

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 23 1984
date entered JUN 21 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lincoln, Nebraska, Young Women's Christian Association Building

and/or common Lincoln YWCA Building

2. Location

street & number 1432 "N" Street

na not for publication

city, town Lincoln na vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Lancaster code 109

3. 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 checked="" 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 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: recreation

4. Owner of Property

name Young Women's Christian Association of Lincoln, Nebraska

street & number 1432 "N" Street

city, town Lincoln na vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Register of Deeds

street & number County/City Building, 555 South 10th Street

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title na has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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

Three-story, H-shaped building of brick construction with limestone trim; symmetrical main (south) facade with nine bays and Georgian Revival detailing including watertable, entrance frontispiece, fluted pilasters, window lintels, inset panels, and blind balustrades; darker brickwork simulating quoins at corners and diaperwork on side walls; new stairwell added at the northeast in 1971; notable Adamesque interior detailing; constructed in 1932, with replaced windows in 1982.

The early 1930's YWCA Building in Lincoln, Nebraska, is situated at the northwest corner of South 15th and "N" Streets -- mid-distance between the Nebraska State Capitol (designated a National Historic Landmark, 1-7-76) and the main campus of the University of Nebraska. Immediately west of the YWCA Building is the Bennett Martin Public Library, and to the southeast is the Pershing Memorial Auditorium. Lincoln's downtown core is a short distance to the northwest. Four of the seven intervening blocks of 15th Street between the Capitol and the Main University campus were closed to vehicular traffic in 1968 to create the Centennial Mall. This route is a major pedestrian path, in addition to serving as a material link between state government and state higher education.

The nominated property contains a modified H-shaped, three-story structure of brick construction with limestone trim. Receiving cardinal design attention is the lateral section facing south toward "N" Street. The main facade has nine bays arranged symmetrically and formally. A centered and transomed entrance is framed by a stone frontispiece composed of small Ionic pilasters flanking the opening and a broken pediment with a centered urn against a rectangular panel. Focal attention continues upward to the center of the second floor where there is an opening arrangement reminiscent of a Palladian window --- this opening being a tripartite window with a shallow, scalloped conch centered overhead.

An emphatic stone watertable spans the "N" Street facade, and a decorative wrought-iron balconet appears on each lower-floor window. Stonework above first-floor windows is in two treatments: the two windows flanking the entrance have splayed arches with a keystone and radiating voussoirs; other windows have flat stone arches with a raised and swag-embellished panel in the center.

All windows of the second floor excepting the center one have a splayed arch with a keystone overhead; third-floor windows are of a lesser dimension and are without overhead treatment, excepting the center one, which has a stone surround.

Four fluted Corinthian pilasters of stone frame the central three bays of the main facade and span the common-bond brick wall between the watertable and a stone entablature. Above the latter element is a brick parapet that has six small inset panels aligned vertically with outer main facade fenestration; in the parapet's center is a raised stone section with three blind balustrade divisions aligned with central fenestration. Darker bricks at the corners simulate quoins.

(Description continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

The southern lateral section's west end abuts another building, but the east side is fully exposed. This exterior portion is unfenestrated, yet is given visual attraction in the form of darker brickwork simulating quoins at the corners and darker masonry imitating diaperwork in the center. The main (south) facade's brick parapet is continued on the east, but the stone entablature is not.

The stem contains regular fenestration in the form of multi-paned windows lacking the south wall's stone ornamentation. Three sections of darker brick diaperwork are on the exterior wall of the northern lateral portion's third floor, but this brickwork is now concealed by a three-story fire escape stairtower added in 1971. An almost entire city lot owned by the YWCA to the building's immediate east has been leased to the City of Lincoln, which has landscaped the area with grass, plantings and contemporary outdoor park furniture.

Interior modifications in the 1932 YWCA Building have been made as necessitated by changing operations. At the first floor's southeast is the 25' x 43 1/2' "Georgian Room", a fine period revival space resplendent with a notable Adamesque mantle, molding-framed panels along the walls, and a heavy plaster cornice molding. The remainder of the first floor's southern lateral section is occupied by a vestibule, lobby, and office spaces. Bisecting the building's stem is a corridor flanked on the west by service rooms and on the east by former dining rooms that have been converted into offices. The northern lateral section, originally housing a cafeteria and kitchen, has been converted into meeting rooms and a members' lounge.

The second floor's southern lateral section contains two sizable chambers: the former members' lounge (now a dance studio), with a fine Georgian-style mantle and paneled molding; and the Stuart Room, also with a notable period revival mantle. Occupying the western third of the second floor's stem is a swimming pool of standard size, 20 x 60 feet, about nine feet deep at the deepest point, and fitted with a spring board. The lower pool room walls are in green tile, banded with a deeper green and with amber and purple. Other health education facilities occupy the remaining second-floor spaces.

The southern lateral section of the third floor contains a reading room and an arts center -- both chambers being treated with Georgian Revival interior fittings; the northern lateral section continues to house a gymnasium and exercise rooms. Residence rooms were formerly in the third floor's stem.

An energy audit for the YWCA Building was carried out by the M₃ Engineering Group in 1981, resulting in the following window modification recommendation:

The existing window areas are generally over-sized by today's standards. They waste energy because they leak air readily and are only 1/8" single pane. Also, they will need maintenance in the near future because the window caulk has begun to crack and fall off and the paint has begun to

(Description - continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 3

peel.

The proposed window modification consists of replacing the existing windows with a double-pane insulated casement window for two-thirds of the existing area. The remaining one-third would be filled in with an insulated wall panel. At the first floor multi-purpose room, all of the windows on the north side would be filled with insulated wall panels (page 31, Energy Audit, YWCA, 1432 "N" Street).

Significantly, the recommendation given above was not accepted. Rather, window retrofitting did occur, but it was done in a much more sympathetic manner than what was originally proposed.

The original window arrangements were 8-over-8 pane double-hung sash for second- and third-story windows; 12-over-16 pane double-hung sash for first-floor windows. In the "Invitation to Selected Bidders", the YWCA's officials specified the following:

It is the intent of this specification to duplicate as nearly as possible with new window units, whether fixed or operating, the overall lines, shapes and divisions of the existing fenestration.

Other specifications required that all windows be double-glazed; that all windows have divided lite grilles to match the window's color; that all operable openings have screens; that all exterior frames, including screens, be white in color; and that all interior frames and required trim be stained to duplicate the tone of adjacent woodwork. The replacements were as follows: a fixed unit of 12 panes over an 8-pane hopper unit for second- and third-story windows; and a 12-pane awning unit over a 16-pane fixed unit over an 8-pane hopper unit.

This retrofitting approach was felt to have a minimal intrusion or impact on the character of the building. Energy-wise, the replacement was necessary, and the new material closely matches the composition and color of the original material. Significantly, the Georgian Revival character of the building has not been impaired.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1932 **Builder/Architect** Meginnis and Schaumberg

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Young Women's Christian Association Building in Lincoln, Nebraska, attains historical significance through its association with a vital organization that has provided social and educational services for 98 years, significantly augmenting the quality of life in its community. Architecturally, the building is a notable product of the Georgian Revival, possessing integrity of site and design, and being illustrative of American architectural values during the "period revival" era.

The Young Women's Christian Association of Lincoln, Nebraska, was organized in 1886, incorporated under Nebraska law in 1893, and chartered as a member of the YWCA National Board in 1897. In 1893 the Lincoln YWCA began to offer the following advantages to women and girls of the community: lunchroom services, employment and protective bureaus, a dispensary, religious meetings, reading classes, and a residence facility. A permanent building at 1432 "N" Street was constructed in 1906, and services were expanded that same year to include physical education, classes in practical and domestic sciences, and additional social activities. Also, women and girls moving to Lincoln were assisted in their settlement by the organization.

The present Georgian Revival building was completed in 1932 on the site of the original facility, and programs were expanded to include a cafeteria for the public, increased residential services and physical fitness activities, and crafts classes designed for working women.

The YWCA has a 98-year history in Lincoln, which also includes services to Native Americans (1950's), a direct involvement with the U.S.O. (1940's), establishment of the first family planning program in Lincoln (1960's), an endeavor to eliminate racism, an endowment-established program providing interest-free loans to women seeking post secondary education, and the above-mentioned provisions of food services to the public, educational and personal growth classes for women and girls, and temporary female residential facilities.

Membership in the Lincoln YWCA has grown from 193 in 1890 to over 4,000 in 1980. The YWCA has traditionally carried a special program emphasis on the awareness of women's accomplishments and the provision of new opportunities for women. Leadership training for women has long been a goal of the Lincoln association and this aim is viewed as a major part of the YWCA's work.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet).

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Lincoln, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	9	4	1	1	0	4	5	2	0	3	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 16, 17 and 18, Block 59, Original Plat, City of Lincoln.
This includes the property owned by the YWCA, which involves a small park to the east.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel Kidd, City Historic Preservation Officer

organization Lincoln Planning Department date January, 1984

street & number 555 South 10th Street telephone (402) 471-7491

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

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 Marion D. Knett 5/11/84

title _____ date _____

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Delores Byers Entered in the National Register date 6/21/84
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

Other Georgian Revival buildings in or near Lincoln's downtown section include the 1960's Governor's Mansion, several apartment buildings, a number of collegiate buildings and Greek society residences on the main campus of the University of Nebraska, and a former hotel (Hotel Capital, listed in the NRHP 12-12-83). Among Lincoln's Georgian Revival buildings, the 1932 YWCA Building holds particular interest through its being a women's educational and social establishment.

In a 1977, two-volume publication entitled The Colonial Revival, architectural historian William Rhoads has written the following:

Early in the twentieth century a number of women's social clubs were formed that required clubhouses. Often these were Georgian or Federal like men's clubhouses (p. 418) . . . Women's schools early in this century frequently, but by no means universally, utilized the Colonial /inclusive of Georgian Revival/. One great bastion of female gentility in the rural South, Virginia's Sweet Briar College, commissioned Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson to design its campus, and by 1902 the firm's drawings for a Georgian institution were on display (p. 422) . . . In at least two cases /the University of Illinois at Urbana and Duke University/ co-educational schools apparently looked on the Georgian as more appropriate for women than men /Collegiate Gothic being reserved for the latter/ (p. 424).

Rhoads attributes the popularity of the Georgian Revival during the first third of this century to several factors: the lesser expense in comparison with other historical styles due to rectangularity and simple lines; a return to order and more restraint following a long era of informal picturesqueness; a wistful looking-back to the calm of Colonial times; a "feminization" of taste following the decline of the Shingle Style in the 1890's, after which the Georgian Revival ascended; ancestral pride, anglophilism, etc.; and a feeling that formal Georgian houses and public buildings were "American". (Rhoads, pp. 378, 379, 395, 415, and 487).

Significantly, the Lincoln YWCA Building captures the essence of the Georgian Revival: paramount among its visual qualities are formality and restraint -- hallmarks of the style. The brick structure may be regarded as a virtual "facade building", as most design attention is focused on that principal side. Stone trim on the facade has a two-dimensional treatment, an execution that may be interpreted as emphasizing the urbanity of the site, (i.e., abutting a sidewalk on the south). Also, the decidedly "applied" appearance of the stonework reveals that the architects responsible for the design did not feel so confined as to follow exactly the tenets of the English Renaissance; instead, they were free to render to the YWCA Building an American spirit.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
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Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 3

Harry W. Meginnis (1877-1943), leading partner in Meginnis and Schaumberg, was born in Maquoketa, Iowa, where he obtained early schooling. Meginnis completed a program in business administration and later took architectural atelier work in Indianapolis.

He initially located in Lincoln in 1901 and was responsible there for several public school buildings, several major downtown structures, a limited number of fraternity houses at the University of Nebraska, and many residences. Meginnis was an active member of the Sons of the American Revolution, so it seems likely that the Georgian Revival would have had special appeal to him. Little information on Schaumberg has surfaced.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number

9

Page

1

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