

# CITY OF HIGH POINT

## AGENDA ITEM



**Title:** Historic Marker Request  
(Washington Terrace Park)

**From:** Chris Andrews, Interim Planning and  
Development Director

**Meeting Date:** December 6, 2021

**Public Hearing:** No

**Advertising Date:** NA

**Advertised By:** NA

**Attachments:** A. Staff Report

---

### PURPOSE:

A request by Yalik's African American Art & Cultural Movement in partnership with the Washington Street Historical Preservation Society, DRIVE High Point Foundation, and Visit High Point for approval of a historic marker to recognize Washington Terrace Park to be located on the north side of the park entrance on Murray Street.

### BACKGROUND:

The Historic Preservation Commission is designated by the Historic Marker Policy to review and evaluate all proposed roadside historic markers prior to consideration by City Council. This roadside historic marker request is the ninth request under the City's roadside Historic Marker Policy.

### BUDGET IMPACT:

Yalik's African American Art and Cultural Movement is purchasing this marker.

### RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

A. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommended approval of this request as outlined in the attached staff report.

B. Historic Preservation Commission Action

At its November 10, 2021 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed a request for a historic marker recognizing Washington Terrace Park. Six members of the Commission were present. Mr. David Fencl, Senior Planner, presented the request and recommended approval of the request as outlined in the staff report.

The Historic Preservation Commission determined that the proposed marker met the minimum evaluation criteria of the Historic Marker Policy, which includes the site's

significance occurred at least 50 years before the request, no other public or private markers recognize Washington Terrace Park, and the location of the proposed marker is within the corporate limits. The Historic Preservation Commission also determined that the proposed marker will be consistent in appearance with several existing City markers and recommended approval of the historic marker request, as recommended by staff, by a vote of 6-0.



**To:** Historic Preservation Commission Members

**From:** David Fencl, Senior Planner

**Meeting Date:** November 10, 2021

**Subject:** Washington Terrace Park Historic Marker Request by Yalik's African-American Art & Cultural Movement, in partnership with the Washington Street Historical Preservation Society, DRIVE High Point Foundation, Visit High Point, and the City of High Point

---

**PURPOSE:**

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is designated by the Historic Marker Policy to review all requests for historic markers to be located in public street rights-of-way. The HPC shall first determine whether the request meets the minimum evaluation criteria outlined in the policy, and if the request meets the minimum evaluation criteria, the HPC shall then evaluate the request based on relevant criteria as determined by the HPC.

The following criteria must be present and factually correct in order for the HPC to review any request for placement of a marker:

1. Any site or event requested to be recognized must be at least 50 years old and for any individual to be recognized with a marker, the individual's contribution that is the subject of the request must have occurred as least 50 years before the request.
2. There may not be any current markers, public or private, currently recognizing the site or event within the City of High Point.
3. The location requested to be recognized must be within the corporate limits of the City of High Point and within public view.

Requests for markers shall be evaluated based on relevant criteria as determined by the HPC, including the following:

1. Is each historical claim by the applicant presenting the request supported by documentation or other evidence of the claim's validity? Documentation should consist of primary sources that were created at the time of the event and may include tax records, deeds, newspaper articles, meeting minutes, photographs, etc. Secondary sources may be submitted to help provide context and justify the significance of the event, person, or location.
2. In an attempt to avoid repetition and promote diversity in the recognitions, is the requested site, event or individual closely related to a site, event or individual accomplishment that has already been recognized with a Marker?

3. Has the site, event, or individual contribution maintained its significance over time?
4. Is the site, event or individual recognized outside of High Point at state wide, national, or international levels?
5. Marker proposals will be rejected if the Commission cannot authenticate or verify the historical information to its satisfaction. The Commission shall make the deciding rule if there is conflicting evidence.

**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

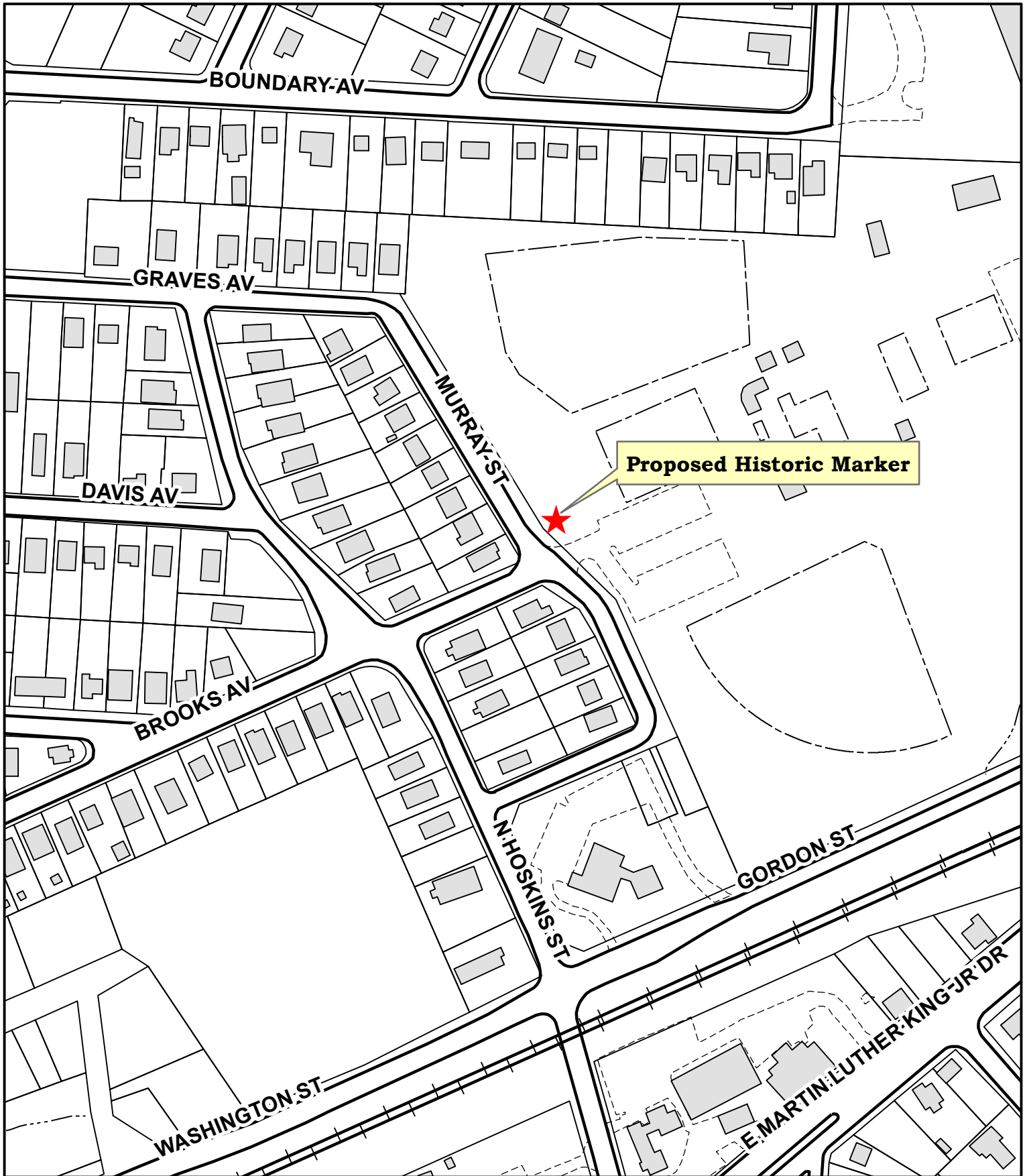
According to the information supplied with this Historic Marker Request, the groundbreaking for Washington Terrace Park, originally called the Municipal Colored Park, took place in 1935 and was officially opened in 1938. The park was constructed to serve High Point's African American citizens. Funds for the park were granted through the Federal Works Progress Administration or WPA and the park was designed by R.D. Tillson of Atlanta. The park originally included a pavilion, pool and bathhouse with showers and dressing rooms, tennis courts, ballfields, and picnic areas on almost 30 acres of land. During the park's days of segregation, African Americans visited the park by the busload to enjoy its recreational amenities.

Staff believes that this historic marker request meets the minimum evaluation criteria due to the park being constructed more than 50 years ago, there are no other historic markers recognizing Washington Terrace Park and the marker's proposed location is within the City of High Point and within public view. The applicant has submitted copies of primary resources, such as the plan prepared by R.D. Tillson, newspaper headline for the park's dedication, construction photos, photos of park users, and a photo of the 1955 Miss Washington Terrace contestants to support their request.

**RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:**

Staff recommends the Historic Preservation Commission recommend approval of the historic marker request for Washington Terrace Park. This historic marker request meets the minimum evaluation criteria, and with the documentation submitted with this request, staff believes this request meets the relevant evaluation criteria of the Historic Marker Policy.

**Attachments:** Washington Terrace Park Historic Marker Location Map  
Historic Marker Request and Documentation



**HISTORIC MARKER REQUEST**

Washington Terrace Park



Proposed marker location

Planning & Development  
Department

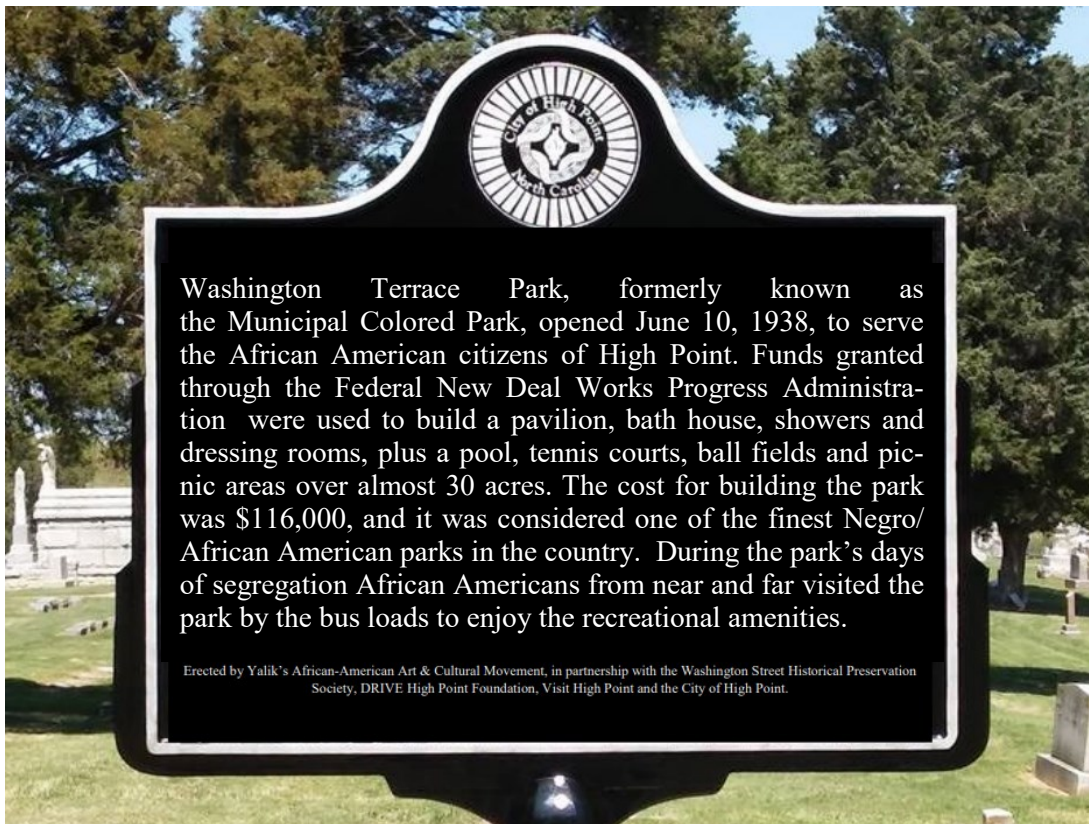
City of High Point



Scale: 1"=200'

## City of High Point Historic Marker Request

The cast aluminum roadside marker falls under the new City of High Point Historic Marker Policy. The marker will be manufactured by Sewah, Inc., a company who manufactures for NC State Highway Historic markers. The wording was written by Phyllis Bridges, CEO Yalik's African American Art & Cultural Movement and approved by Edith Brady, High Point Museum Administrator, and her staff.



We would like to use the following shape mounted on a 7-foot post with the city seal. The following measurements and costs of the roadside marker are from Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio, who make many state roadside markers in cast aluminum and bronze throughout the US, including those for NC.

**Size: 30"x 42" Georgia pattern**

**Style: Georgia Pattern**

**Post: 7foot mounting post**

**Letters: 1 inch**

**Same copy both sides.**

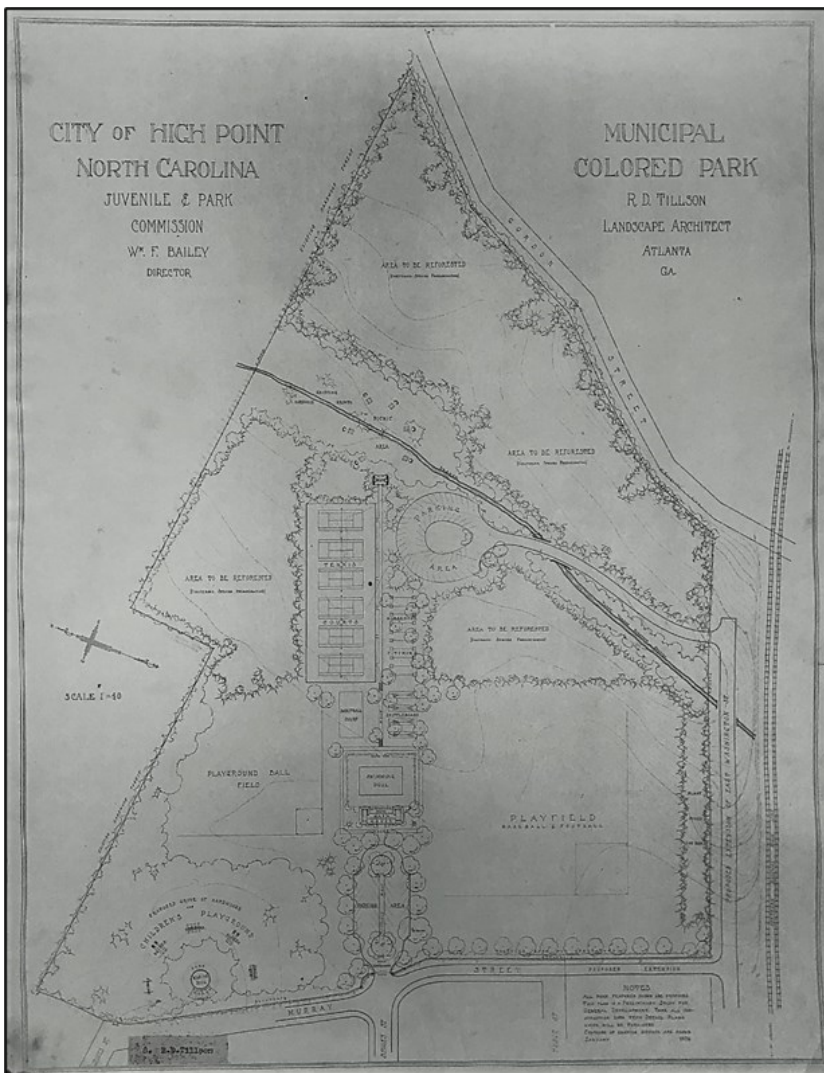


Washington Terrace Park is located at 101 Gordon St., High Point, N. C. This is in the East Central section of High Point, in the heart of a predominantly African American community.



The official name was the Municipal Colored Park, but was informally referred to as the Colored Park. Ground breaking took place in 1935, but the plan drawings weren't finished until early 1936. At one point worked stopped because the project was temporarily short on funds, and then picked up again, so the whole process took more than a year.

The new park opened June 10, 1938, to serve the African American citizens of High Point. Funds granted through the Federal New Deal Works Progress Administration built a pavilion, bath house, showers, and dressing rooms, plus a pool, tennis courts, ball fields and picnic areas over almost 30 acres. The cost for building the park was \$10,000 and was considered one of the finest parks in the country. During the park's days of segregation African Americans from near and far visited the park by the bus loads to enjoy the recreational amenities. There is not a lot of documented history about the park, but there are plenty of stories through word of mouth.



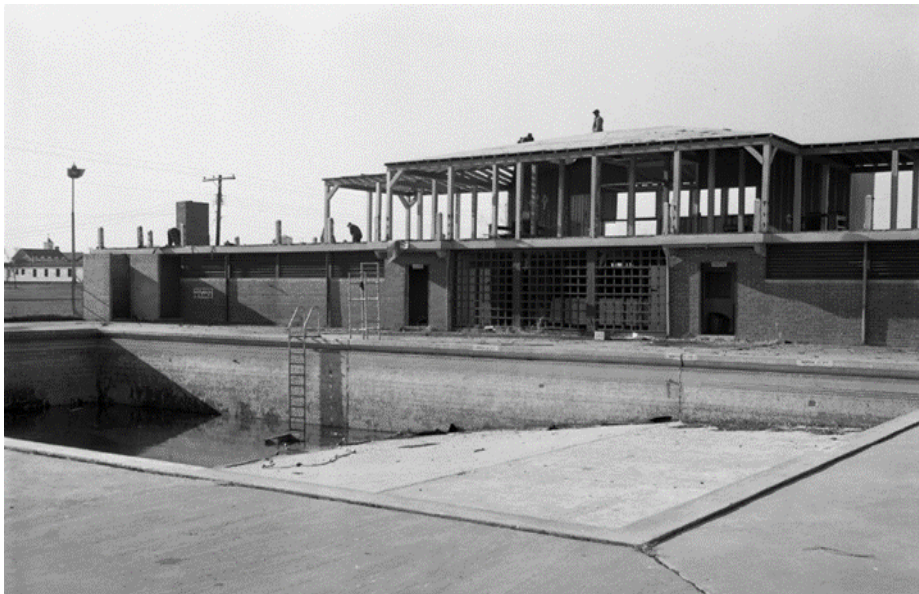
*The Municipal Colored  
Park, 1936. Later renamed,  
Washington Terrace Park.*

# To Dedicate \$100,000 Negro Recreational Park June 10; Is One Of Finest In Country

WPA and City Officials, Leading Negro Citizens  
And Others Will Take Part In Formal Dedication  
Program at That Time

High Point's \$100,000 Negro recreational park—one of the





*The Municipal Colored Park, 1954.*



High Point Historical Society

*Miss. Washington Terrace, 1955*



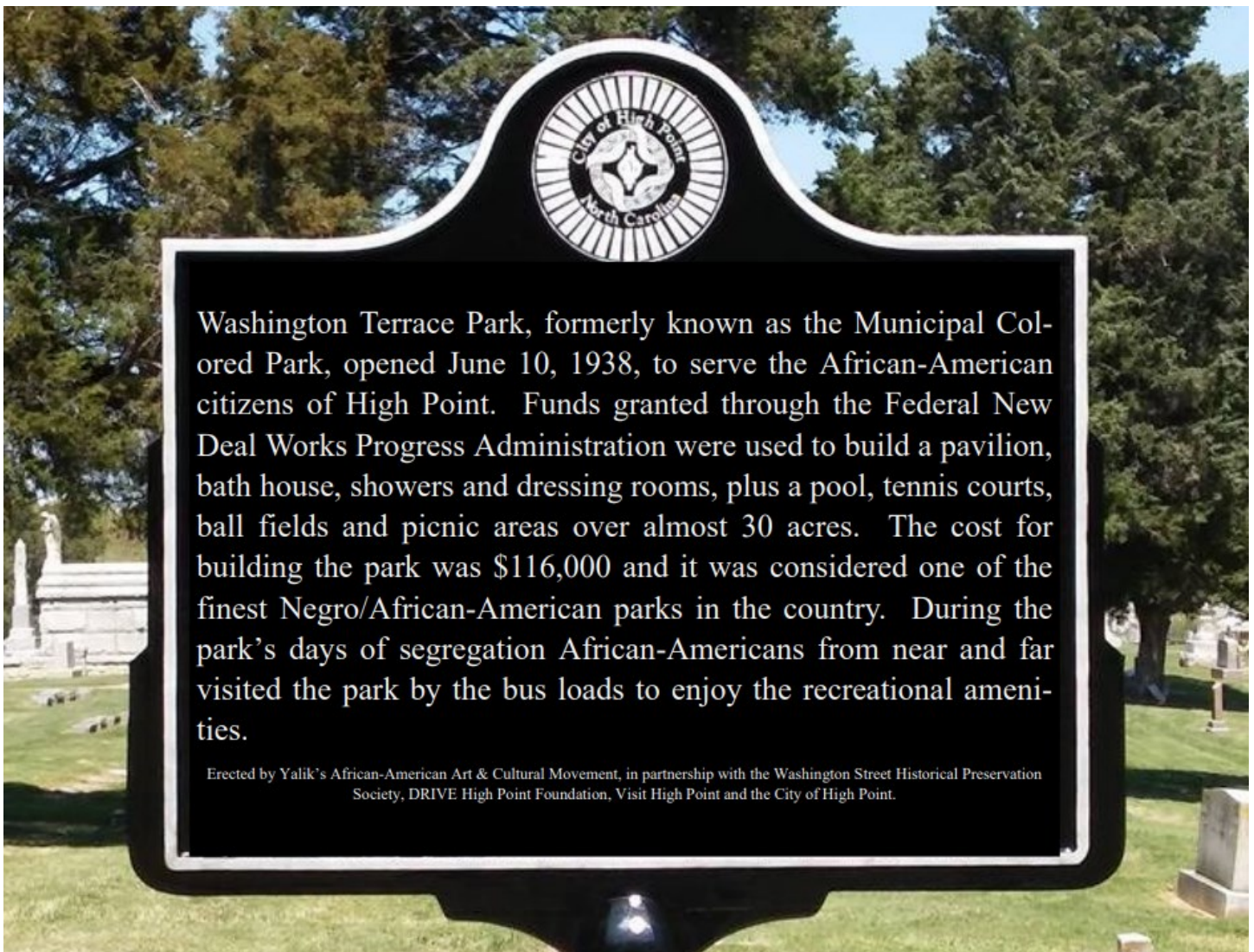
High Point Historical Society





The historical marker for Washington Terrace Park will be placed at the back entrance of the park, on Murray St., just left of the entrance. The location is within the corporate limits of the City of High Point and the site will be within public view.





Washington Terrace Park, formerly known as the Municipal Colored Park, opened June 10, 1938, to serve the African-American citizens of High Point. Funds granted through the Federal New Deal Works Progress Administration were used to build a pavilion, bath house, showers and dressing rooms, plus a pool, tennis courts, ball fields and picnic areas over almost 30 acres. The cost for building the park was \$116,000 and it was considered one of the finest Negro/African-American parks in the country. During the park's days of segregation African-Americans from near and far visited the park by the bus loads to enjoy the recreational amenities.

Erected by Yalik's African-American Art & Cultural Movement, in partnership with the Washington Street Historical Preservation Society, DRIVE High Point Foundation, Visit High Point and the City of High Point.

**VERBAGE** - Washington Terrace Park, formerly known as the Municipal Colored Park, opened June 10, 1938, to serve the African American citizens of High Point. Funds granted through the Federal New Deal Works Progress Administration were used to build a pavilion, bath house, showers and dressing rooms, plus a pool, tennis courts, ball fields and picnic areas over almost 30 acres. The cost for building the park was \$116,000, and it was considered one of the finest Negro/African American parks in the country. During the park's days of segregation African Americans from near and far visited the park by the bus loads to enjoy the recreational amenities.

Marker Inscription

Cost for marker \$2,315.00