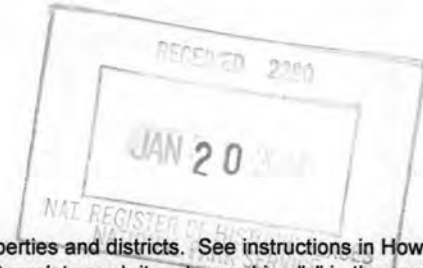


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name YWCA Boston
other names/site number Boston YWCA

2. Location

street & number 140 Clarendon Street n/a not for publication
city or town Boston n/a vicinity
state Massachusetts code MA county Suffolk code 027-025 zip code 02116

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patsy Friedberg National Register Director, for 1/12/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Cara H. Metz, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper Elson H. Beall Date of Action 3/3/04

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetBoston YWCA
Boston (Suffolk), MASection number 7 Page 1Narrative Description

The Boston YWCA is a thirteen-story, one-block building located at 140 Clarendon Street in the Back Bay section of Boston, Massachusetts, in a densely developed 20th century urban neighborhood of five to thirty story buildings. It stands on the corner of Clarendon and Stuart Streets, with its primary elevation facing northeast towards Clarendon. This brick, E-shaped building with light wells opening on the fifth and ninth floors was built in the classical tradition. The building is constructed of steel framing and brick walls with a poured concrete foundation. The building has two facades, each with a principal entrance, one on the northeast elevation (Clarendon Street) and one on the southwest elevation (Stuart Street). The building's main entrance is on the northeast elevation, and is faced with an arched limestone entryway and limestone details at the upper floors. The building is divided into nine bays on the northeast elevation (Clarendon Street), and seven on the southwest elevation (Stuart Street), (See photos #1 and 2).

The limestone two-tier, three-bay integral entry porch on the northeast façade embodies the building's classical styling.(See photo #3). The arches are flanked by engaged columns with stylized capitols, and each arch is adorned with ten rosettes and an enlarged keystone. There are two flagpoles mounted between each column, above which sits an ovular rosette. The main entryway is a double-door with five pane sidelights and a round-arched glazed transom window.(See photo #4). A limestone balustrade indicates the second story porch. There is an additional entrance to first floor commercial space to the west of the main entry door, and an entryway to what is now a restaurant to the east of the main entry.(See photo #5). The building's second entrance on Stuart Street (southwest) was radically modified in the 1970s. This entrance consists of a one-story door and window surround in limestone flush with the brick wall. A flat metal door hood projects over the door and a larger, southern flanking fixed window. While this window is in line with the fourth bay, it is larger than other windows on the building, and has two smaller fixed windows on either side.(See photo #6).

The limestone dentil cornice between the third and fourth stories runs along the front façade and the northwest elevation. A similar cornice is repeated between the eleventh and twelfth floors, running along the northwest and southeast elevations as well as the façade. A stringcourse runs along the façade and both the southeast and southwest elevations. Diamond patterned brick panels are placed between window bays along the fourth story of the façade.(See photo #7).

All of the windows are double-hung sash replacement windows. There are no windows in the easternmost three bays on the fifth floor along the façade, indicating the presence of the gymnasium. The window bays have been replaced with brick inserts, but maintain the fenestration pattern. The three center bays are marked by the entryway that runs the first two stories. The third story has six windows, while stories four through fourteen have a central pair of windows with a singular window flanking each side. The first and second story windows along the façade and southwest elevations are ornamented by decorative crowns exhibiting overflowing fruit bowls.(See photo #8), Large limestone rosettes are placed between each eleventh story window, matching the projecting capitols from the dentil cornice above. Two decorative bosses with inverted triangles in blue tile are placed on either side of the three central windows (See photo #9). The twelfth story window spandrels feature swags carved from limestone.

(continued)

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Boston YWCA
Boston (Suffolk), MA

Section number 7 Page 2

There is a YWCA lighted sign of three-dimensional lettering running vertical along the southwest elevation (Stuart Street) of the building set before the first window bay. A wooden Lyric Stage Company sign runs above the first floor windows in the first bay on the southwest elevation.(See photo #10)

A two-story brick and stucco central elevator penthouse is centered on the roof and spans three bays. It has a copper cornice, a tiled hipped roof with a flat projection accented with copper cresting, and four original louver bays in the east and west elevations. A large 'YWCA' sign is present on each elevation between the cornice line and the lower stringcourse. There is a secondary elevator penthouse on the south side of the roof. The smaller penthouse is a two-story brick structure with oversized arch sprung window bays that have been filled in with stuccoed concrete. There is a stringcourse running atop the window bays, and a simple cornice running above the stringcourse.

The interior, while retaining much of its original features and layout, has undergone changes over the years that are reflective of the evolving needs of the YWCA and its users. Most of the later alterations to the interior of the YWCA consist of either partition infill for office space or a redefinition of existing rooms. The first floor has been altered insofar as a restaurant tenant has occupied the original sitting room and offices have been built into the original tea/dining room. The first floor east lobby (Clarendon Street entrance) retains original cornice along the north and east walls, and original boxed structural elements in the ceiling. Original flooring remains, and the main staircase to the second floor retains its original travertine stairs and wood-cast iron railings. The reception desk and surrounding wood paneling in the east lobby are not original. All original fabric was removed from the Stuart Street lobby in the 1970s, when a financial institution (Home Savings Bank) replaced the reception area for the upstairs apartments. On the second floor, partition walls have divided what were the social room and the library into offices and a boardroom. The third floor once known as a "department for younger girls" now houses offices while the only functional change to the fourth floor is the inclusion of men's facilities within the locker rooms in the 1970's. However, while the pool remains, it has undergone alterations- it was re-tiled in 1991, and a bulkhead was removed. The original gymnasium remains on the fifth floor with a wooden plank wall framing the mezzanine level track accessed from the sixth floor. Photographs reveal that the gym has undergone very little alteration since it was opened in 1929. Non-profit organizations now fill many of the original exercise rooms, clubrooms, and unfinished spaces on the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth floors. The original laboratory space on the eighth floor now houses a dance studio while floors ten, eleven, twelve, and fourteen, which once were hotel rooms, are now apartments. In 1978 alterations were made to the building's interior and exterior, including new windows, a new roof, new heat traps and valves, new electrical systems and alarms, boilers, elevators, restrooms, copper facing and pool repairs. The firm of Chase, Hill, Miller, Friedlander, Hollander, Inc., who had also completed work on YMCA's in Somerville and Cambridge, completed this work. Repairs to the pool included alteration of the original ceiling and application of asbestos ceiling tiles. The last changes to the pool occurred in 1991 with the application of new pool tiles. As previously mentioned, the Stuart Street entrance was also altered to make way for the Home Savings Bank in the 1970s. In 1972 the exterior masonry was cleaned in order to remove residue from a steam line explosion.

(end)

YWCA Boston

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): HPCA #11877

- 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 # _____

Suffolk, MA

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1929-1953

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Shepard, George F. & Frederic Stearns (architects)

Root, Henry (builder)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Schlesinger Library, Harvard Univ.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetBoston YWCA
Boston (Suffolk), MASection number 8 Page 1Significance

The YWCA Boston at 140 Clarendon Street in Boston was built in 1929 to serve the needs of a growing organization. Its significance is inextricably woven into the history of the YWCA as a prominent social organization in Boston in the late 19th century. The YWCA's place in the history of the women's movement and the history of United States is not disputed. In a 1924 testimonial, Theodore Roosevelt stated that, "I doubt if there is a philanthropic movement in the country which better deserves the interest and support of our people than the Young Women's Christian Association." When this is taken into consideration in relation to 140 Clarendon Street, it elevates this building to a high significance in the cultural development of the United States, and particularly Boston. As the first YWCA in the country, the Boston branch dates back to 1866, a time of great industrial expansion, urban change, and social reform. As industries evolved, new technology was beginning to change the face of American cities. As a result of these dynamic changes, many social issues arose, which in turn spawned organizations like the YMCA and subsequently, the YWCA. The YWCA began its services to the women of Boston during this period, and it continues to carry out its mission in its present location at 140 Clarendon.

History of YWCA

After the Civil War, women became actively involved in four major voluntary associations that helped transform the physical and social fabric of American cities, and especially Boston. Among these four organizations, the Young Women's Christian Association, the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), the Salvation Army and the College Settlement Association, only the YWCA, and the NACW were founded by women, primarily for women. The concept of the YWCA was formulated during the Second Great Awakening, when fervent evangelicalism was a dominant cultural force in American life.¹ While the YWCA was religious in its formation, it gradually become more secular as its mission evolved towards independence and inclusiveness. In providing a safe and comfortable place for young women testing their independence, the YWCA empowered many American and immigrant girls to begin their journey to the city and the workplace.

The YWCA's history dates to 1858, when the Ladies' Christian Association was formed in New York City, with the mission of finding suitable housing for young working girls. Although the New York group is credited by historians as the first American YWCA, the name was not used formally until a group of women in Boston came together as the Boston YWCA, thus the becoming the first official YWCA in the country. After Boston, YWCA's were formed in a variety of cities. By 1875, as many of 28 associations had formed, at least half of which maintained boarding houses for fifty women or more.² The YWCA was a natural counterpart to the already established Young Men's Christian Association (founded in England in 1844) who had been grappling with the issue of admitting women. For the most part, the YMCA was relieved of the pressure to admit women, and passed a resolution at their 1868 convention that the YWCA was a sufficient auxiliary for women, and that the YMCA would remain for men only. However, women did continue to be involved in the YMCA, even as the YWCA gained strength in numbers and focus. The two organizations have always been run independently of each other and with separate programs, but while complimenting each other and serving similar functions for their constituents.³

(continued)

¹ "Evangelicalism, Revivalism, and the Second Great Awakening." www.nhc.rtp.nc.us.

² Daphne Spain, 90.

³ Hall, Mary Ross, and Sweet, Helen Firman, 40.

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Continuation SheetBoston YWCA
Boston (Suffolk), MASection number 8 Page 2

The goal of the YWCA was to "help those who help themselves," and a chief outgrowth of this was to provide a suitable and economical home for girls, many of whom were away from home for the first time trying to earn a living. Through its many boarding houses, the YWCA was committed to empowering women to support themselves, and charged a minimal fee that made the homes self sustaining. As the association further embraced this concept of independence, there evolved a concurrent priority of providing "all practical means for the increase of true piety."⁴ In order to provide alternatives to dance halls and nickel movies, the YWCA began offering classes, concerts, and events to keep "proper" girls busy. In addition, they began to add facilities like soda fountains, gyms, theaters, and allowed men to visit for "acceptable" activities, setting the stage for the YWCA's expansion of services and a change in its building programs.

In 1916, the YWCA recognized that though their member volunteers carried out their mission, their "building is the embodiment of the loyalty and enthusiasm of their members, that glorifies it as nothing else can adorn it."⁵ Thus, training schools, employment bureaus, gyms, and administrative centers soon joined the boarding houses (now called residences) in the catalog of YWCA buildings. Though these "combination buildings" were at first controversial, with some believing that domestic rooms and administrative functions should be kept separate, this soon became the model for future YWCA buildings, and the physical representation of the expansion of the association. The flagship combination building was erected at 600 Lexington Street in New York City. It was in this vein that the Boston YWCA planned and built its own combination building at 140 Clarendon Street in the 1920's. It is important to note that the YMCA also Erected combination buildings, which included a variety of facilities such as gymnasias and pools.

A special meeting of the Board of Managers was called on March 13, 1924 for the purpose of deciding whether or not to purchase land at the corner of Clarendon and Stuart Streets. A site visit was subsequently held, and the Board voted to allocate \$175,000 to purchase the lot on March 20, 1924. The lot size was recorded as 12,734 sq.ft.⁶ Two months later, the Board voted to approve the hiring of Boston based Shepard and Sterns, with the belief that he [George F. Shepard] is a "man of ability, of experience and is especially commended for the interest and personal attention to the economical working out of details in building plans."⁷

In 1926, a campaign was launched to raise \$1.5 million for a new building and for a maintenance fund for three years. On March 2, 1926, Mr. Derselman of New York City, who was hired to lead the campaign, stated "the new building is needed to help in the building up of character of the young women of today and tomorrow. The Association work is vital to the human life of the city. We are building into the heart of the city something that is worthwhile. This undertaking is one for the future."⁸ The need for fulfilling the mission of the YWCA through its building was stated time and again, from fundraising brochures to committee meeting minutes. One brochure stated, "The Boston YWCA must have facilities commensurate with its needs. For it is a home and a training school for girls of Boston and New England. Its present facilities are obviously inadequate."⁹ The building was to be an inspiration to its users - the beauty of the surroundings were meant to create a desire to think and read more. No doubt the classical stylings of the building were an outgrowth of this sentiment.

(continued)

⁴ Ibid, 91.⁵ Ibid, 93.⁶ Board of Managers Meeting, March 20, 1924⁷ Board of Managers Meeting, May 9, 1924.⁸ Board of Managers Meeting, March 24, 1926⁹ What of the Girls in Boston, fundraising brochure, c. 1927.

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Ground was broken at the site on June 1, 1927, and the cornerstone was laid on October 27 of that same year, with a well attended ceremony and program of distinguished speakers including Boston Mayor Malcolm Nichols, Massachusetts Governor Alvan T. Fuller, Andrew J. Peters (President of the Boston Chamber of Commerce) Mrs. George B. Ford (National Board of YWCA). At the ceremony, Mrs. Ford commented that,

The Young Women's Christian Association is a force which not only trains young women to finer ways of living and a sturdier citizenship, but which also is welding together all sorts of friendships and understandings. It is important and useful that from time to time here and there all over the country, Association buildings should spring up as an outward and visible sign of inward significance. It is the prayer of the National Board that this building shall stand a tower of strength in the community, that from its windows shall shine forth a great friendliness to touch all peoples and races, creeds and nations gathered within its radius.

Also in the same year the YWCA Board of Managers voted to change from an evangelical to a personal basis of membership. Any girl or woman of any race or creed could become a member. This critical change is an example of the progression of this organization into a more inclusive, secular and program driven organization. It is clear that the new facility was a major part of this progression.

The new building opened to much fanfare in 1929, with a dedication ceremony that was attended by over 1,000 people. The Boston Globe morning edition featured the 155 ft building along with ten other "sky scrapers" in an article on the remaking of the Boston skyline.¹⁰ An additional article in the Boston *Herald* on January 6, 1929 celebrated the opening of the building and highlighted its features including the pool, gymnasium, bowling alleys, reading rooms, and lounges. The article also states "the new building will be open to every girl and woman of Boston regardless of creed."¹¹ Records show that the total cost of the building was \$1,624,543.42.

Historical Floor Program

The YWCA at 140 Clarendon Street was constructed to serve a variety of functions for both the indigenous and transient women of the Boston area. The mission of the YWCA's 140 Clarendon Street headquarters has not wavered in the seventy-four years since its construction, but the building's programmatic functions have had to evolve along with the changing needs of the women and girls it served and serves.

Before the opening of the Clarendon Street YWCA, a January 6, 1929 Boston *Herald* article touted some of the new building's functions.

The new building is 14 stories high; nine floors will be devoted to activities; two to permanent rooms for business and professional women; and three for transient guests. It will have the first swimming pool and first public baths for women in Boston. It will contain a completely equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, bowling alleys, two recreation halls, a lounge, reading rooms and coffee shop.¹²

(continued)

¹⁰ *Speaker's Guide to the Boston YWCA, 1866-1978*.

¹¹ "Young Women's Christian Association of Boston Oldest in United States", Boston Herald, January 6, 1929

¹² "Young Women's Christian Association of Boston Oldest in United States", Boston Herald, January 6, 1929

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Boston YWCA
Boston (Suffolk), MA

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Evidenced in the Shepard and Stearns building plans, the original programmatic functions of the YWCA were to vary by floor with the most private spaces reserved for the top stories. The new building was designed to entirely serve women, including the space that was not for YWCA use. More specifically, the building was designed to incorporate space for such uses as "lines, schools, classes, symphony concerts, dramatics, games, mixed recreation, dances, a gymnasium, social services, international groups, (and) placement work" as specified by the original YWCA Building Committee to the architects¹³. The ground floor held bowling alleys, offices, and a self service coffee shop while all the functions associated with the building's entrance such as the information desk, sitting room, and resident's lobby were located on the first floor along with a tea/dining room.¹⁴ The second floor contained the library, social hall, various offices, and an auditorium without sloping floors as it would have to be used for dances at times¹⁵. According to the Boston *Herald* article, the third floor was "devoted to the department for younger girls"¹⁶ in addition to housing the body of the swimming pool and the gallery level of the auditorium. The actual pool, locker rooms, and showers were located on the fourth floor while the fifth was "devoted to health education"¹⁷ with a gymnasium and individual health rooms. The fifth floor held office space, and on the sixth floor were the "headquarters for business women," clubrooms, administrative offices, and the mezzanine level of the gymnasium. The seventh floor was designed as the general education department with classrooms, a chapel, a smaller auditorium and a social room. The floor also included several storage rooms. A portion of the eighth floor was completed as a laboratory workshop while the rest was left unfinished until an appropriate use was designated. Envisioning a constantly evolving program of use, members of the Finance Committee commented that, "partitions would always be of use to us in whatever we wished to do on the eighth floor"¹⁸. The five remaining floors contained thirty-six residential units as housing for "business and professional women", known as the Pioneer Club, the top two were inhabited by permanent residents and the remaining three for transients.¹⁹ Room rents were determined by polling local businesses to find out the average income of women and the amount they were willing to pay per week.

The early 20th century saw many YWCA buildings being erected in cities across the country, and the Boston YWCA is representative of this trend. These new facilities were a reflection of the needs of the constituents as well as the meaning of the organization, and the buildings were seen as monuments to the women they housed.²⁰ Revival styles were common, and the neo-classical details and monumentality of the Boston YWCA make this building particularly meaningful in this respect. The new Boston YWCA building was intended to be in the company of other institutional buildings in the city, especially men's clubs, and its design accomplishes this goal.

Architects

The firm of Shepard & Sterns was formed in Boston between Frederic Baldwin Stearns and George F. Shepard in 1910. The firm designed such buildings as Milton Academy, additions to the Cape Cod and Worcester

(continued)

¹³ Building Committee Minutes, YWCA.5/14/24

¹⁴ "Young Women's Christian Association of Boston Oldest in United States", Boston Herald. January 6, 1929

¹⁵ Building Committee Minutes, YWCA.5/14/24

¹⁶ "Young Women's Christian Association of Boston Oldest in United States", Boston Herald. January 6, 1929

¹⁷ "Young Women's Christian Association of Boston Oldest in United States", Boston Herald. January 6, 1929

¹⁸ Finance Committee Meetings, YWCA. 7/9/29

¹⁹ "Young Women's Christian Association of Boston Oldest in United States", Boston Herald. January 6, 1929

²⁰ Lee, Antoinette, 16.

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Boston YWCA
Boston (Suffolk), MA

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State Hospitals, Phi Beta Epsilon House in Cambridge, and the Suburban Club in Stamford, Connecticut. The firm also designed several Boston area public schools, buildings at the King Terminal, the Walter Baker Company, the Carter Ink Company, the Union Wool Company, and private residences in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere.

Frederic Stearns grew up in Brookline and graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1899. He worked for the firm of Winslow & Bigelow in Boston, and was a superintendent with Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge before he became a partner with George Shepard.

Application of Criteria A and C

From its evangelical roots to its more secularly driven 20th century goals, the YWCA developed into an organization that gave Boston women the skills to successfully establish their own independence. In addition, the association significantly contributed to the architectural fabric of Boston first through their boarding houses, and then through their combination building. The Boston YWCA exemplifies this local cultural development, as evidenced through the evolution of its presence in Boston from a reading room on Chauncy Street to the current, architecturally significant headquarters at 140 Clarendon Street.

With the concurrence of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Boston Landmarks Commission (11/08/02), the Boston YWCA building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level for its association with an organization and developments that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and for its distinctive architectural characteristics. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

(end)

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Boston YWCA
Boston (Suffolk), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

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(continued)

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Continuation Sheet

Boston YWCA
Boston (Suffolk), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

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(end)

YWCA Boston
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	329020	4690540	3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elaine Finbury, Principal, Rufus Choate Associates with assistance from Kara Cicchetti, Sarah Hanse, Jason Reeves, and Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 2004

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name YWCA Boston

street & number 140 Clarendon Street telephone 617-556-9922

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116-5169

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetBoston YWCA
Boston (Suffolk), MASection number 10 Page 1Geographical Data

USGS Map and Assessor's Map included.

The YWCA building's footprint is marked on Boston assessor's map #4004 and is indicated by a penciled boundary line. The building comprises the entire lot #1085, at the southwest corner of Stuart and Clarendon Streets.

(end)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Kara Cicchetti

Date: 2003

Negatives at Boston YWCA, 140 Clarendon Street

1. Front façade of building, facing Clarendon Street, facing SW
2. Stuart Street in foreground, NW and SW elevations
3. Main entryway, Clarendon Street entrance, facing SW
4. Main doorway, Clarendon Street façade
5. Auditorium entry, adjacent to main entryway, duplicate entrance directly across loggia
6. Northwest façade, Stuart Street entrance
7. Dentil cornice and patterned brick, NE/SE corner
8. Front façade: decorative crown and overflowing fruit bowl
9. Front façade: decorative detail
10. NW façade, Stuart Street entrance, YWCA and Lyric Stage
11. Interior stairway leading basement and second floor in main lobby
12. Ballustrade opening to main lobby on second floor, facing SW
13. Fireplace second floor library, facing NE
14. Swimming pool. Fourth floor, facing SE
15. Gymnasium on fifth floor, facing NE
16. Gymnasium on fifth floor, facing SW

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY YWCA Boston
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Suffolk

DATE RECEIVED: 1/20/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/11/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/26/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/04/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000119

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/3/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA
2003

Kara Cicchetti
Negative at Boston YWCA

Front facade of building, facing Clarendon
Camera facing southwest

WESTCAMPUS <No. 33A> 158
Photo # 1 - N N+3-12 <027>



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA
2003

Kam Cicchetti
Negative at Boston YWCA

Northwest and southwest elevations,
Stuart Street in foreground

WESTCAMPUS<No. 36A>055
030 3912 N N N+1-01 (027)
Photo # 2



The Lyric Stage Company
Presenting a production of

LYRIC STAGE

140

BOSTON YWCA

DEL /
KING
BREAKFAST
LUNCH

Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA
2003

Kara Cicchetti
Negative at Boston YWCA

Front facade, building faces Clarendon St.
Camera facing southwest, Main entryway

Photo #3

WESTCAMPUS<NO.30A>044
030 0912 N 11 N+1 11 (022)



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA
2003

Kam Cicchetti
Negative at Boston YWCA

Main entryway on Northeast facade,
facing Clarendon Street.

Photo # 4

AUDITORIUM
ENTRANCE

DELI M

1974

500

Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA
2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston YWCA

Auditorium entry, adjacent to main
entryway (duplicate entrance directly
across loggia)

Photo # 5

Y
W
C
A

The Lyric Stage Company

Boston's Off-Broadway

410



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA

2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston YWCA

Northwest facade: Stuart Street entrance.

Photo #6

WESTCAMPUS<No. 11A>006
030 3912 N N N N N 22 <027>



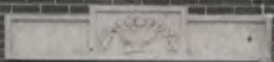
Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA
2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston YWCA

Northeast/southeast corner of building.
Note dentil cornice and patterned brick

WESTCAMPUS<No. 2BA>040
12 11 N N 27 (027)
Photo # 7



YOUNG WOMENS
CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION



Boston YWCA

2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston University

Front Facade: note decorative crown and
overflowing fruit bowl

Photo # 8

Suffolk County, MA

WESTCAMPUS<No. 31A>045
030 3912 N N N+1 16 <027>



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA

2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston YWCA

Front facade: Note inverted triangles + decorative detail

Photo # 9

WESTCAMPUS<No. 26A>035
030 3912 N N-1 21 (027)

Y
W
C
A

The Lyric Stage Company
Boston's Old Broadway

Y
W
C
A

The Lyric Stage Company
Boston's Old Broadway



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA

2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston YWCA

Northwest Facade, Stuart Street entrance: note YWCA +
Lyric Stage sign.

Photo # 10

WESTCAMPUS<NO. 35A>B53
030 3912 N N N 2165 050
<220> 88 1+N N N 1 08 <022>



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA

2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston YWCA

Interior: stairway leading to basement
and second floor, in main lobby.

Stairway on northwest/northeast side.

Photo # 11



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA

2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston YWCA

Ballustraded opening to main lobby:
on 2nd floor, facing southwest.

Photo # 12

EXIT



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County MA

2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston YWCA

Fireplace (facing northeast) in Library
on 2nd Floor.

Photo # 13

WESTCAMPUS<NO. 15A>B14
030 3912 N N N N N N N N
<022>



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA

2003

Kara Cicchetti

Negative at Boston YWCA

Pool on 4th story. Facing southeast.

Photo # 14

WESTCAMPUS<NO. 12A>B18
030 3912 N N N 2162 030
(278) 1-N N N 1-N 1 (B27)



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA
2003

Kam Cicchetti
Negative at Boston YWCA

Gym on 5th story. Facing northeast.

Photo # 15

1

WESTCAMPUS<No. 19A>022
030 3912 N N 1 28 (027)



Boston YWCA, Suffolk County, MA
2003

Kara Cicchetti
Negative at Boston YWCA

Gym on 5th story. Facing southwest.

Photo # 16

WESTCAMPUS<No. 18A>020
030 3912 N N N 2165 030
<220> 02 1-N N N 1 30 <022>

Boston South MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works, Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987. Supersedes Newton and Boston South 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1970.

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13270 (1982) and 13272 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.

Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, maintained since 1927 North American Datum.

To place on the projected North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL: 3 METERS. NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER. DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE. SOUNDINGS SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER. THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 METERS.

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5616
3	9.8424
4	13.1232
5	16.4040
6	19.6848
7	22.9656
8	26.2464
9	29.5272
10	32.8080

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (GN) at 42° 15' 00" N (Boston) is 0.0001 m/m (1 part in 10,000). Diagram is approximate.



Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Road marker: Interstate, U. S. State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Railway area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary:
 - National, with monument
 - State
 - County, parish
 - Civil township, precinct, district
 - Incorporated city, village, town
 - National or State reservation; small park
 - Land grant with monument; forest section corner
 - U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section
 - Range, township, section line: location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, heated tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Wellhead; water well; spring; head water source
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Disturbed surface: erig. mts, lava; sand
- Sounding; depth curve
- Parental lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Roads, large and small; falls, large and small
- Salmonid marsh; marsh; swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard

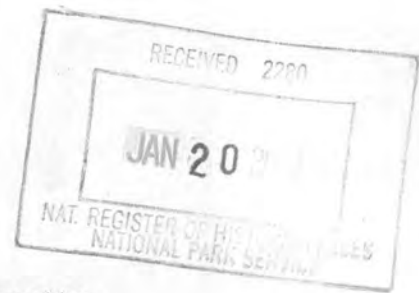
A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02202



SCALE 1:25 000
1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

INFORMATION: GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 20192



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 6, 2004

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

YWCA Building, 140 Clarendon Street, Boston (Suffolk), MA
HPCA # 11877

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property in the Certified Local Government community of Boston were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Elaine Finbury, Rufus Choate Associates
Roysin Billett, Boston CLG coordinator
Thomas Menino, Mayor, City of Boston
Chair, Boston Landmarks Commission
YMCA Boston

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc