

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 31 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 21 1978

**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**

HISTORIC *Building* *(rh)* 10/2/78  
Y.W.C.A. *Residence*

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1660 M Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Fresno

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
17th

VICINITY OF

STATE  
California

CODE  
06

COUNTY  
Fresno

CODE  
019 ✓

**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 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Y.W.C.A. ✓

STREET & NUMBER  
1600 M Street

CITY, TOWN  
Fresno

VICINITY OF

STATE  
California

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Fresno County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
2281 Tulare Street

CITY, TOWN  
Fresno

STATE  
California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Point of Historical Interest designated by County Board of Supervisors

DATE  
1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Fresno County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN  
Fresno

STATE  
California

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Y.W.C.A. Residence Building has both historical and architectural significance. At present it has been designated as a "Point of Historic Interest" by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

The residence primarily has architectural significance because the architect for this building was Julia Morgan, recognized today as one of America's greatest women architects. She borrowed from many styles. As a result, Julia Morgan's buildings are not easily identifiable. She has an excellent talent in mixing the many styles of the Romanesque and Renaissance era along with the prevailing architecture in California, primarily the Stick, Barn, etc.

The Y.W.C.A. Residence Building is a mixture on the exterior of Spanish and Italian Renaissance details commonly used in the Italian villas. The entablatures, trim at windows and entrance details are simple classical in good taste and harmony. Windows on the exterior consist of arched and rectangular shapes, each enhancing the other.

The general plan of the residence is in a simple H form facing the West with simple vertical units on the North and South with a court in between. The building is two stories high with a usable attic. The residence building is very functional. It fulfills that phrase often used by responsible architects that "architecture is for people and not people for architecture."

The first floor plan is quite symmetrical. The horizontal unit consists of the main lobby with the library; reception room on South side and offices on North side. The North and South units are designed for the functional use of the residents consisting of bedrooms and related rooms such as bathrooms, storage and sewing rooms, dining rooms and kitchens.

In addition, Julia Morgan designed the building to fit the climatic needs of the hot San Joaquin Valley. All acceptable types of ventilation in use at that time are incorporated within the elements of the building, both interior and exterior since the building was erected during the period when the accepted forms of air-conditioning of today were not in use. A good example is the sleeping porch located on the east end of the third floor or attic of the North Wing. This was originally screened in but in later years with the advent of cooling and heating systems has been enclosed and is usable all year.

Alterations to the building have been very minor, and do not detract from the significance of the building. In the early years of World War II, the third floor dormitories (sleeping porches) were partitioned into several smaller areas. Aside from this minor change, the building retains its original integrity.

# 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 Constructed in 1922

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Julia Morgan

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The stately building located at 1660 M Street in Fresno is noteworthy because it was designed by Julia Morgan, one of America's foremost women architects, and because it has fulfilled its purpose of providing moderate cost housing for young women continuously for more than 55 years. Last year temporary housing was provided in this building for 284 women.

Julia Morgan was the official architect in the West for the Y.W.C.A., one of the woman's best clients, for whom she designed buildings in most of the major cities in California, Utah, Hawaii, and Japan.

Built in 1922, the Fresno building is the last Julia Morgan-designed Y.W.C.A. Residence in California to be used for the purpose for which it was intended -- housing for young women of all races, creeds and colors.<sup>1</sup> The building is unchanged since it was built except that the sleeping porch was enclosed in the 1930's.

Shortly before Julia Morgan died, Allen Temko, professor of art history at the University of California, and widely read architectural critic, wrote that "this great Californian, who designed not only San Simeon, but more than 700 other buildings in her long career ... deserves in American architecture at least as high a place as Mary Cassatt in American painting, or Edith Wharton in American letters."

Born in San Francisco in 1872, Miss Morgan became an architect when very few women entered this profession. Following graduation from high school, she entered the College of Civil Engineering at the University of California in 1890. At the university, she met Bernard Maybeck, then an instructor of drawing and attended informal classes in architectural design conducted at his home. In 1894 she was the first woman to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from that university.

Encouraged by Maybeck and her family, she continued her studies at the Beaux Arts in Paris and in 1901 became the first woman to receive its diploma.

On her return to the Bay Area, Miss Morgan found work with John Galen Howard who had recently moved his prosperous New York office to San Francisco to redesign and implement a grandiose plan for the Berkeley campus. At this time she assisted him on the Hearst Mining Building and the Greek Theatre.

By 1905 Miss Morgan had her own office in San Francisco and over the next 35 years conducted a flourishing business designing over 1,000 residential and institutional buildings in California and other areas in the United States.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elinor Richey, Eminent Women of the West. Howell-North Books, Berkeley, 1975.  
 Richard W. Longstreth, Julia Morgan -- Architect. Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, 1977.  
 A.A.U.W., Heritage Fresno, Homes and People. Vintage Press, Fresno, 1975.  
San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle, August 24, 1975.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 | 250610 | 4069810  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_ | \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Fresno City lots 17-32. Portion of abandoned street described as beginning on the NW line of block 340 at a point 2.88 feet NE of the most westerly corner of said

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Valerie D. Comegys

ORGANIZATION Y.W.C.A.

DATE February 9, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 1566 W. Browning

TELEPHONE (209) 439-4039

CITY OR TOWN Fresno

STATE California 93711

## 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

*Knox M. Ellison*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5/22/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*R. B. Rettig*

DATE 9/21/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William Helbock*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE Sept 18, 1978

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Various women's organizations were growing rapidly and gaining a respected position in Community affairs at this time and many of them entrusted her with the design of their headquarters. Her first known commission was from Mills College in Oakland. She continued to design for them for the next decade. She was in charge of rebuilding the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco after the earthquake and fire, and designed many homes in the East Bay when its population was growing rapidly.

The design and building of the "Hearst Castle" at San Simeon for William Randolph Hearst was probably her most spectacular job. However, during the years she was concerned with it, she was also engaged in major construction like the Studio Club in Hollywood, the Honolulu YWCA, the Long Beach YWCA, several buildings (along with Bernard Maybeck) at Principia college in Missouri, the Los Angeles Examiner Building, the Hearst Memorial Women's Gymnasium in Berkeley, and many distinguished residences.

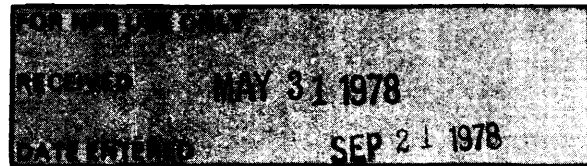
The schools, the churches, the institutional buildings and the women's clubs she built, as well as the hundreds of residences, continue to function and to grow more gracefully beautiful over the years.

<sup>1</sup>Interview with Sara Holmes Boutelle, author and authority on Julia Morgan, Santa Cruz, California, January 17, 1978.

Note: A Y.W.C.A. building designed by Julia Morgan was built at the corner of Tuolumne and L Streets in Fresno, and opened in 1924. In the 1930's the Y lost the building, and it has subsequently been substantially remodelled into commercial apartments owned by Mr. Pilibos.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

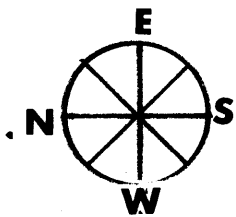
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Verbal boundary description, cont.

block then north  $48^{\circ}20'$  East along the NW line of said block 92.03' to the intersection with the S line of block 8 of Central Addition then S  $89^{\circ}42'W$  along the S line of said block 8 69.13' then S  $21'30''$  East 60.82' to the beginning.



Lat.  $36^{\circ} 43'$   
Long.  $119^{\circ} 41' 34''$



153.0'

ALLEY  
103.0'

COURT

150.0'

150.0'

M STREET

YWCA RESIDENCE BUILDING

CA.