

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED 7/30/80

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

VL R: 04/15/80 I: RHP: 07/30/80

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Aviary (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Aviary, Miller Park/Garden Center

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Miller Park, 402 Grove Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lynchburg

VICINITY OF

Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

51

COUNTY

in City

CODE

680

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK House

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Lynchburg, c/o Mayor

STREET & NUMBER

Municipal Building

CITY, TOWN

Lynchburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24505

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Lynchburg Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lynchburg

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic Preservation Survey

DATE

1970s

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Lynchburg Garden Club

CITY, TOWN

Lynchburg

STATE

Virginia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Aviary, a Queen Anne-style structure, is set within the grounds of Miller Park in the City of Lynchburg. Erected in 1902, the multi-sided exhibition house was designed by the local architectural firm of Frye and Chesterman.

The wood-frame edifice has imbricated wood shingles and ornamental wooden trim and is set on a six-course, American-bond foundation. Standing-seam sheet metal covers the conical roof which is separated by a multi-paned clerestory and topped by a monitor. The main (west) entrance consists of a Colonial Revival-style doorway that has engaged columns which support an entablature topped by a tablet. The tablet originally contained the inscription, "Presented to the City of Lynchburg by Randolph Guggenheimer." On the frieze was the word, "Aviary". The original Ionic capitals have been replaced by plain wooden blocks. The double doors are paneled and have multi-paned, crisscross-patterned lights. Sixteen round-arch windows run around the building. The windows consist of 6/6 hung sash over 9/9 hung sash flanked by multi-paned, crisscross-patterned sidelights. Applied wooden keystones and arched-pattern shingles complete the composition. A 1½-story, two-bay stairtower was added in 1976. Covered by a shed roof, the tower has imbricated shingles and lattice-filled openings. The eaves course is bracketed.

The building has undergone interior alterations due to its adaptive reuse. A 1902 newspaper account describes the building as having seven cages and being "bright and pretty...inside and out."¹ The first alterations were made when the building was converted into a library; subsequently, it was converted into offices by the City Recreation Department. When the Garden Club acquired the structure in 1975, office partitions were removed resulting in an open space on the main floor. A mezzanine, believed to have been installed when the building was used as a library, remains in place. The basement has been divided into storage rooms, two lavatories, and a hall. The first floor consists of nine triangular-shaped wooden sections that converge on a central concrete hub that once supported a cage. The interior walls are finished with matchboard. A later ceiling has been installed over the mezzanine and under the central monitor.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property consists of approximately one acre. The acre lies within the boundaries of Miller Park and is drawn to include only that land immediately around the Aviary. The boundary is defined by Grove Street and a road that runs through Miller Park.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	popular culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frye & Chesterman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Love of animals is strong in the hearts of the American people..." observed the New York Times on August 30, 1896. The statement was written at a time when a number of zoological gardens were opening throughout the United States and could be applied to Lynchburg in 1902. In that year the Aviary, designed by the local firm of Frye and Chesterman, was opened formally in Miller Park, the gift of Randolph Guggenheimer of New York City. An interesting adaptation of the Queen Anne style, the unusual building stands as the earliest known aviary built in the Commonwealth for municipal enjoyment.

Randolph Guggenheimer was a native of Lynchburg who had moved to New York City where he became a successful lawyer and real estate speculator. Guggenheimer lived on Park Avenue and 74th Street across from Central Park. His decision to provide funds for an aviary in Miller Park undoubtedly was influenced by both his proximity to the park and the contemporary interest in the development of zoological parks and gardens in metropolitan areas throughout the nation.

While the earliest zoological gardens were built in Europe in the 18th century, advances made in the study of zoology and concern for animal extinction motivated the building of zoos in America during the latter part of the 19th century. The first large zoo was built in Philadelphia in the 1870s, followed by the erection of municipal zoos in Pittsburgh, Washington and the Bronx. By the 1890s animal experts from the United States were traveling in Europe to study zoos in an effort to improve their construction and exhibiting conditions throughout America. The task of designing Lynchburg's Aviary was given to the local firm of Frye and Chesterman, subject to the approval of its donor.

Frye and Chesterman, Lynchburg's most prominent firm at the time, designed quite a few local landmarks that included the Jones Memorial Library and the Municipal Building, along with a number of large churches and residences. The firm may have been influenced in their aviary design by the Pittsburgh Zoo which included the use of multi-sided buildings. The choice of the Queen Anne style appears to have been a local preference; indeed it was the most popular style at the time.

When completed, the Aviary housed, "Seven cages containing monkeys, one with at least a half dozen healthy alligators, one with cockatoos, one with Australian doves, one with parrots and one with canaries."² As the interest in exotic creatures faded, the Aviary was converted into a branch of the Jones Memorial Library in 1931. In 1971 it became the offices for the Department of Parks and Recreation. In 1975 it was leased to the Lynchburg Council of Garden Clubs which presently maintains the building as a garden center.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Aviary, Lynchburg, Virginia

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 & 8 PAGE 1

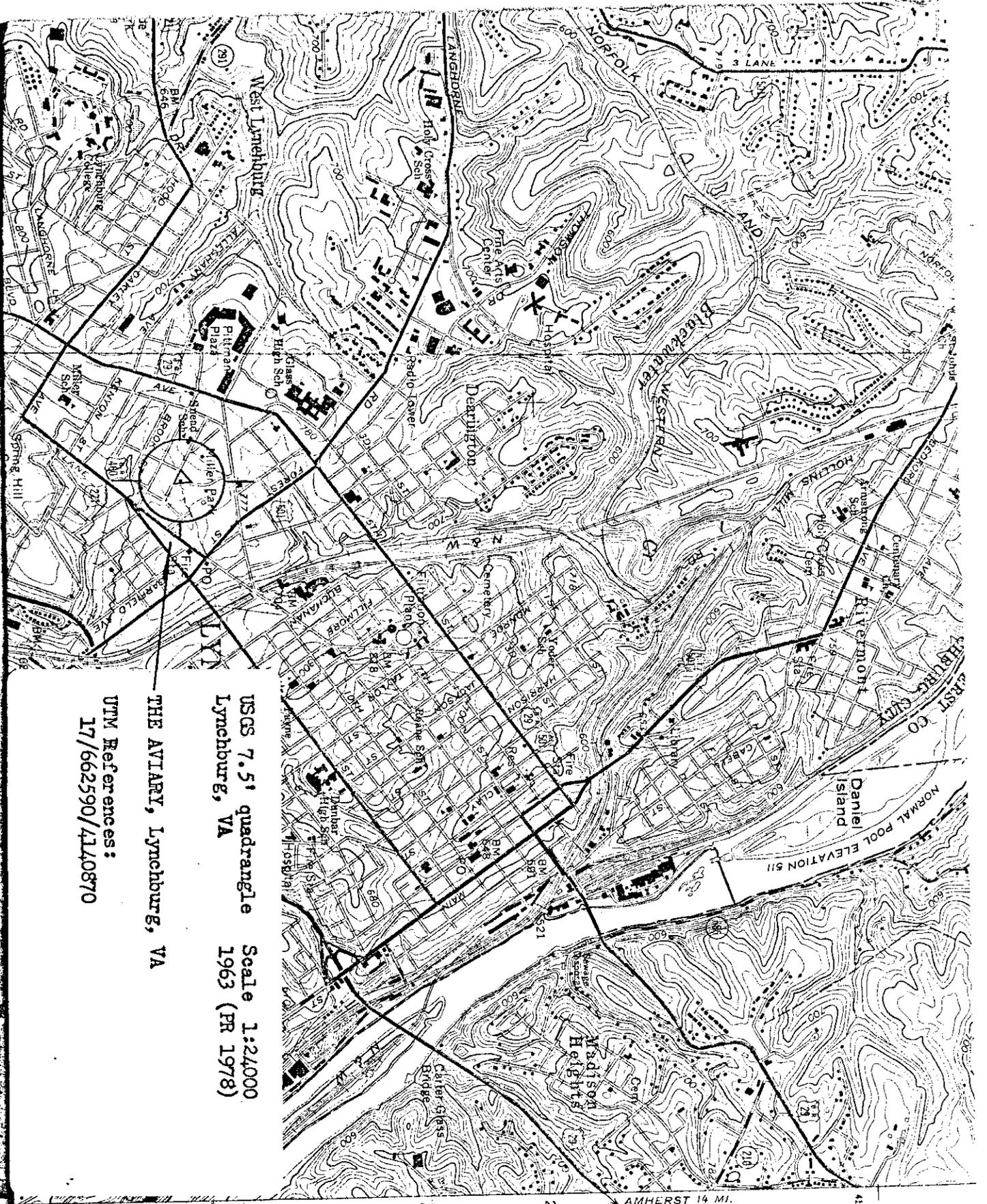
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2). Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1980 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE

¹New York Times. 30 August 1896.

²The News. 30 May 1902.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
 Lynchburg, VA
 Scale 1:24,000
 1963 (PR 1978)

THE AVIARY, Lynchburg, VA

UTM References:
 17/662590/4140870

