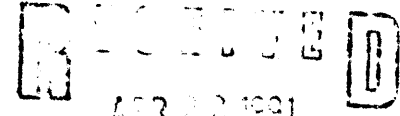


621

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name YMCA, Downtown Branch
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 400 McNeill Street N/A not for publication
city, town Shreveport N/A vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Caddo code 017 zip code 71101

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			Total
			<u>0</u>

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Leslie Tassin
Signature of certifying official Leslie Tassin, LA SHPO, Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism April 18, 1991
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Alanus Byers 5/28/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/sports facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italian Renaissance

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

roof tile; tarother terra cottaconcrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Downtown Shreveport YMCA (1925) is a four story, blond brick and cast concrete institutional building in the Italian Renaissance style. It is located on McNeill Street near the edge of the Shreveport central business district. Although the building has received a number of alterations, it retains its National Register eligibility.

The exterior design appears to have been inspired, at least remotely, by the Villa Medici in Rome which was begun in 1574. This can be seen mainly in the rather unusual use of twin rooftop campaniles flanking the three central bays of the building. Like those at the villa, the YMCA campaniles feature a central arched opening flanked by pilasters and panels on each elevation. Except for the campanile treatment, the design is that of a squarish institutional building with applied Renaissance features. Unlike the campaniles, most of these features date from the early part of the Renaissance (pre-1500). The ground stories of the front and side elevations are articulated with an impressive row of arched openings. Most of these are inscribed double arch windows with central colonnettes. Spandrels between the arched openings are accented with oeil-de-boeuf motifs. The ground story culminates in a triple arch entrance which, in true early Renaissance fashion, has the arches springing directly from the Corinthian column capitals. The entrance door has a patera surround and a fully round segmental pediment featuring the YMCA emblem. Other noteworthy exterior features include the rooftop balustrade and the use of quoining to set off the various parts. Of great visual interest is the gold and blue terra cotta used on bas relief urn panels on the campaniles, the front doorway, and blocks on the triple arch arcade bearing the initials YMCA.

The early Renaissance style is continued on the interior. The central lobby features a plaster mock groin vaulted ceiling in which the vaults spring from octagonal piers with foliated capitals. On each side of the lobby is an assembly room with an Italian exposed beam double frame ceiling. The assembly room on the south side culminates in an Italian hooded fireplace. Behind the lobby is a small sunken cortile with a fountain set in a tiled niche and a surrounding skirting tile roof. Other interior features include two gymnasiums, numerous bedrooms, and a basement level indoor pool with applied decorative tilework.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

YMCA, Downtown Branch, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA

Section number 7 Page 1

Alterations:

When the YMCA was built, the ends of the building were crowned with modest tile skirting roofs. These have been removed.

Originally the rear of the building was only two stories high, but in the 1960s two more stories were added. This addition is visible from the rear and from the cortile.

The second story, which once contained bedrooms, was converted to exercise rooms in the 1960s.

The north assembly room lost a bay in the 1960s. This was done to provide additional ground story office space. The work was very sensitively done, and it is difficult to tell that any change has taken place. In fact, it appears that an additional bay of groin vaulting was duplicated to provide access from the vaulted lobby to the diminished assembly room.

None of these changes have seriously affected the building's architectural integrity. It is still a compelling architectural statement in the Italian Renaissance style. The only major alteration, the addition, is not visible from most parts of the property. The Downtown Shreveport YMCA is still a very viable National Register candidate.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
architecture

Period of Significance
1925

Significant Dates
1925

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Clarence W. King

Contractors: Glassell-Wilson Co.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Downtown Shreveport YMCA is of local significance in the area of architecture as a special component of Shreveport's important and impressive collection of early twentieth century eclectic revival buildings. Louisiana's third largest city was founded in the 1830s, but the architectural patrimony for which Shreveport is primarily recognized dates to the oil boom of the early twentieth century. A major element of this heritage is approximately thirty landmarks reflecting the eclectic revival styles of the time. During this period of explosive growth, numerous major buildings were erected in a variety of historic styles ranging from neo-Georgian to Jacobean to Italian Renaissance. These buildings establish Shreveport as Louisiana's most important center of eclecticism, with the possible exception of New Orleans. In our opinion, all would be eligible for individual listing on the National Register. The downtown YMCA is one of these, being part of a collection of five buildings designed in an Italian style. Among these, it is conspicuous because of its distinctive rooftop twin campanile articulation.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic photos of Downtown YMCA, LSU-Shreveport Archives.

Fricker, Donna. "Emulating the Past: Shreveport's Early Twentieth Century Architecture," Preservation in Print, September 1990.

Blueprints in possession of YMCA.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property less than an acre

UTM References

A 1 5 | 4 2 9 | 4 5 0 | 3 5 9 7 | 3 0 0

Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____ | _____ | _____

Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Please refer to sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary lines follow the property lines of the parcel of land occupied by the nominated building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

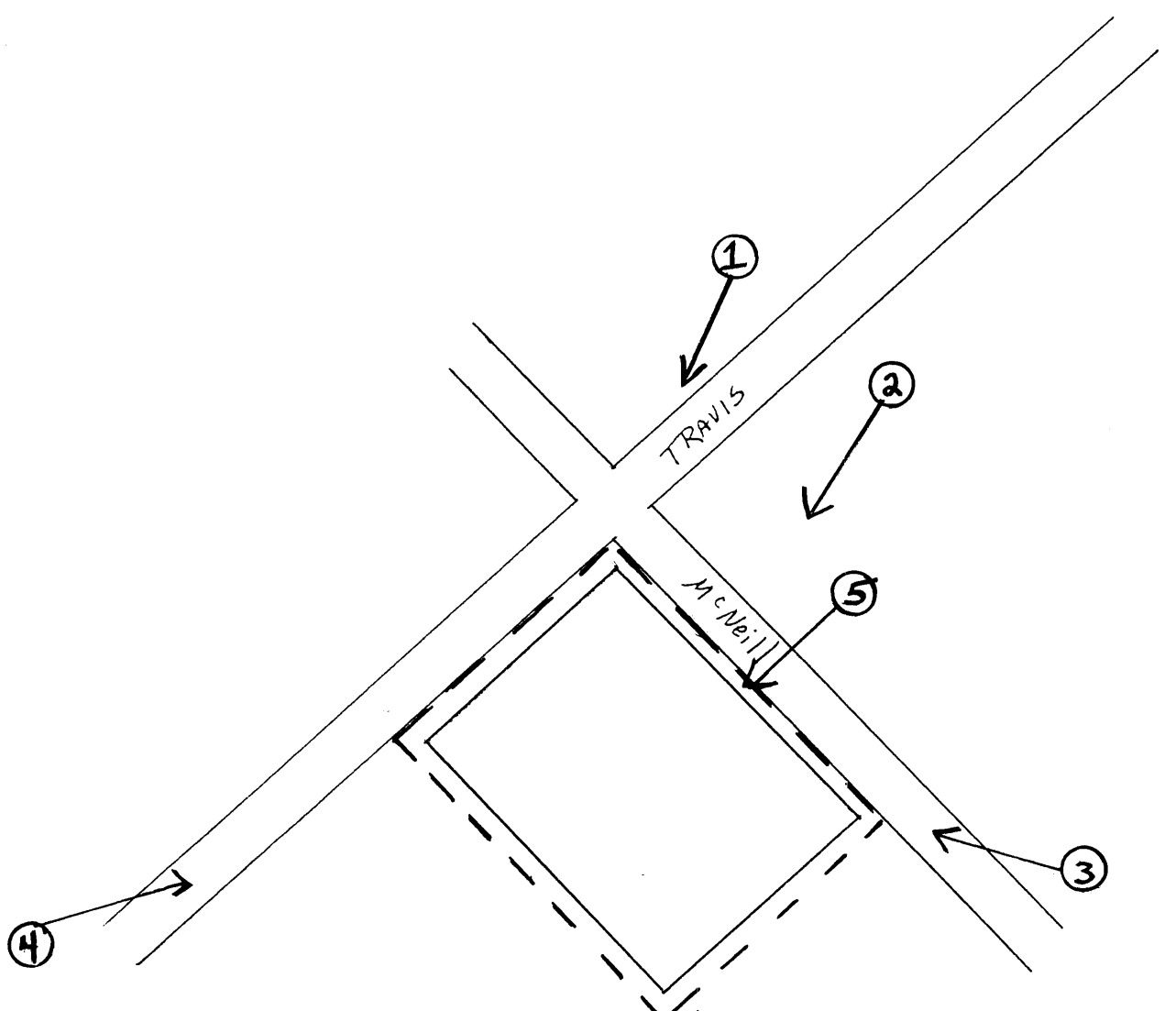
name/title National Register Staff

organization Division of Historic Preservation date March 1991

street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (504) 342-8160

city or town Baton Rouge state Louisiana zip code 70804

Owner: YMCA Board of Directors
 P. O. Box 566
 Shreveport, LA 71162



YMCA, Downtown Branch
Shreveport
Caddo Parish, LA

N
Scale 1" = 75'
--- BOUNDARY