



United Parents Against Lead
& Other Environmental Hazards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATE REVIEW BOARD GREEN-LIGHTS
A FORMAL NOMINATION FOR LISTING UPAL BUILDING
ON LANDMARKS REGISTERS**

During its quarterly meeting on December 10, the State Review Board of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources gave a greenlight to United Parents Against Lead (UPAL) to pursue a formal nomination for listing its current Petersburg Community Training Center building on the National Register of Historic Places.

While the State Review Board's (SRB) decision is not a formal recognition of listing on the National Register, it is confirmation that the board believes the former United Services Organization (USO) building, constructed in 1941 in Petersburg to serve "Colored" U.S. soldiers when the military was segregated, merits pursuit of a formal nomination. The U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps designed the building for the USO, which used the plans in Petersburg and other locations around the U.S.

After its use as a USO gathering place, a social club known as Beaux Twenty operated out of the building until approximately 2018. UPAL is restoring the building, a process that has uncovered much of its historical fabric and detailing.

The SRB gave its encouragement to pursue listing on the National Register after discussing the property and its historical significance with DHR register staff and local advocates seeking to preserve the building.

The SRB "welcomed" the opportunity to review a formal nomination at a future joint quarterly meeting of the SRB and the Virginia Board of Historic Resources (VBHR).

The VBHR has the authority to approve properties and historic districts for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register. The SRB is authorized to recommend forwarding property nominations to the National Park Service for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Both registers use the same criteria and form.

The next joint quarterly meeting for both boards is March 18, 2021.

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