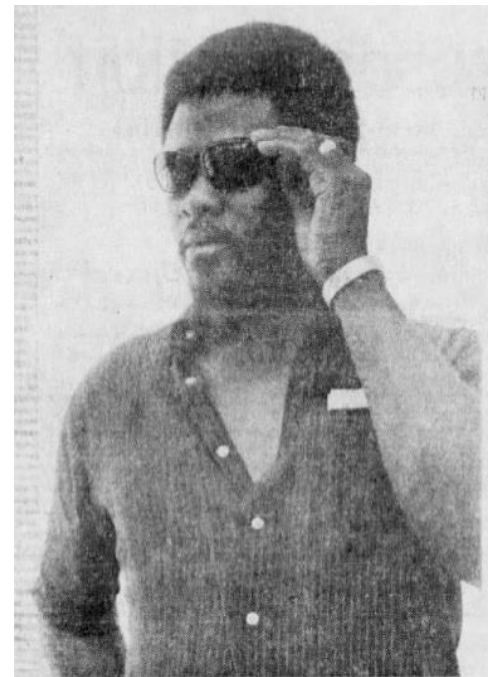
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First of many freedom marches from Kurtzman Park into downtown Pasco, Spokesman Review, July 25, 1964.



Robert Orange, President of Young Adult Action Movement (YAAM), Tri-City Herald, January 19, 1986.



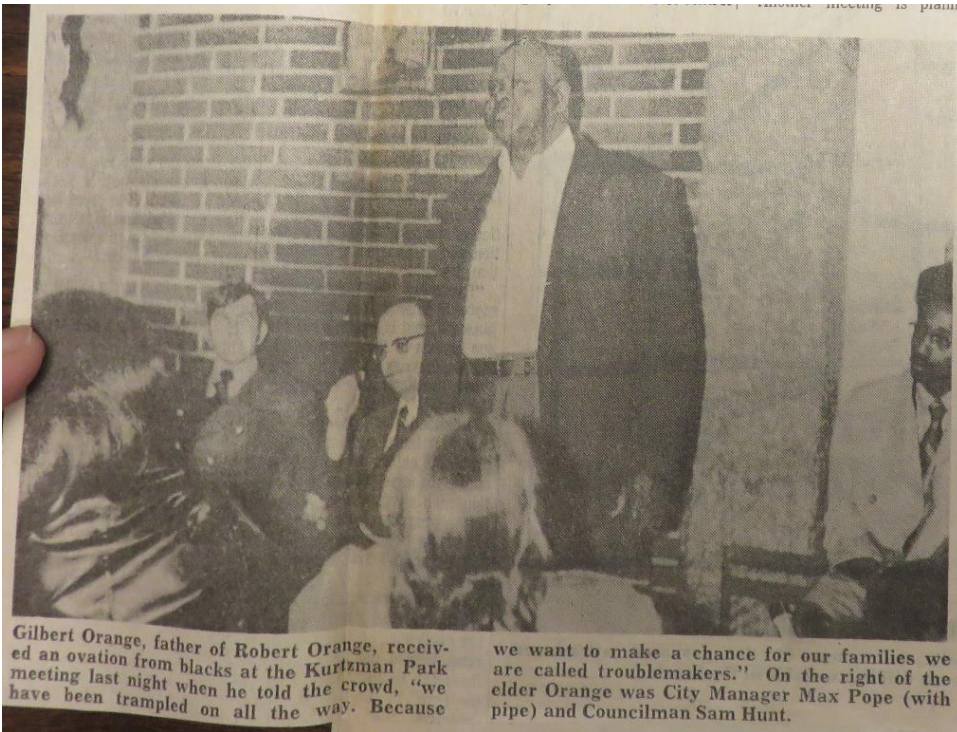
Protest march from Kurtzman Park to City Hall, Tri-City Herald, April 25, 1970.

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Gilbert Orange, father of Robert Orange, received an ovation from blacks at the Kurtzman Park meeting last night when he told the crowd, "we have been trampled on all the way. Because we want to make a chance for our families we are called troublemakers." On the right of the elder Orange was City Manager Max Pope (with pipe) and Councilman Sam Hunt.

Gilbert Orange speaking at Kurtzman Youth Center, Tri-City Herald, March 30, 1970.



WALLACE WEBSTER
CAC Director



Nat Jackson and Katie Barton studied the minutes at last night's East Pasco Neighborhood Council meeting.

Wallace Webster, Nat Jackson and Katie Barton testifies to East Pasco Neighborhood Council at Kurtzman Youth Center, Tri-City Herald, April 7, 1970.

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Soul Sisters Elect: Action Committee president Rita Horton, Tri-City Herald, January 27, 1970

Poster, Juneteenth celebration in Kurtzman Park, 2021



Above, Benjie Artis sings a tribute to blues singer Billie Holiday during a celebration Sunday at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in east Pasco. A capacity crowd of about 500 filled the auditorium during a two-hour mixed media program in King's honor. Today marks the first time the a national holiday honoring King's birth will be held.

Herald/Lon Martin

East Pasco Neighborhood Facility renamed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Tri-City Herald, January 20, 1986.

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Kurtzman Park

City or Vicinity: Pasco

County: Franklin **State:** WA

Photographer: Michael Houser, Marilyn Baker

Date Photographed: Houser - July 21, 2022 (1, 7-12), Baker- Jan 12, 2022 (2-6)

Description of Photograph(s) and number:



WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0001. Looking northeast to the Kurtzman Park Youth Center from the intersection of Wehe Ave. and Alton St.

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WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0002. Looking southeast at the original (and current) entrance to the building, at the west edge of the north wall of the original component.



WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0003. Looking east to the west (side) wall of the youth center. Original volume to right, addition to left.

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WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0004. Interior of youth center, main meeting room.



WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0005. Looking west to the east (side) wall of the youth center.

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WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0006. Looking north to the south (rear) wall of the youth center.



WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0007. Looking south to the pavilion: youth center is beyond pavilion in foreground.

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Name of Property

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WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0008. Baseball diamond looking west toward youth center.



WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0009. Kurtzman Park Comfort Station.

KURTZMAN PARK

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WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0010. Looking west-southwest toward the playing field, backstop, and bleachers from the basketball court.



WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0011. Looking northwest toward the playing field, backstop, and bleachers.

KURTZMAN PARK

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WA_FranklinCo_KurtzmanPark_0012. Kurtzman Youth Center dedication plaque detail. Install on June 19, 1993.

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Pasco – CO: Parks & Recreation: Brent Kubalek

street & number 525 N Third Ave

telephone (509) 543-5790

city or town Pasco

state WA

zip code 99301

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.







ENTRANCE

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CLERK

















NO BICYCLES
NO SKATEBOARDS
NO STROLLER
NO WHEELCHAIR



THE JUNETEENTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMMITMENT
THAT WAS REQUIRED TO BUILD

KURTZMAN YOUTH CENTER
1961-1964

WE SALUTE THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY,
AND THE MANY VOLUNTEERS AND BUSINESSES
WHO GAVE THEIR TIME AND ENERGIES
TO MAKE THIS DREAM A REALITY.

DEDICATED THIS DAY JUNE 16, 1994
THE PASO YUCA CITY OF PASO