

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 6 1979
DATE ENTERED SEP 10 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME Y.W.C.A.

HISTORIC
Young Women's Christian Association Building
AND/OR COMMON
YWCA Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
130 East Kiowa Street
CITY, TOWN
Colorado Springs
STATE
Colorado
VICINITY OF
5
COUNTY
El Paso
CODE
08
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5
CODE
041

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Sellon and Schmidt, a general partnership
STREET & NUMBER
225 Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard
CITY, TOWN
Colorado Springs
VICINITY OF
STATE
Colorado

81799
Birk Cream
THE COLORADO SPICES CO.
130 E Kiowa St
Colorado Springs, Co.

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
STATE

El Paso County Clerk and Recorder
Centennial Hall, 200 South Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs
Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (21/04/0053)
DATE
Ongoing
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL
Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway
Denver
Colorado 80203

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

Located on the northwest corner of East Kiowa and North Nevada in Colorado Springs, the Young Women's Christian Association is a single, detached structure five and one-half stories in height, made of brick, and designed in the shape of an "L". At the street level the main or south facade has six bays, one of which is recessed and articulated to form an entry. The east facade also has six bays, one of which is recessed to form a secondary entry. Located inside the "L" is a two and one-half story gymnasium added to the main section. The foundation of the entire building is stone, the structural system reinforced concrete, and the roof is flat.

The exterior features give the building its Mediterraneanesque flavor. The exterior brick is buff-colored and set in courses of stretcher bond (although on the facades away from the street, the brick is red). The fenestration varies widely. The windows along the street level occur in pairs or threes, all of them recessed within the foundation. The windows on the first and second floors are arched with radiating voussoirs and keystones. The windows on the third and fourth floors have flat arches with keystones. The windows on the fifth floor have paired Gothic arches which reflect the treatment of the entryways on the street level. Both entries have a cut stone arch reminiscent of Gothic architecture. The main entry door is flanked by sidelights and has a fixed glass transom above. Flanking the sidelights are engaged, cut stone pilasters supporting a stone lintel. Above the main opening are two small windows with green terra cotta detailing and the name of the building. Higher up on the main facades are balcony openings which are framed in vertical terra cotta bands. The window sills on the fifth floor incorporate a terra cotta belt course on the south and east facades. Finally the walls rise to form a parapet which is capped by green terra cotta. Green terra cotta tiles add to the decorative treatment.

The main lobby reflects the elegance and detailing of the past. The floor is done in tile with a diamond pattern while the ceiling is wood-beamed and corniced. Archways along this level are inlaid with green accents and glass transoms. The main stairs wrap around the open-wire elevator shaft. The original lighting fixtures remain. The rooms upstairs, however, no longer have their original elegance.

The gymnasium, located on the "inside" of the "L", is a two and one-half story brick structure erected a short time after the main building. Six buttresses help support one of the walls while inside, steel columns hung from the ceiling beams support a continuous balcony and allow the main floor to be column free. The roof of the structure has a simple steel railing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT General Contractor: T. J. Wright
Architect: Nicholas Van den Arend

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the YWCA Building is tied to the social, cultural, and humanitarian goals of the association itself as well as to the structure's architectural features.

Although the YWCA movement had its origins in the United States many years before, the movement did not reach Colorado Springs until 1899 when a group of thirty-five community-minded citizens met in the schoolroom of the First Presbyterian Church to form a local chapter. The group soon acquired a small facility to provide room and board to single women; but as time passed the rapid growth of the chapter presented the need for an enlarged facility to provide classrooms, a gymnasium, a cafeteria/dining area, private rooms, and space for religious, social, and cultural activities. A campaign to raise funds for such a structure began in 1909, but it was not until 1912 that the Association had raised enough funds to begin building on a lot it had acquired downtown. Nicholas Van den Arend was the architect who designed the structure which was completed the next year. In 1917 the Association built the attached gymnasium following a gift from a local philanthropist, Mrs. J. M. Bemis.

Over the years the YWCA Building provided a cornerstone for community planning and served as a center for social, cultural, and humanitarian activities. During the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, the Red Cross used the structure as a hospital. Between World Wars I & II, the building continued to serve the ever increasing needs of the YWCA. During World War II, it served as a center for the United Services Organization (USO) which provided social and recreational outlets for thousands of servicemen. Despite its continuing work, the building became outmoded as the community grew, and in 1971 the YMCA, YWCA, and the USO opened a combined new facility elsewhere in Colorado Springs. Left in the wake of growth and social progress, the YWCA Building stood empty for seven years while its future was debated. At one point it appeared certain that the structure would be torn down for a high-rise parking facility, but public opposition thwarted the plans of the destroyers. In 1973 the building was acquired by William A. Simpson and his family, which owned several banks in the area and which took control of the old Colorado Springs Company, organized in 1871 by William J. Palmer, the founder of Colorado Springs. Having renamed the structure the Colorado Springs Company Building, the owners plan to remodel and renovate it for new commercial uses.

From an architectural perspective, the structure reflects the eclectic architectural interests of its designer, Nicholas Van den Arend. Yet the Mediterraneanesque feelings generated by the building also reflect the interest of at least some high plains architects of that era in creating a style suited to the high plains environment. While this is seen more often in houses, this structure represents the same ideas applied to a high-rise building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Colorado Springs Gazette, Magazine Section (Section 2), October 26, 1913, Page 1, Periodicals microfilm file, Penrose Public Library, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Pamphlet entitled "YW-YMCA-USO, A \$3,000,000.00 Program of Service", undated, but compiled and printed by the YW-YMCA-USO Development Program Campaign - YW-YMCA-USO Headquarters, Bijou Street at North Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.2456

QUADRANGLE NAME Colorado Springs

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bill Groom, House Counsel

ORGANIZATION

The Colorado Springs Company

DATE

November 17, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

130 East Kiowa Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 475-1871

CITY OR TOWN

Colorado Springs

STATE

Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Arthur C. Immund

TITLE

DATE

June 22, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Paul Skell
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-10-79

ATTEST:

William H. Abraham
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

Sept 7, 1979

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CONTINUATION SHEET YWCA Building ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

The easterly 86.5 feet of lots 12 and 13 and the easterly 85 feet of lots 9, 10, and 11 of Block 72 of the City of Colorado Springs. Or, 85 feet westerly from the Northwest corner of Kiowa Street and North Nevada Avenue, thence northerly a distance of 75 feet, thence westerly one and one-half (1½) feet, thence northerly 50 feet, thence easterly 86.5 feet to the westerly edge of the right of way for North Nevada Avenue, thence southerly along said right of way a distance of 125 feet to the point of beginning, all in downtown Colorado Springs, El Paso County.