

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Granite City YMCA

other names/site number Tri-City YMCA

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number 2001 Edison Avenue not for publication

city or town Granite City vicinity

state Illinois county Madison zip code 62040-4514

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria: x A B x C D

[Signature] 7-14-17
Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

 Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

by Barbara Wyatt 9-5-17
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/civic
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS/Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other: TERRA COTTA

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

Summary Paragraph

The 3-story (plus raised basement), Granite City YMCA at 2001 Edison Avenue in Granite City (Madison County), Illinois, is one of the major historic edifices in downtown Granite City. The design utilizes some elements that are normally associated with Late Gothic Revival, although much simplified. These include the polychromatic masonry appearance created by the glazed green tiles in the brick walls at the base of the building as well as in the shaped panels' pinnacle-like details; the crocket shapes along the edge of the both the main and entry parapets; the Tudor arches at the two principal entries, the crenellated canopy over the main entry and the glazed terra cotta detailing around both entries. The building has a concrete frame (See Figure 12) beneath the multicolored, raked brick veneer walls on all four elevations. On the street elevations, the parapets project above the flat roof with the tall flag pole on the rooftop centered on the Edison Avenue facade. With main entries highlighting both street elevations (along Edison Avenue and 20th Street), the building is basically rectangular, but it is an L-shaped, 3.5 story structure built around the tall one-story gymnasium (with a raised basement level swimming pool) that is nestled into the interior of the L at the north, rear corner of the rectangular plan. Although the interior finishes are very worn from more than three-quarter century use as a Y, after it closed operations only a few original walls were removed. Other alterations occurred while the Y still occupied the building—the only major alterations were the loss of the original bowling lanes in the basement in 1956 (within the proposed period of significance) (See Figures 25 and 27), when that area was converted into a lower level lobby and meeting room, and the 1978 addition of the racquetball courts and its new stairwell positioned over the first floor offices and gym locker rooms (See Figures 28 and 29), something only noticeable outside along a narrow gangway to the west of the building because of its standing seam metal walls and roofline projection.

Deliberately positioned on one of the most prominent lots in downtown Granite City, the YMCA building is located at the north corner of the apex of Granite City's downtown streets (a layout inspired by the street patterns of Washington, D.C.), which radiates from the intersection of 20th Street, Edison Avenue and Niedringhaus Avenue (See Figure 24). Across the street to the east, also at this apex, is the three-story, Neoclassical, yellow brick and limestone Granite City Hall, built in 1928. Along the entire block southeast along 20th Street are the massive, Mid-Century Modern Granite City Steel corporate offices (one of the principal historic manufacturers based in Granite City), while one block northeast along 20th is the Neoclassical, Granite City Public Library. Across 20th Street, along Edison Avenue and Niedringhaus Avenue are the small, one and two-story commercial buildings that formed the core of the historic commercial district, including the two-story bank building at the south point of the apex. What was the Post Office on the triangular block across 20th Street from the YMCA is now a city park. To the north, behind the YMCA, the remainder of the block originally had a series of two-story, false mansard, four family flats, all in the same design (see the 1907 fire insurance map, Figure 21), but most of these have been demolished with one remaining on the lot adjacent to the Y (with a commercial one-story addition) and much of remaining city block now paved as a parking lot.

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Street Façades

The Granite City YMCA was designed with two façades, one facing southeast onto Edison Avenue and the other facing southwest onto 20th Street, which form a single cohesive massing of multicolored reddish brick with contrasting white glazed terra cotta and limestone details and a regimented fenestration pattern of wooden double hung sashed windows on all four levels. Both façades are organized into three vertical sections framed by four vertical shafts defined by decorative terra cotta frames that connect the first through third floor. They are capped by glazed green terra cotta triangular detail below a larger, green glazed, equilateral pentagon break through the terra cotta horizontal molding to form pinnacle-like details piercing the parapets (except at the green tiles on the vertical shafts at the corner where the two façades meet, which are squares rather than pentagons). Below each of these vertical shafts in the basement level is a decorative brick frieze panel framed with small glazed terra cotta tiles at the corners of the panels and the diamond pattern of brick in the center of each panel.

The fenestration pattern is consistent on all four levels, with each of the outer sections having three bays of windows while the broader central section on the 20th Street façade has three bays of paired windows. The seven bays in the center section of the Edison Avenue façade is organized with two sashed windows on each level except the first floor which has a triple window unit in each vertical bay. Most of the original one over one sashed windows are still intact, although the basement windows are currently boarded over on the exterior. The windows have dressed limestone sills, with those on the third floor forming a continuous sill course. Lintels on the basement level are a continuous course of soldier course bricks while the first and second floor windows are simple soldier course brick lintels and simple dressed stone sills. The third floor windows have a continuous dressed limestone sill course and a continuous glazed terra cotta drip mold lintel with ornamented keystones.

Contrasting horizontal bands separate the façades into three principal sections: the base, shaft and parapet cap. The base, the raised basement level, has dressed limestone at the sidewalk level that serves as the continuous sill course for the basement level windows with a soldier brick course above the limestone course between the windows. The base is capped by another dressed limestone course above the basement window soldier course lintels—this horizontal base wraps the corner connecting the two street façades and is separate from the main three-story shaft of the building. A white glazed terra cotta molded course separates the three-story shaft on each elevation from the decorative parapet. The parapet is capped with glazed terra cotta tiles that also frame crocket shapes on top of the parapet to create an undulating silhouette against the sky.

The entry on Edison Avenue is off-center in the second bay of the center section, closer to 20th Street. It has an elaborate glazed terra cotta frame around the 1.5 story entry. There is a Tudor arched transom with paired stained glass windows separated from the Tudor arched paired entry door opening by a crenelated canopy with its outer corners anchored to the façade by massive chains. The top of the terra cotta frame is embossed with the YMCA letters following the curve of the arched opening. On either side of the terra cotta frame are the original bronze wall sconce, lantern-like light fixtures.

The entry on 20th Street is centered on the façade. It is a 1.5 story projecting vestibule with a shaped parapet outlined by glazed terra cotta tiles and crockets around the flat roof. Centered above the door opening is a rectangular frieze panel framed with glazed terra cotta. The Tudor arched entry opening is 1.5 stories high and framed with glazed terra cotta pilaster strips that terminate in pinnacle-like details,

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with the paired doors at grade separated by a molded terra cotta band from the paired wood sashed windows above. Above the doors YMCA is incised into the terra cotta. On either side of the windows above the entry doors are ornate medallions which appear to be the bases for missing light fixtures. On the side walls of the vestibule at both the basement and first floor level there is a sashed window.

Secondary Elevations

The northeast elevation wall is a simple multicolored raked brick wall with a projecting brick chimney near the street façade. On the front, 3.5 story section, there is a metal fire escape with doors centered on the second and third floor levels between sashed windows. There is a small basement level window directly behind the chimney. Behind the end wall to the sleeping room wing there is a shorter, 1.5 story brick wall at the end of a shallow light well for the sleeping rooms that is separated from the walls of the gymnasium, which are common brick walls that are 2 stories in height. The lightwell section has a simple transomed entry door at the first floor level with metal stairs down to grade. The gymnasium wall has five wood sashed windows opening into the gymnasium. There is also a square projecting corner chimney shaft at the north corner of the gym.

There is a brick, flat roofed wing at the basement level that extends north mid-elevation on the northeast side of the building, which appears to be the mechanical room for the swimming pool and gym. On the Edison Avenue elevation, it has two large window openings and a doorway, that is in a below grade entry well.

The northwest elevation of the building also utilizes the multicolored rake brick on the walls that extend back three bays while the remainder is of common brick to the gymnasium section of the building, which is common brick, with brick buttresses flanking the paired sashed windows on the portion of the wall at the rear where the 1.5 story high interior gymnasium is located. While the basement and first floor levels have six bays of windows (3 in the common brick wall on each level, the second and third floor have a window flanking the doors to the metal fire escape aligned above the three front windows. The standing seam steel walls of the 1978 racket ball addition extend above the first floor common brick walls directly behind the three-bay raked brick walls at the façade.

Interior Features (See Floor Plans in Figures 25 through 29)

The interior is accessed by the staircases from each of the façade entry vestibules that open into large open lounges on the first floor. The Edison Avenue staircase has marble treads and risers and stained wood window wall on the north side with paired full light wood doors and a multi-light transom at the top of the stairs. The Edison Avenue lounge incorporates the reception counter and has wood trimmed panels on the walls creating a high wainscoting and trophy cases. At the back corner of this lounge is the open staircase to the upper level sleeping rooms and the basement pool area. The staircase has poured concrete steps with a metal railing (with a wood rail) and newel posts. Paralleling Edison Avenue is a series of offices and a hallway extending from this lobby to the south end of the building, connecting to the lounge along the 20th Street side of the building. Both lobbies, the offices and the hallway retain most of the original porcelain tile floor (1 inch tiles laid in a black and white pattern of squares with a Greek key border). The offices and the 20th Street lounge also have the high wood panel wainscoting, although some of it is now painted. The 20th Street lounge has a vestibule enclosure over the entry stairs, but modifications to the entry in 1956 changed the stairs so that they only go down to the basement level and put a floor at the first floor level so the interior vestibule now serves as a small

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room. Both lounges have massive fireplaces that appear to have had a timber-like mantel that has been removed, leaving the outline of the mantel shape still visible above the hearth. There are a series of classrooms and a dance studio on this level, with the large gymnasium at the north corner of the building with its concrete beamed ceiling, wood floors and concrete bleachers.

The basement level originally housed the swimming pool, locker rooms, showers, and the bowling alley, although renovations over the years, starting in 1956, removed the bowling lanes to create a large open lounge by the 20th Street entry to access the swimming pool positioned under the gymnasium. In the pool room, the massive concrete beams supporting the gymnasium floor loom overhead and there is a concrete bench along the inner wall.

The upper two floors have an L-shaped hallway (paralleling the street facades) that originally had flanking sleeping rooms with simple wood trimmed, horizontal panel doors. The windows in these rooms have mitered corner, back band trim around the windows. The rooms on the north side of the 20th Street hallway were removed when the racquet ball courts were added in 1978 with the doors to each court on the second floor from the widened hallway and viewing windows into the courts in the third floor hall. Also in 1978, an enclosed stairwell was added near the juncture with the Edison Avenue hallway, to directly access the racquetball courts.

The interior of the building originally had simple plaster walls and ceilings with a molded plaster baseboard. Only the first floor lounges, halls and offices had the tall wood paneled wainscoting. Acoustical grid, dropped ceilings were added in many areas at some point, possibly when they did the major renovations in 1978. While the finishes have deteriorated and some of the wood trim has been painted, most of the original layout is intact.

Alterations and Integrity Issues

The Granite YMCA building has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register—it had several interior alterations since it opened in 1926, but most of these occurred during the period of significance (1926-1967) and have acquired significance as a result. The exterior has only had a few minor changes to the facades, most notably the replacement of the original doors on both the Edison Ave. and 20th Street entries with commercial aluminum framed doors (possibly done with other alterations to the interior in 1956, although they could have been changed with the major renovation undertaken in 1978). Currently some of the windows, especially at the basement level are boarded over (although most of the windows appear to be intact behind the boards) and most of the remaining original wood sashed windows are still intact.

There were also some changes made to the interior during its use as a Y, many of which occurred during the period of significance. There were major alterations made to the basement area and the 20th Street entry in 1956 (based upon drawings by Gabriel and Dulgeroff Architects). In part these were done to provide facilities for women (fitness center and locker rooms) as well as a day care center room. It appears it was also at this time that the bowling alley along 20th Street in the basement was converted into a large meeting room/lower lobby. At the same time, the 20th Street entry stairs were modified to only access the lower level, with a floor put in at the first floor level.

The raised basement windows in the swimming pool room on the northwest elevation were converted to glass block windows at some point. From some of the old photos, it appears that this change also occurred prior to 1967, during the heyday of the YMCA's swimming program.

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In other words, these alterations have gained their own significance because they were completed during the period of significance—it was only in 1978 (after the end of the period of significance) that the last major alteration was completed. The second and third floor steel-paneled wall addition was completed based upon plans by Henry R. Gabriel and Associates Architects for the racquetball courts which is only visible down a narrow gangway from 20th Street or from the rear across the parking lot north of the building while looking beyond the 1.5-story brick section of the gymnasium at the north corner of the building. This addition essentially enlarged the 20th Street wing behind the hallway that originally formed the back wall of this wing. This created a two-story addition on top of the first floor offices and gym locker rooms (the area behind the 20th Street entry lounge/exercise room). This addition was divided into 3 two-story high racquetball courts accessed off a widened hallway paralleling 20th Street. The rooms along the 20th Street wall on the second and third floor were narrowed to create the wider hallway for the racquetball court access. There was also a second stairwell with concrete stairs and a pipe rail added to access the upper levels, at the south end of the racquetball hallway.

After the end of the period of significance in 1967 other minor interior alterations were evidently completed given the current physical evidence in the building. Fireplace mantels have been partially removed from both lounges. Acoustical tile suspended grid ceilings were added to the main lounges and offices on the first floor and the large meeting rooms in the basement as well as the modified hallway along the racquetball courts on the second and third floors. Since the racquetball courts were not added until 1978, it seems likely that all the acoustical tile ceilings were added at that time. It appears there were also square glued-on acoustical tile added in some rooms (such as the dance floor on the first floor) but these have been removed in recent years, leaving only the rhythmic glue spots behind. Drywall walls have been installed along the Edison Avenue side within what was a dance floor/meeting room (north of the main lounge), but this was done without removing the windows on the exterior (although it is not known if the interior millwork trim was removed with this alteration or not).

It appears that an aborted rehab (after the YMCA closed) in the last decade actually tried to restore the historic appearance of the interior by removing partitions that were added in the 1978 renovations on the first floor (the original main lobby/lounge) (if the plans found were actually implemented) and some of the layers of paint added over the years have been stripped from the lobby wainscoting to reveal the original oak finish. Some of the partitions between rooms across from the racquetball courts on the third floor and at least the east wall of the 20th Street lounge have also been removed in this aborted rehab.

Despite alterations, which are relatively minor considering the continued and evolving use of the building during its three-quarters of a century use by the Y, and the deteriorated finishes, the Granite City YMCA retains its distinctive exterior facades, including most of its original sashed windows, basically unaltered with the exception of the entry door replacement. The interiors still retain most of the original room layout, especially the most significant interior spaces (the gymnasium, lounges, dance studio, reception desk and offices, and hallways of sleeping rooms), as well as much of the interior trim, the original staircase and wall finishes, although it has suffered and deteriorated since the Y closed about a decade ago.

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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 a 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1926-1967

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wedemeyer and Nelson

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Granite City YMCA, located at 2001 Edison Avenue, Granite City (Madison County), Illinois, is eligible under Criterion A: Social History and Criterion C: Architecture, with the period of significance from 1926, when construction of the building was complete and the building was open to the public to 1967, the arbitrary fifty year cut-off date for significance (although significant activities continued, a more specific date cannot be provided).¹ Organized by the leaders of industry and manufacturing in Granite City, the major economic driving force of the community, the Granite City YMCA is locally significant for its impact on the social well-being and stability of the community.² Providing a host of educational programs, athletic and extracurricular activities, and charitable works, the Granite City YMCA organization's existence not only provided a positive outlet for the young men and women of the town, but provided a space for other organizations like the United Service Organization (USO), Young Men in Industry and Salvation Army to do their work. The importance of the organization is further realized by its physical placement among the other notable structures in the epicenter of the community – the post office, library, and city hall. With its pinnacles, crockets, and Tudor arches, the Granite City YMCA is also locally significant for its architectural design which stands out as the only example of Late Gothic Revival in Granite City, a town that favored classical revival details on its other major buildings. It is one of the few known extant designs of Wedemeyer and Nelson, a major architectural firm in early twentieth century St. Louis, Missouri and the Granite City YMCA is the only known YMCA designed by the firm that retains its historic integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Building History

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) building in Granite City, Illinois is one of the major historic edifices in downtown. Although the organization's initial intent was to remodel the town's existing Lauff Hotel, in 1919 the YMCA board selected architect William Wedemeyer to draw up plans for a new building.³ Two architectural designs were offered by Wedemeyer, with varying costs and amenities included, and by the end of 1919, the YMCA Board had authorized approval of a \$250,000 structure and began securing bids.⁴ Due to the number of hardships impacting Granite City as a result of World War I, construction was halted until 1924, when industry and organizations leaders of the town voted to proceed with the building campaign.⁵

Construction of the building was overseen by general contractor J. Walter Scott, and contracts went to residents of Granite City.^{6,7} On August 19, 1924 contracts were awarded to A.F. Boyd for electrical and plumbing and William G. Bergner for heating.⁸ Ground was broken for the building only eight days later, and the YMCA officially opened on January 1, 1926.⁹

¹ "Everything in Readiness for Y.M.C.A. Opening." *Granite City Press-Record*, 24 December 1925, 1.

² "Granite City's New Y.M.C.A. Opens New Year's," *Granite City Press-Record*, 31 December 1925, 1.

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Y.M.C.A. Sec'y Has Good Report," *Granite City Press-Record*, 31 October 1919, 1.

⁵ "Campaign for 'Y' Building is Launched Here," *Granite City Press-Record*, 4 March 1924, 1.

⁶ "Ground Broken for Start of 'Y' Structure," *Granite City Press-Record*, 29 August 1924, 1.

⁷ *Granite City: A Pictorial History*. St. Louis, MO: G Bradley Publishing, Inc., 1995, 174.

⁸ "Y.M.C.A. Cornerstone Laying Tomorrow 2 P.M." *Granite City Press-Record*, 28 May 1925, 1, 3.

⁹ "Ground Broken for Start of 'Y' Structure," 1; "Everything in Readiness for Y.M.C.A. Opening," 1.

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The building was constructed with reinforced concrete, and was originally designed for three stories, with the foundation strong enough to support two additional floors if they were later needed.¹⁰ The local newspaper printed the architect's rendition, explaining,

The structure will front 143 feet on E street and 96 feet on 20th street, the latter entrance to be used by boys and women and the E street entrance by men. The basement will contain bowling alleys, swimming pool, cafeteria, lockers and other recreational facilities. On the first floor will be the lobbies, reading room, gymnasium, auditorium, boys [sic] club rooms, and offices. The second and third floors will be devoted to dormitories and committee rooms. Special attention has been given to arranging for spectator rooms, in the gymnasium, swimming pool and bowling alleys. It was announced that Granite City is peculiarly a city of young men because of its industrial makeup, and many of these young men are away from home, and the structure, it was said, was in keeping with the growth and expansion of the district.¹¹

The building was prominently positioned when it was built at the apex of the downtown streets, which were laid out radiating from the intersection of 20th Street, Edison Avenue, and Niedringhaus Avenue (a layout inspired by the street patterns of Washington, D.C.).¹² Across the street to the east, also at this apex, is the three-story Neoclassical, yellow brick and limestone Granite City Hall, built in 1928. Along the entire southeast block on 20th Street are the massive, Mid-Century Modern Granite City Steel building (one of the principal historic manufacturers based in Granite City), while the block to the northeast on 20th Street is the Neoclassical-style Granite City Public Library. Across 20th Street, along Edison Avenue and Niedringhaus Avenue are the small, one and two-story commercial buildings that formed the core of the historic commercial district, including the two-story bank building at the south point of the apex. Across from the YMCA building on 20th Street, what was once the Post Office is now a city park.¹³

Architectural Significance

Stylistically, Late Gothic Revival buildings are more subdued than the High Victorian Gothic designs, with simpler designs that emphasized the verticality of the building and utilized less polychromy to ornament the exterior, both of which are evident in the design of the Granite City YMCA. The Boston architects, Ralph Adams Cram and Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, set the pace nationally for the use of this style in the early twentieth century, starting with Cram and Ferguson's first success in rebuilding the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1903. The use of Late Gothic Revival flourished in ecclesiastical designs, but also became a popular style for educational buildings (thus the term Collegiate Gothic) on such campuses as Bryn Mawr, Princeton University, and Washington University (St. Louis) as well as in commercial buildings, the epitome of which was reached in Cass Gilbert's design of the Woolworth Building in New York. While the verticality make Gothic Revival suitable for skyscrapers, its large window surfaces also meant it worked well in designing smaller commercial buildings, which applied Gothic touches (most often executed in glazed terra cotta) as styling even when the overall design was more functional than aesthetic, which was certainly the case for the Granite City YMCA.¹⁴

This 3.5 story, brick design utilizes elements that are associated with Late Gothic Revival – although much simplified – and is the only institutional or commercial example of the style in Granite City, a town which

¹⁰ "The Proposed New Young Men's Christian Assn. Building." *Granite City Press-Record*, 7 March 1924, 1.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, 120.

¹³ *Fire Insurance Maps of Granite City, Including Madison & Venice, Illinois*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1907, 1950, updates 1955, updates 1957.

¹⁴ Marcus Whiffen. *American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide to the Styles*, 2nd edition, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996, 173-177.

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seemed to favor the use of classical revival details on its major buildings. A polychromatic masonry design is created by red brick and the glazed green tiles in the walls at the base of the building. Each of the three sections of the façade is framed by vertical shafts framed with limestone that run the height of the building and are capped by glazed green terra cotta shapes, which form the pinnacle-like detailing that extends past the flat roof. These vertical frames extend above the raised basement's watertable course and break through the white glazed terra cotta molded course that separates the three stories from the decorative parapet. Along the parapet, at the center of each of the three sections, crocket shapes are framed with the same white glazed terra cotta tiles capping the parapet.

Facing Edison Avenue, one of its two primary entrances consists of a Tudor arched paired entryway, separated from the Tudor arched transom and paired stained glass windows by a crenelated canopy anchored to the façade with massive chains. The 1.5 story entry facing 20th Street is situated in a projecting vestibule with a shaped parapet outlined by glazed terra cotta tiles and crockets around the flat roof, and a rectangular frieze panel framed with the glazed terra cotta above the Tudor arched door opening. Framing the entry are glazed terra cotta pilaster strips, ending in pinnacle-like details. The Edison Avenue entry has the original lantern-like bronze wall sconces, while the 20th Street entry only has ornate medallions, which were likely the base of the now-missing light fixtures.

Architect

Wedemeyer and Nelson, Architects was an important early twentieth century architectural firm in Missouri, primarily known for its designs and prominence in Saint Louis, across the Mississippi from Granite City, Illinois. William Wedemeyer was born in 1869 in St. Louis and began his career by working for Ramsey and Frasey, and Charles F. May.¹⁵ In 1893, Wedemeyer opened his own architectural firm, Wedemeyer and Lee, but it dissolved only two years later, and he moved to Duquoin, Illinois where he was commissioned for several projects in the southern portion of the state.¹⁶ By 1897, Wedemeyer moved back to St. Louis, and in 1919 joined Albert L. Nelson to establish Wedemeyer and Nelson.¹⁷

Wedemeyer was married to Adaline Willman and they had one daughter and a son, Wesley William Wedemeyer.¹⁸ After Nelson left the firm, Wedemeyer's son joined his father in 1932 to form the firm Wedemeyer and Sons.¹⁹ Its successor firm still exists today under the name Wedemeyer-Cernick-Corrubia and is as successful as its progenitor.

William Wedemeyer was on the Saint Louis Planning Commission from 1920-1930, which attempted to guide development in Saint Louis and reorganized some aspects of the existing street layout of the city (with major street thoroughfares, widening major streets such as Olive Boulevard, renaming Morgan Street as Delmar Boulevard, and planning the layout for other new streets, plazas and boulevards).²⁰

The firm of Wedemeyer and Nelson designed numerous movie theaters, churches, and funeral parlors in the Saint Louis area, as well as the Casa Loma Ballroom (3354 Iowa Ave, 2715-2719 Cherokee Street, St. Louis), the last ballroom in Saint Louis still in operation that is a good example of a simplified Art-Deco style in Saint

¹⁵ Ruth Keenoy, "Milliken Pharmaceutical Building: Statement of Significance," National Register Nomination Draft, 2008, 2-3.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Baxter, Karen Bode, and Maloney, Timothy P. *Dickmann Building*. Washington D.C.: US Department of the Interior/National Park Service. Listed in the National Register 1999, 8.

²⁰ Ibid.

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Louis, originally built in 1926 and then rebuilt in 1940 after an extensive fire. The firm designed the 1926 Dickmann Building, a Late Gothic Revival, six-story office building (3115 S. Grand, St. Louis, MO, NR listed 12/30/99). They also designed the North Side Young Men's Christian Association, a major building at 3100 North Grand Boulevard.²¹ However, today that building has been modified by renovations on the exterior, including the loss of its distinctive balustrade parapet and cornice, as well as its original windows and entry doors. Today, only a few of the early designs by Wedemeyer and Nelson can be identified as still extant since their records and drawings have suffered through years of disuse and a list has not been compiled of all of their commissions. As such, the Granite City YMCA is one of the few of their designs identified outside of the city of St. Louis, Missouri, and their only extant YMCA design that retains its historic integrity.

Historical Development of Granite City

Between the 1850s and 1880s, a large number of German immigrants settled in the area now known as Granite City.²² Located about one mile inland from the bank of the Mississippi River, this region was initially part of Six Mile Prairie, later became Kinder – or Kinderhook, and then became part of Venice and Nameoki Townships when redistricting occurred in 1876; it would not be until September 1, 1932 that Granite City would become its own township.²³

Granite City's official incorporation on March 9, 1896 was due in large part to the role of industry leaders in the region. In 1892, Friederich Gottlieb (known as F.G.) and Wilhelm (known as William F.) Niedringhaus purchased 3,500 acres of land in Kinder to expand their business; that land would later be donated to become Granite City.²⁴ In 1895, the Niedringhaus' moved their business to the purchased land, and in 1899 the National Enameling and Stamping Company (originally the St. Louis Stamping Company) incorporated as Nesco, consolidating stamping and enameling plants in Granite City, New York, Milwaukee, Baltimore, and New Orleans.²⁵ In the early twentieth century, the St. Louis Stamping Company manufactured most of the graniteware made in the United States, from which the young town's name is derived. Graniteware was the most popular cookware in the United States for more than half-century before being replaced by aluminum and stainless steel pans, Corningware, and Pyrex dishes following World War II.²⁶ By this time, the Granite City Steel Mill, Markle Lead Works, American Steel Foundry and the Stamping Works were all in operation in the area and the town began to grow around its industrial base.²⁷ With its proximity to St. Louis, Missouri and location near the Mississippi River, Granite City quickly became a railroad hub, connecting St. Louis, Chicago, and Kansas City, and established itself as a major manufacturing center for a variety of steel and enameled products.²⁸

The Niedringhaus brothers hired the St. Louis City engineer, Julius Pitzman, to layout Granite City on their 3,500 acres of land, requesting that Niedringhaus Avenue mirror the east-west layout of Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C.²⁹ The Niederinghaus brothers hired individuals to plant trees and build streets and a hotel for

²¹ Ibid.

²² *75th Year Celebration of the City of Granite City, Illinois: 1896-1971*. N.P., 1971, 5.

²³ *Standard Atlas of Madison County, Illinois*. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co., 1906. *75th Year Celebration of the City of Granite City*, 5.; *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, introduction.

²⁴ DeChenne, David L. "Labor and Immigration in a Southern Illinois Mill Town, 1890-1937." PhD dissertation, Illinois State University, 1989, 33. *75th Year Celebration of the City of Granite City*, 9.

²⁵ Granite City Public Library. *History of Granite City Volume I: 1896-1946*, n.p., 1953, 19.

²⁶ *History of Granite City Volume 1*, 4-5.

²⁷ *75th Year Celebration of the City of Granite City*, 13.

²⁸ *History of Granite City Volume 1*, 4-5.

²⁹ *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, 120. Morris, Ann. "Sacred Green Space: A Survey of Cemeteries in St. Louis County." Missouri Department of Natural Resources: State Historic Preservation Office, 2000, 25.

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the construction workers; they also planned out sewers (also engineered by Julius Pitzman) and built a water works plant.³⁰ The family eventually turned over control of the sewer and water plants to the City.

Julius Pitzman was a well-known surveyor and topographical engineer in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Pitzman was appointed St. Louis City Surveyor in 1856, and during his career he was commissioned for a number of projects throughout the region: private subdivision layouts and private streets; and other infrastructure, including roads, streetcars, and sewers; and public and private parks.³¹ One of Pitzman's most prevalent designs was St. Louis city's Forest Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the United States.³² In addition to laying out Granite City, his works extended into Arkansas and Tennessee, and his concept of 'private places' spread throughout the country.³³

The economy in Granite City was largely focused on the manufacturing industry; however, industrial progress remained irregular through the 1930s due to constraints from World Wars I and II and the Great Depression.³⁴ Despite the struggling economy, Granite City's physical resources continued to expand; between 1915 and 1930, the city hall, fire station, and police station were built.³⁵ In 1929, a new public library, city hall, and high school were constructed to meet the needs of a growing population of nearly 26,000.³⁶ The peak of the depression hit Granite City in 1933, and by 1935, city government sponsored nine Works Progress Administration projects to help employ residents.³⁷ By 1937, the town's economy began to improve, and by 1942, war production in Granite City industries was in full force.³⁸

The immigrant population in Granite City has always played an important role in the town's economy. Factory jobs drew thousands of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe to Granite City, and during World War I, with many of the industry workers fighting overseas, the labor shortage was filled by Mexicans. Many of these immigrants settled in 'Hungary Hollow,' a neighborhood to the west of town, that was renamed Lincoln Place in 1916.³⁹

The Young Men's Christian Association

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was founded in London in 1844 by George Williams, with the intention of serving as "...a refuge of Bible study and prayer for young men seeking escape from the hazards of life on the streets."⁴⁰ The first YMCA was established in 1851 in Boston, but other branches quickly followed. The mission of the organization has evolved to focus on growing healthy minds, bodies, and spirits, all centered around Christian principals. Activities undertaken by YMCAs throughout the United States have

³⁰ *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, 120.; *75th Year Celebration of the City of Granite City*, 15 Municipal Engineering Company, *Municipal Engineering: July – December, 1899, Volume 17*. Indianapolis/New York: 1899, 181.

³¹ Keenoy, Ruth, Baxter, Karen Bode, and Claverach Park Volunteers. *Claverach Park*. Washington D.C.: US Department of the Interior/National Park Service. Listed in the National Register 2015, 8.

³² *Ibid.*, 8.

³³ Landmarks Association. *Parkview Historic District*. Washington D.C.: US Department of the Interior/National Park Service. Listed in the National Register 1986, 2.

³⁴ *History of Granite City Volume 1*, 34.

³⁵ *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, 121.

³⁶ Engelke, Georgia. 'Old Six Mile' *An Early History of Granite City*. Cahokia, IL: Midland Press, nd, 56.; *Polk's Tri-Cities (Illinois) City Directory*. St. Louis: R.L. Polk & Co., 1929, np.

³⁷ *History of Granite Volume 1*, 40.

³⁸ Engelke, 57.

³⁹ Engelke, 54; Lincoln Place Heritage Association. *Lincoln Place Heritage Festival*. Granite City, IL: Lincoln Place Heritage Association, 2006. Introduction.

⁴⁰ The YMCA. "History: The YMCA in the United States." [website] Accessed 7 February 2017. Available at: www.ymca.net/history.

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included offering a wide-range of educational classes; providing athletic and recreational facilities, community meeting spaces, and housing; and conducting charitable efforts.

Educational Classes. In 1856, the first English as a Second Language class was held for German immigrants. Immigrants, as well as other industry-workers were also provided support under the YMCA's industrial department, established in 1903. For students, Hi-Y Clubs were developed in 1889 and focused on youth leadership through speech, sports, and academic success.⁴¹

Athletic, Recreation, and Housing. In 1869, the first YMCAs to contain gymnasiums were constructed, leading to a number of advancements in athletics, including: the creation of the first body building and exercise classes (1881), volleyball (1890s), basketball (1891), organized lessons for swimming (1909), and racquetball (1950).⁴² In 1885, New York became the first location to incorporate camping into youth programs.⁴³ A number of other well-known service organizations can trace their roots to the YMCA, including the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire Girls, the Negro National Baseball League, the Gideons, Toastmasters, and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.⁴⁴ The first dormitory was opened in Chicago in 1867, and by 1940, there were more than 100,000 YMCA rooms for rent across the United States.⁴⁵

Charitable Efforts. Relief efforts for the military and citizens began in earnest during World War I, when the YMCA worked with the United War Work Council to operate canteens in the United States and France, offer spaces for recreation and religious services, and raised \$235 million for relief work.⁴⁶ The YMCA reportedly helped over five million prisoners of war, and after the war, awarded 80,000 scholarships to veterans, establishing the model for the future GI Bill.⁴⁷ During World War II, the YMCA partnered with other national organizations to found the United Service Organizations for National Defense, or USOs. The YMCA continued prisoner of war work, serving six million soldiers during World War II.⁴⁸ The organization's staff even provided programs and activities for Japanese American children who had been forced into United States internment camps.⁴⁹ Following the war, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to YMCA leader John R. Mott for his leadership in relief work.⁵⁰ The YMCA organization also aided soldiers in the Civil, Spanish-American, Korean, and Vietnam wars.⁵¹

The first YMCA in this region was founded in 1853 in St. Louis, Missouri. This branch became well-known for its creation of the parent-child program, Y-Indian Guides, in 1926.⁵²

Started by Harold J. Keltner and Joe Friday, a member of the Ojibway tribe, the program was based on the Native-American family model, and sought to foster the companionship of father and son. The program later expanded to include father-daughter (Y-Indian Princess), mother-son, mother-daughter (Y-Indian Maiden) and parent-preschooler components.⁵³

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ University of Minnesota. Kautz Family YMCA Archives. "YMCA in America: 1851-2001: A History of Accomplishment Over 150 Years." [website] Accessed 7 February 2017. Available at: gallery.lib.umn.edu/exhibits/show/ymca-america.

⁴⁵ "History: The YMCA in the United States."

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ University of Minnesota. Kautz Family YMCA Archives.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ "History: The YMCA in the United States."

⁵⁰ University of Minnesota. Kautz Family YMCA Archives.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

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The Granite City YMCA branch, now called the Tri-City YMCA, was originally organized in 1916, and later became a part of the Gateway Region YMCA, which encompasses 24 branches in Missouri and Illinois.⁵⁴

The YMCA in Granite City

The Young Men's Christian Association of Granite City was loosely established in August 1916 during a meeting at the Commonwealth Steel Company of local industry leaders, including representatives from the National Enameling and Stamping Company, Corn Products Refining Company, American Steel Foundries, National Lead Company, Granite City Steel Works, the president of the school board, the school district superintendent, president of Granite City Commercial Club, and the State Industrial Secretary of the YMCA.⁵⁵ The YMCA more formally materialized in November, 1917 when the first president of the organization, F.W. Kottmeier, was elected.⁵⁶ And on March 2, 1918, the Granite City YMCA was officially chartered.⁵⁷ Prior to construction of their own building, the YMCA met at the Granite City Labor Temple still located at 2014 State Street A, which also housed City Court rooms, the Board of Education, and labor organizations.⁵⁸

As noted earlier, the original push for construction of a YMCA building in Granite City began in 1918 and garnered pledges totaling \$37,500; the money raised at the time was used to pay for the architect's plans and to purchase additional ground near the land that had been donated by the Niederinghaus Trustees.⁵⁹ Fundraising was postponed due to World War I, but resumed on February 29, 1924, when community leaders from 37 organizations met at the Masonic Temple and decided unanimously to move forward with the building.⁶⁰ To help build support and raise money for construction, the YMCA ran an advertisement in two local newspapers, promoting the YMCA as an alternative to having their sons be trained by "murderers, bank robbers and highwaymen."⁶¹ With over 1,500 industry employees under the age of 21 and marketing the building as a future space for them to safely spend their leisure time, the YMCA was able to solicit substantial donations from local corporations, including the Commonwealth Steel and American Steel Foundries companies.⁶²

With a large portion of funding secured, groundbreaking on the new YMCA structure took place on August 28, 1924. During remarks by local YMCA president George Whitten, with over 160 in attendance, he stated "that Granite City was at last to have a character factory whose product is 'better citizens.'"⁶³ The mayor and Phil Stremmel, assistant general manager of the Rolling Mill, both emphasized the importance of this building in the physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual development of the city's young people.

With the concrete structural system complete, the three-story building skeleton formed the backdrop for the ceremony on May 11, 1925 to lay the cornerstone, reading "Granite City YMCA 1924." With over 1,000 people attending, the ceremony was documented through "moving pictures" recorded by news camera men.⁶⁴ Several community members addressed the crowd, including local YMCA president Whitten; Dr. Camerson Harmon,

⁵⁴ Gateway Region YMCA. "History." [website] Accessed 7 February 2017. Available at: www.gwrymca.org/history.

⁵⁵ "Granite City's New Y.M.C.A. Opens New Year's," 1.

⁵⁶ "The Granite City Y.M.C.A. and Its Activities." *Granite City Press-Record: Granite City Progress Edition*, 15 March 1924, 21-23.

⁵⁷ "Granite City's New Y.M.C.A. Opens New Year's," 1.

⁵⁸ *Polk's Tri-Cities (Illinois) City Directory*. St. Louis: R.L. Polk & Co., 1925, 102-103.; *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, 77.

⁵⁹ "Elect Officers for Local Y.M.C.A. Building Drive." *Granite City Press-Record*, 2 May 1924, 1.

⁶⁰ "Y.M.C.A. Cornerstone Laying Tomorrow 2 P.M." *Granite City Press-Record*, 13 May 1925, 3.

⁶¹ "You Build This One, We'll Build the Next." *Granite City Press-Record*, 13 May 1924, 5.; "You Build This One, We'll Build the Next." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 20 May 1924.

⁶² "Local Man Gives 'Y' Building Plan a Boost." *Granite City Press-Record*, 24 April 1924, 8.; "Ground Will be Broken for Y.M.C.A. Building." *Granite City Press-Record*, 26 August 1924, 1.

⁶³ "Ground Broken for Start of 'Y' Structure," 1.

⁶⁴ "Rain Mars Cornerstone Laying Saturday." *Granite City Press-Record*, 12 May 1925, 1, 3.

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president of McKendree College in Lebanon; Clarence Howard, president of the Commonwealth Steel Company; William Wedemeyer, architect; Fred Kottmeier, former YMCA president; and Granite City's mayor.⁶⁵ In his address, Mayor Robertson said,

“This is one of the proudest occasions Granite City has experienced in many a day in its onward march to a great industrial metropolis. A community's success is not measured so much by its material advancement, as in what it is doing toward making for better citizenship...”⁶⁶

The news of the event reported that documents placed in the cornerstone capsule included:

Progress Magazine Edition of the Granite City Press Record, copy of Granite City Press Record of May 8, 1925, a Bible donated by Graham's Book Store, general secretary's report for 1924, copy of Granite City Post of May 7, 1925, copy of Madison Republic of May 8, 1925, a condensed history of Madison County compiled by the Madison County Historical Society; a directorate of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, the 1924 building fund campaign organization, analysis of campaign pledges, constitution and by-laws of the Y.M.C.A. of this city, building committee minutes of August 18 and 19, 1924 containing the letting of the building contracts; copy of Raisins; building fund campaign pamphlet; register of architects, superintendents, engineers, general contractor and subcontractors; roster of Masonic membership; copy of “Commonwealth” published by the Commonwealth Steel Company; copy of “Octogan” [sic] published by the American Steel Foundries; copy of “Mill” published by National Enameling and Stamping Company; and photos taken at ground breaking.⁶⁷

The official dedication of the building occurred on January 3, 1926, although an open house was held on January 1, 1926 with over 1,200 people attending.⁶⁸ Events were scheduled on each day of the first week to celebrate and promote the new community resource; these included games in the gymnasium for youth, programs delivered by local industries and schools (each night was a different program), a ladies' night, “moving pictures” in the auditorium, music performances, bowling tournaments, billiard and pool exhibitions, and even a free vision clinic held by the Illinois Society of Optometrists.⁶⁹ The United States Secretary of Labor in President Coolidge's cabinet, James J. Davis, was the principal speaker at the dedication ceremony on January 3rd; Davis had been a former employee in the rolling mill of the National Enameling and Stamping Company.⁷⁰ Building Committee chairman, George Niedringhaus, and Arthur Morey and Clarence Howard of the Commonwealth Steel Company also spoke.⁷¹

Since its founding, membership campaigns have been run by YMCA board members. When the building opened in 1926, rates were advertised in the local newspaper and were based on age and gender. For boys under the age of 18, a membership cost \$3.00 to \$8.00 per year, but increased to \$12.00 for those between 18 and 21, and \$15.00 for anyone over 21. Business men were charged \$25.00 annually, or they were offered a sustainable membership, to help offset costs associated with building maintenance for \$100.00. On Wednesdays, the pool and gymnasium were reserved for girls and women; those under 17 were charged \$3.00 and over that were charged \$5.00.⁷²

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ “Large Crowds Visit New Y.M.C.A. During Week.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 8 January 1926, 1.

⁶⁹ “Everything in Readiness for Y.M.C.A. Opening,” 1; “Special Programs Planned for ‘Y’ Opening.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 31 December 1925, 1.; “Large Crowds Visit New Y.M.C.A. During Week,” 1.

⁷⁰ *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, 175.

⁷¹ Ibid, 175.

⁷² “Y.M.C.A. Will Have Opening New Year's Day.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 22 December 1925, 1.

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The Granite City YMCA was founded with the same priorities and wide-ranging activities as its national organization. In an annual report published just several years after its founding, YMCA secretary Irwin Raut encouraged Granite City residents to become better acquainted with the YMCA's work, despite the seemingly small numbers served:⁷³

As you read this report do not see statistics but people. See groups of earnest folks studying twice a week under competent teachers; see boys playing basket ball [sic], developing their bodies and learning team work; see crowds of children on the summer playgrounds, the girls sewing, and canning fruit and vegetables, and the boys practicing for a field meet or playing organized base ball [sic]; see children tending garden, learning the dignity of work; see boys and girls feeding chickens and rabbits, learning thrift and the care of property; see men taking out citizenship papers, eager to learn the benefits and responsibilities of American citizenship...⁷⁴

These community-based efforts grew as the YMCA expanded in capacity.

Americanization

The purpose of the initial 1916 meeting was to address the educational needs of Granite City's work force, with particular focus on immigrants.⁷⁵ This led way to the organization's early "Americanization" efforts. In 1918, a national effort by the federal government was established to encourage immigrants to obtain citizenship status, and by 1919, these courses were being offered by the Granite City YMCA.⁷⁶ In a report given by the YMCA secretary, approximately two months after the citizenship classes began, the majority of the 187 people enrolled in evening YMCA classes were immigrants seeking to either improve their English-language skills or those seeking citizenship.⁷⁷ The YMCA also hosted ceremonies for individuals receiving their citizenship certificates.⁷⁸

Education

General community education was another core component of the Granite City YMCA. Opportunities for students of all age ranges varied from night classes at the local high school, to leadership programs for youth, to religious-based bible studies. Classes taught at the high school included shorthand, penmanship, basic accounting, spelling, and typewriting. These courses also included other vocational themes, including electricity and automobiles; a class on automobile engines and mechanics in 1919 received community support in the form of donations from the Granite City Lime and Cement Company of a shop location and a truck.⁷⁹ Eventually, these classes became a permanent piece of the Granite City students' education, and the Board of Education took over governance.⁸⁰

The Granite City YMCA was also responsible for several area community centers and their curriculum, including ones in Lincoln Place, Little Six, and Madison.⁸¹ The local Hi-Y Club was organized in 1924 at the high school, with the intent of promoting "...clean speech, clean scholarship, clean living, and clean athletics" among high school students.⁸² Sunday schools and vacation bible schools were offered through the YMCA in

⁷³"Annual Report of Local Y.M.C.A." *Granite City Press-Record*, 13 January 1920, 1.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

⁷⁵ "Granite City's New Y.M.C.A. Opens New Year's," 1.

⁷⁶ "To Start School For Citizenship." *Granite City Press-Record*, 24 October 1919, 1.

⁷⁷ "Good Attendance At Night School." *Granite City Press-Record*, 12 December 1919, 1.

⁷⁸ "Statistical Report of the Young Men's Christian Ass'n." *Granite City Press-Record*, 15 February 1924, 9.

⁷⁹ "Y.M.C.A. to Have New Work Shop." *Granite City Press-Record*, 28 October 1919, 1.

⁸⁰ "Granite City's New Y.M.C.A. Opens New Years," 1.

⁸¹ "Good Attendance at Night School." *Granite City Press-Record*, 12 December 1919, 1.

⁸² "Statistical Report of the Young Men's Christian Ass'n." *Granite City Press-Record*, 15 February 1924, 9.

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partnership with Granite City churches, and in 1925, the vacation bible schools reported an enrollment of 1,050 students.⁸³ Art classes taught at the YMCA were also popular with young and old, alike.⁸⁴ The YMCA also hosted a number of practical conferences, including a *Young Men in Industry Conference*, with topics like “His Job...His Boss...His Pay Envelope...His Leisure Time...His Future...[and]The Other Fellow”; the *Working Girls Conference*, with topic themes centered on issues a working woman faces in the home, their workplace, their church, and their community.⁸⁵

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

Athletics is perhaps one of the most well-known pastimes associated with the YMCA organization. Prior to construction of the building and the formation of the Granite City Park District in 1921, the organization managed school playgrounds, parks, and park activities throughout the city.⁸⁶ The Lincoln Place Community Center, an example of YMCA program and playground management, was constructed by the Commonwealth Steel Company for its workers living in Lincoln Place, many of whom were immigrants.⁸⁷ The YMCA managed activities since the center’s inception in 1919, and in 1939 it was given to the Granite City Park District.⁸⁸ In May of 1940, the YMCA began sponsoring the programs and managing administration with assistance from the WPA and Workers Service.⁸⁹

Sporting leagues, including baseball and basketball, were also a part of the local YMCA even before the construction of the building.⁹⁰ Even a female basketball team was organized at the YMCA as early as 1919.⁹¹ Once constructed, the YMCA building with its bowling alley and swimming pool in the basement and the first floor gymnasium offered additional athletic opportunities, including swimming lessons for both girls and boys, boxing, weightlifting, bowling, wrestling, and volleyball. Sports leagues for factory workers and their families were created by the YMCA; local companies formed their own teams and played against other corporate teams.⁹² In 1928, thanks to the proximity of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, the Granite City YMCA brought in guest speaker Taylor Douthit, starting centerfielder, to speak to over 400 boys and men gathered for a spring program.⁹³ Local sporting clubs also utilized the YMCA for presentations, like the St. Louis Fly and Bait Casting Club did in 1947 to teach fly fishing techniques and host a casting contest.⁹⁴

As an important social center for the community, the YMCA supported many extracurricular events and activities, from banquets to award ceremonies to meetings. The YMCA hosted the “Teen Town” Friday night dances for teens in the auditorium, and was home to the Macklyn Williams’ dance studio.⁹⁵ And like many YMCAs across the country, the Granite City YMCA contained 68 hotel-style rooms available for rent.⁹⁶ The room rates were announced just prior to the building’s opening and ranged from \$3.50 for an interior double

⁸³ “Granite City’s New Y.M.C.A. Opens New Years,” 1.

⁸⁴ “YMCA Art Class At Granite City.” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 20 January 1965.

⁸⁵ “Statistical Report of the Young Men’s Christian Ass’n.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 15 February 1924, 9.

⁸⁶ *75th Year Celebration of the City of Granite City*, 92-93.

⁸⁷ DeChenne, 219.

⁸⁸ *History of Granite City Volume I*, 38.; *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, 87.

⁸⁹ “Community House ‘Y’ Drive for \$1,000 Is Near Two-Thirds Mark.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 6 November 1941, 9.

⁹⁰ “Opening Game Monday Evening.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 7 November 1919, 1.

⁹¹ “Good Attendance at Night School.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 12 December 1919, 1.

⁹² “‘Y’ Starts Leagues To Give Industrial Workers Recreation.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 30 November 1942, 6.

⁹³ “400 at ‘Y’ to Hear Cardinal Baseball Star.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 18 May 1928, 2.

⁹⁴ “Outdoors.” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 27 April 1947.

⁹⁵ “‘Teen Town’ Chosen As Name for School Dance Organization.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 11 February 1943, 5.; “Night Club For Teen Age Girls and Boys At ‘Y’.” *Granite City Press-Record*, 25 January 1943, 1.; *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, 174.

⁹⁶ *History of Granite City*, 7.

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room up to \$7.00 for an exterior single room.⁹⁷ These rooms were closed in 1984, which was the first time in the building's history it was no longer accessible 24 hours a day.⁹⁸

In a 1931 report from the secretary of the YMCA, it was highlighted that the building functions primarily as a community center, with "over 100 different groups, societies and organizations using the various parts of the building. Only a few [were] "Y" groups." The secretary estimated that those meetings brought annual attendance to more than 100,000.⁹⁹ Some of these social clubs and community organizations of Granite City and Madison County included the Thursday Club, Commonwealth Fellowship Club, Young Men in Industry, Madison County Historical Society, and the Salvation Army.¹⁰⁰ In 1956, the YMCA was host to the Tri-Cities Associated Retailers and Civic Association who honored Sandra Sloss, the St. Louis area's first national spelling bee champion.¹⁰¹ The YMCA even hosted a ceremony for the Ojibway and Taconte Indian tribes, where their braves "were initiated into the Ancient Order of the Red Button." According to the local newspaper, "This is a secret ceremony and only members...may attend. The Royal Court of His Majesty Omgiumpto will be in charge of the initiation ceremony."¹⁰²

In later decades, the YMCA building would provide space for other community organizations' meetings, training, and classes. For example, in 1965, the YMCA was used for a police course training, and in 1966 it hosted an exhibit on 'The American Negro.'¹⁰³ A senior citizen group sponsored by the YMCA would even create and sell crafts and artwork at the building.¹⁰⁴

Charitable Efforts

Both the national agency and the local YMCA have a long-standing history of charitable relief work. During World War I, the national organization charged local YMCAs with raising money for the war effort, with Granite City expected to raise \$50,000. As reported by the local newspaper, a speaker at a meeting held in a St. Louis YMCA explained the role of the organization during the war: "The Y.M.C.A. provides for the wounded who can walk, while the Red Cross takes care of those who have to be carried."¹⁰⁵ Less than a month after the initial campaign drive, the YMCA reported they would soon be exceeding their financial fundraising goal.¹⁰⁶

In the fall of 1921, with poverty on the rise, Granite City organizations created three relief efforts: the Ex-Serviceman's Employment Agency (sponsored by the American Legion), the Temporary Provident Association (sponsored by the Tri-City Ministerial Alliance, the city council, and the Commercial Club), and the Citizen's Relief Bureau (sponsored by the YMCA). Although the Ex-Serviceman's Employment Agency had very little impact, the other two groups helped alleviate a significant burden on impoverished families throughout the winter months.¹⁰⁷

⁹⁷ "Y.M.C.A. Will Have Opening New Year's Day," 1.

⁹⁸ *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, 7.

⁹⁹ "Elect Four New Leaders at "Y" Here." *Granite City Press-Record*, 16 January 1931, 1.

¹⁰⁰ "Thursday Club Meets at Y.M.C.A." *Granite City Press-Record*, 17 January 1928, 5.; "Annual Xmas Party of Fellowship Club Draws 1,000 People." *Granite City Press-Record*, 23 December 1930, 4.; "250 Expected at Meeting of Young Men in Industry." *Granite City Press-Record*, 21 February 1928, 2. "County Historical Society Will Meet in City Tomorrow." *Granite City Press-Record*, 5 December 1930, 6.; "Salvation Army Drive Started This Morning at Breakfast at 'Y'." *Granite City Press-Record*, 29 August 1930, 1.

¹⁰¹ "Champion Speller Given Civic Achievement Trophy." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 1 February 1956.

¹⁰² "Indians of "Y" Clubs to Hold Red Button Rites." *Granite City Press-Record*, 21 January 1928, 2.

¹⁰³ "Police Course Offered at Granite City YMCA." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 21 November 1965.; "St. Louis News in Brief." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 13 April 1966.

¹⁰⁴ "Senior Citizens Profit on Hobbies with Help of Club in Granite City." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 8 August 1962.

¹⁰⁵ "Y.M.C.A. War Fund Campaign Started." *Granite City Press-Record*, 2 November 1917, 1.

¹⁰⁶ "State Y.M.C.A. Office Expresses Thanks." *Granite City Press-Record*, 23 November 1917, 1.

¹⁰⁷ *History of Granite City*, 34.

Granite City YMCA

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By 1930, steel production declined, factory workers lost their jobs, unemployment became an epidemic, and the Great Depression hit Granite City full-force. The YMCA, along with other local organizations and the City Council, met again in the fall of 1930 to help alleviate the poverty, and by 1931 the Central Relief Agency was created.¹⁰⁸ A single committee was formed to organize and disperse funds and resources gathered by the participating agencies, and a large fundraising campaign was established.¹⁰⁹

Although the Granite City YMCA did not house soldiers during World War I or II, it supported military efforts in other ways. In 1941, the YMCA hosted a film screening about the Navy to encourage young men to enlist.¹¹⁰ In 1942, the Army evaluated the YMCA building for housing soldiers, but it was determined that the YMCA would be best utilized as a recreational facility for the military.¹¹¹ With the Granite City Engineer's Depot (later renamed the Granite City Army Depot, then the Melvin Price Support Center) built nearby in 1942, there were large numbers of soldiers in Granite City. By 1944, the Depot was employing 5,200 people and trained 1,500 soldiers in maintenance and engineering supply.¹¹² So in January of 1943, YMCA board of directors made access to the YMCA free for all soldiers, with the exception of the bowling alley and billiard parlors.¹¹³ The amenities included access to the

...boxing and wrestling ring, rowing machine, stationary bicycle, wall weight pulleys, electric exercycle, punching bags, lifting equipment, medicine balls, skipping ropes and sun lamp;...[and use of the gymnasium for] basketball, volleyball, paddle ball, indoor ball, badminton, deck tennis, parallel bars, horses, bars, horizontal bar, traveling rings, flying rings and group calisthenics.¹¹⁴

A month later, YMCA staff cancelled all the bowling leagues, at the command of the USO Regional Supervisor out of Chicago, so that anyone, soldier or citizen, would be able to use the lanes during open hours.¹¹⁵ The YMCA also arranged dances and other social functions for soldiers; the Glee Club entertained soldiers at Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis.¹¹⁶ Space at the YMCA was also used to teach first aid training to civilians, to help them prepare for an emergency during the war.¹¹⁷

Conclusion

The Granite City YMCA served the community for nearly 90 years out of its original building downtown, closing in 2004, and was home to an extensive variety of social, athletic, and educational activities. The result of the organization's efforts was wide-reaching and had great impact on the citizens of Granite City. Its distinctive Late Gothic Revival design by a notable St. Louis architectural firm, Wedemeyer and Nelson, stands as a testament of the importance of the institution for Granite City, prominently positioned with the other major community buildings (city hall, post office, library) at the apex of the city's planned street patterns in the heart of the business district.

¹⁰⁸ "Coordinating Poor Relief is Being Planned." *Granite City Press-Record*, 14 October 1930, 1-2.; *History of Granite City*, 39.

¹⁰⁹ "All Combine in Relief Work and Choose as Heads." *Granite City Press-Record*, 22 September 1931, 1-2.; "Granite City Has Never Failed to Rise to an Emergency!!!" *Granite City Press-Record*, 16 October 1931, 4.

¹¹⁰ "Movie of Navy Activities and Scenes at Y.M.C.A. Dec 16." *Granite City Press-Record*, 11 December 1941, 1.

¹¹¹ "The Engineers from the Army Gave Y.M.C.A. the Once Over." *Granite City Press-Record*, 17 September 1942, 1.

¹¹² Militarybases.com. "Camp Price Support Center Army Base in Granite City, IL." [website] Accessed 7 February 2017. Available at: militarybases.com/camp-price-support-center-army-base-in-granite-city-il/.

¹¹³ "Service Men are Given Use of 'Y' Facilities Free." *Granite City Press-Record*, 28 January 1943, 1.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁵ "Bowling Leagues at 'Y' Cancelled, Open Play on All Alleys Now." *Granite City Press-Record*, 1 February 1943, 3.

¹¹⁶ "Service Men are Given Use of 'Y' Facilities Free." *Granite City Press-Record*, 28 January 1943, 1.; "Y.M.C.A. Glee Club Sings for Soldiers at Barracks Sunday." *Granite City Press-Record*, 22 December 1941, 3.

¹¹⁷ "Weekly Classes in First Aid for Home Defense Start Here." *Granite City Press-Record*, 2 February 1942, 1.

Granite City YMCA
Name of Property

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>38.70187</u>	<u>-90.14887</u>	3	_____	_____
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2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 3, 4, and the southern 30 feet of Lot 5 in Block 39 in the resubdivision of 38, 38, 48, and 49 of the original plat of Granite City, Illinois.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries incorporate all of the property that has been historically associated with this building and the property's legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catie Myers, Timothy P. Maloney and Karen Bode Baxter date May 15, 2017
organization Karen Bode Baxter, Preservation Specialist telephone 314-353-0593
street & number 5811 Delor St. Email karen@bodebaxter.com
city or town St. Louis State MO zip code 63109

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Granite City YMCA
Name of Property

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Granite City YMCA
City or Vicinity: Granite City
County: Madison **State:** IL
Photographer: Sheila Findall
Date Photographed: June 23, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 15: Exterior, looking north at southwest and southeast elevations**
- Photo 2 of 15: Exterior, looking north at southwest elevation entry**
- Photo 3 of 15: Exterior, looking west at southeast elevation entry**
- Photo 4 of 15: Exterior, looking south at northwest and northeast elevations**
- Photo 5 of 15: Interior, first floor, east stairs, from northwest end looking southeast**
- Photo 6 of 15: Interior, first floor, lounge, from west end looking east**
- Photo 7 of 15: Interior, first floor, north stairs, from west corner looking east**
- Photo 8 of 15: Interior, first floor, lounge (exercise room), from east corner looking west**
- Photo 9 of 15: Interior, first floor, gym, from west corner looking east**
- Photo 10 of 15: Interior, basement, pool, from south corner looking north**
- Photo 11 of 15: Interior, second floor, north stairs, from mid southwest wall looking east**
- Photo 12 of 15: Interior, second floor, east hall, from mid hall looking east**
- Photo 13 of 15: Interior, second floor, room on southeast side, from west corner looking east**
- Photo 14 of 15: Interior, third floor, west hall, from southeast end looking northwest**
- Photo 15 of 15: Interior, third floor, east hall, from northeast end looking southwest**

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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List of Figures

(Resize, compact, and paste images of maps and historic documents in this section. Place captions, with figure numbers above each image. Orient maps so that north is at the top of the page, all document should be inserted with the top toward the top of the page.

Figure 1: Madison County Historical Society, Granite City Collection, Post Card



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Figure 2: Post Card from Private Collection of Karen Bode Baxter



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Figure 3: Granite City Press Record, March 7, 1924, Section 1, page 1

(Continued on Page 8, Column 5) [and Mrs. C. Harrison of Edwardsville.] Get wise! Read our ass: davo:

THE PROPOSED NEW YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSN. BUILDING



Y.M.C.A. BUILDING - GRANITE CITY, ILL.
McKENNA AND NELSON ARCHITECTS

The contemplated Y. M. C. A. building for Granite City will be a magnificent structure when entirely completed, according to Irwin Raut, secretary of the local association, who has just made public the plans in detail for the building. These plans have been approved by the board of directors, the building committee, and the manufacturers. The building will be of reinforced concrete, will be of three stories and a basement but the foundations will be heavy enough to carry two additional floors, if later found necessary. The structure will front 143 feet on E street and 98 feet on 20th street, the latter entrance to be used by boys and women and the E street entrance by men. The basement will contain bowling alleys, swimming pool, cafeteria, lockers and other recreational facilities. On the first floor will be the lobbies, reading room, gymnasium, auditorium, boys club rooms, and offices. The second and third floors will be devoted to dormitories and committee rooms. Special attention has been given to arranging for spectator rooms, by the gymnasium, swimming pool and bowling alleys. It was announced that Granite City is peculiarly a city of young men because of its industrial makeup, and many of these young men are away from home, and the structure, it was said, was in keeping with the growth and expansion of the district.

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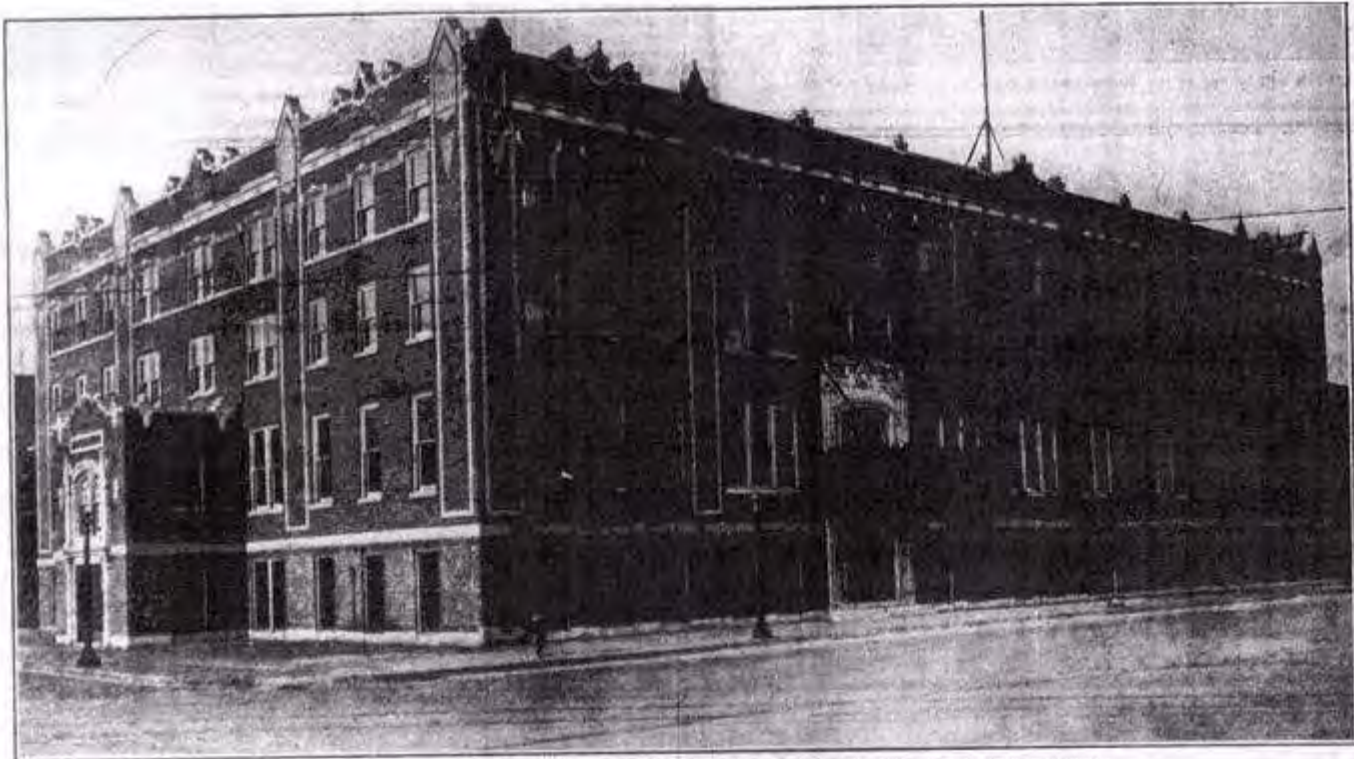
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 4: *Granite City Press Record* December 31, 1925



The newly completed Y. M. C. A. Building, located at Twentieth and E Streets, in the heart of Granite City.

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Figure 5: Granite City Press Record December 31, 1925

OPEN HOUSE FOR THE NEW

Y M C A

All Day New Year's Day!

You are invited to inspect this Magnificent Character Building Institution and see
WHAT YOUR MONEY HAS BUILT
For The Boys of the Tri-Cities and Community

N-O-W O-P-E-N
For Membership

Apply at Office

\$ 12.00
15.00
25.00
100.00

GIRLS AND WOMEN	
12 to 18	\$ 3.00
18 and over	4.00

1. Inside Double, each man	3.00
2. Outside Double, each man	4.00
3. Inside Single	

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Figure 6: Granite City Press Record May 13, 1924, Section 1, page 5

You Build This One, We'll Build the Next

Several hundred boys in the Tri-Cities—the coming men of the Community and Country, have issued this thrilling challenge to the “older boys.” They want something tangible—something upon which they can base their claim that a clean life is the best life, after all, and are willing to assume the obligation of building for the Tri-Cities the Second Y. M. C. A. They will do their part. When they are grown up, and have outgrown the Y. M. C. A. now being built, they will say: “Men, when we were youngsters, our fathers and neighbors built us a magnificent structure, and dedicated it to our safe guidance to successful, clean manhood.

What Will Your Boy Be Doing?

Will he be taking lessons from murderers, bank robbers and highwaymen? Today is the most tempestuous period in the history of the world for young men. They have plenty of competent instruction from murderers, highwaymen, bank robbers, and can obtain the companionship of outlaws, and law-breakers of every description, merely for the asking. They are all around us. They encourage by their very actions the acquisition and O. K. of boys who are in tender years, impulsive in nature, and seeking “something to do.” The only way to counteract it is by giving these boys, before they are hardened and lost, the environment of clean young manhood; the association of high-minded and broad-minded men who are as successful in social and business circles as the murderers and highwaymen are successful in their line of work. God forbid that through my fault of ours, a Judge will ever sentence one of our boys to hang for murder, or send him to prison for life, because we failed to give him a clean bill of love and the elevating influence of the Y. M. C. A.

Safety and Service

No community can advance along proper lines without adequate provisions for the growing boys. The Y. M. C. A. of today is a magnificent, adequate investment in “futures” that will never depreciate in value, nor will our city lag behind, once those things are produced. Our safety demands that we protect the best interests of those who are in the near future going to take things in their own hands. Give these thousands of boys something worth while—the Y. M. C. A., in a form that is commanding and worthy of their confidence and respect.

Y. M. C. A. Building Campaign
May 12th to \$50,000 Subscriptions Payable Over 2 Years. Headquarters—Masonic Temple

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Figure 7: Granite City Press Record May 4, 1928, Section 1, page 16

MADISON THEATRE
Third Street—Always a Good Show—Madison, Illinois,
10c and 25c

FRIDAY, MAY 4
"TUMBLING RIVER" with Tom Mix
NOVELTY and NEWS Comedy—"ON DECK"

SATURDAY, MAY 5
"LAND BEYOND THE LAW" with Ken Harwood
No. 1 "THE COLLEGIANS"
Comedy—"CURED IN THE EXCITEMENT"

SUNDAY, MAY 6
"WEST POINT" with WUIRSE Haines
Chapter No. 3 "BLAKE OF SCOTLAND YARD"
Comedy—"DICK'S A BOY"

MONDAY, MAY 7
"RINGED" with Blanche Sweet
NEWS Comedy—"TO MANY COOKIES"

Y M C A
Summer Memberships
Now Being Issued

RATE

Men \$4.00 and \$5.00
Women 1.00 and 2.00
Boys 1.00 to 2.50

According to Age

GOOD FOR THREE MONTHS FROM DATE

Swim at the "Y"

DIAMONDS
JEWELRY
WATCHES
CLOCKS
CUT GLASS
SILVERWARE
REPAIR WORK

Phone
Tri-City
929

PIANOS RECORDS

United States Department of the Interior
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Figure 8: St. Louis Star and Times, June 11, 1938, page 9

St. Louis Post Dispatch The St. Louis Star and Times (St. Louis, Missouri) · Sat, Jun 11, 1938 · Page 9
<https://stltoday.newspapers.com/image/205436262> Downloaded on Dec 31, 2016

SPECIAL REGISTRATION COUPON

Star - Times Learn-to-Swim Campaign

Boys and Girls Learn to Swim Free

The St. Louis Star-Times is co-operating with the pools listed below to give every boy and girl between the ages of 10 and 15 an opportunity to learn to swim FREE from expert instructors.

JUST FILL OUT THIS COUPON AND TAKE IT TO THE NEAREST ORGANIZATION TO GET YOUR ASSIGNMENT

<p>BOYS IN ST. LOUIS</p> <p>Carondelet Y. M. C. A.—Virginia and Loughborough Downtown Y. M. C. A.—Sixteenth and Locust South Side Y. M. C. A.—2232 S. Grand St. Leo Center—2331 Mullianphy</p> <p>GIRLS IN ST. LOUIS</p> <p>Y. W. C. A.—1411 Locust St. Leo Center—2331 Mullianphy Lorelei Pool—4325 Olive</p> <p>BOYS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY</p> <p>St. Louis County Y. M. C. A.—3 N. Meramec, Clayton Municipal Pool—University City Municipal Pool—Clayton White Mineral Springs Pool (See Girls' List)</p> <p>BOYS ON EAST SIDE</p> <p>Granite City Y. M. C. A.—Granite City, Ill. Bellevue Pool—Belleville, Ill.</p> <p>BOYS AND GIRLS IN WASHINGTON, MO.</p> <p>Washington Municipal Pool</p>	<p>Y. M. H. A.—724 Union Tower Grove Pool—3546 Junata Pine St. Y. M. C. A. (Negro boys)—Pine and Ewing</p> <p>GIRLS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY</p> <p>Tower Grove Pool—3546 Junata Wheatley Y. W. C. A. (Negro girls)—613 N. Garrison</p> <p>GIRLS ON EAST SIDE</p> <p>Granite City Y. M. C. A.—Granite City, Ill. Bellevue Pool—Belleville, Ill.</p> <p>BOYS AND GIRLS IN WOODRIVER, ILL.</p> <p>Woodriver Community Swimming Pool</p>
--	---

Name..... Age.....

Address.....

My boy (or girl) cannot swim. I hereby give my consent for my child to take these swimming lessons. My child is in good health.

Signed.....
Parent or Guardian.

FOR FREE SWIMMING LESSONS STARTING JUNE 18

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Figure 9: The Early Years, page 57



The Niedringhaus brothers planned this six-way intersection to be the hub of Granite City's business district. In his 1952 photo at the Niedringhaus, Edison, and 20th Street intersections, we see the problems of busy traffic, little parking space, and pedestrians getting across the street.

On the right is the YMCA building with the friendly USO sign welcoming soldiers. In the center of the photo, we see the former 1st Granite City Bank Building, occupied in 1952 by State Loan and Savings Association.

Across the street is the Insurance Agency of Jacob (Jake) Kolanger who started his business in Granite City in 1908. Next door is the busy Skelly Filling Station, selling res. batteries, and gas.

In the distance are the industries that helped make all this busy traffic in 1952.

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Figure 10: Granite City: A Pictorial History, page 174

The Granite City Young Men's Christian Association was organized among the industries of the city at a meeting at the plant of the Commonwealth Steel Company, August 1, 1916. In November, 1917, a city association was formed with F.W. Kottmeier as the first president. The activities from the very beginning were

Americanization work. Other activities were physical activities, night high school, baseball, vacation schools, young men's and young women's conferences and Hi-Y clubs of the Granite City High School were 66 teachers and leaders during the first year, 1,000 young people taking part.



Ground was broken for the Granite City YMCA building on August 1, 1924, at the corner of 20th and 1st Streets. The ground was donated by the Niedringhaus Trustees. Mr. Raut, General Secretary of the YMCA was present for the ceremony. Mr. Phil Stremmel of the Board of Directors, who had worked so hard for the YMCA, closed his speech by saying that the building would be a development for young people in physical, intellectual, moral, and social lines.

On May 11, 1925, construction was well on its way and Mayor F.E. Robertson expressed satisfaction that all contracts had been awarded to residents of Granite City.



The cornerstone was laid May 11, 1925. Over the years the YMCA has been home to many activities. At one time there was a bowling alley in the basement. Dances were held at the "Y" as well as being home to Macklyn Williams' dance studio. There were sleeping rooms available, which were closed in 1984, and this was the first time that the YMCA was no longer open 24 hours a day. There also was a recreation room and a USO room for the military. By updating its facilities, the "Y" continues to serve the community with fitness programs and after-school, latch-key activities.

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Figure 11: *Granite City: A Pictorial History*, page 175



The swimming pool has served for instructional and recreational swimming, including the water-babies program and infant therapy. Pictured are winners in the YMCA Swim mpics with their medals in 1964.



Basketball and volleyball leagues have used the gym and gymnastic classes have been conducted. Pictured are youngsters in a wrestling match in 1964, surrounded by on-lookers.



Honorable James J. Davis



Local teenagers could attend Teen Town on Friday nights and belong to Tri-Hi-Y clubs. Here, teens enjoy dancing and visiting at Teen Town in 1968.



The YMCA building was opened on Sunday, January 3, 1926, with the principal guest speaker being the Honorable James Davis, Secretary of Labor in President Coolidge's cabinet. One time he was a worker in the Rolling Mill of the National Smelting and Stamping Company. The program consisted of singing by the St. David's Choral Society and a solo by Mrs. Karl Howard, the president of the State Young Men's

Niedringhaus, chairman of the building committee, as well as Arthur Morey and Clarence Howard of the Commonwealth. In the dedication of the building, Mr. Davis said, "This building we dedicate today is more than a hard, material substance. It is a thought. One of the thoughts this building will inspire is, "Remember your God and serve Him by helping your fellowman, for this is the spirit of the YMCA."

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Figure 12: Tri-City YMCA Scrapbook, photo by C. L. Kayser, Commonwealth Steel Co.



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Figure 13: Tri-City YMCA Scrapbook, photo by C. L. Kayser, Commonwealth Steel Co.



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Figure 14: Tri-City YMCA Scrapbook, photo by C. L. Kayser, Commonwealth Steel Co.



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Figure 15: Tri-City YMCA Scrapbook, photo by C. L. Kayser, Commonwealth Steel Co.



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Figure 16: Tri-City YMCA Scrapbook



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Figure 17: Tri-City YMCA Scrapbook



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Figure 18: Tri-City YMCA Scrapbook



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Figure 19: Tri-City YMCA Scrapbook



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Figure 20: Tri-City YMCA Scrapbook



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Figure 21:1907 Fire Insurance Map from the Granite City Public Library



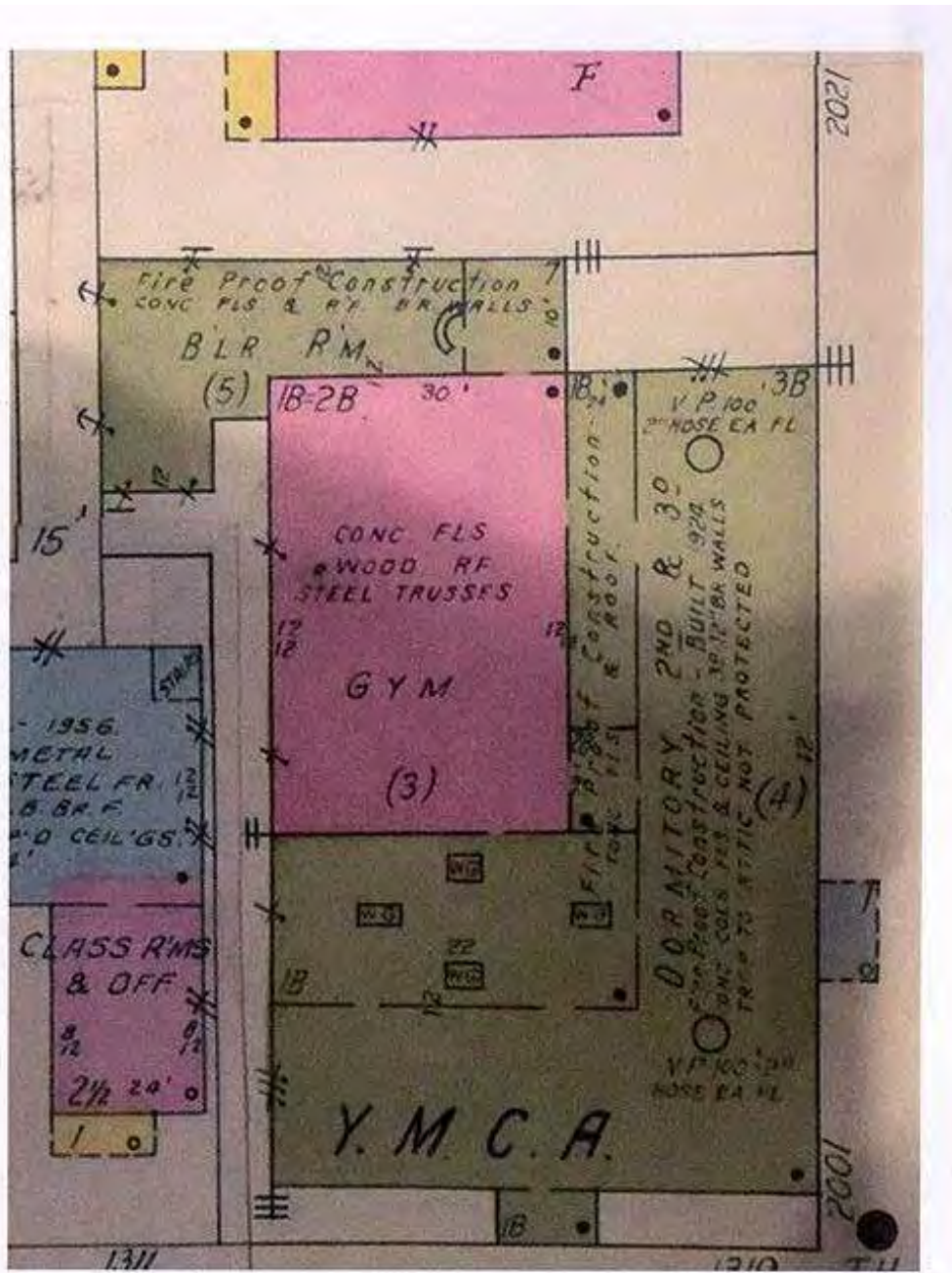
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Figure 22: 1907 Fire Insurance Map from the Granite City Public Library



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Figure 23: Street map with building marked



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Figure 24: Bing Map

bing maps

2001 Edison Ave, Granite City, IL 62040

38.70187, -90.14887



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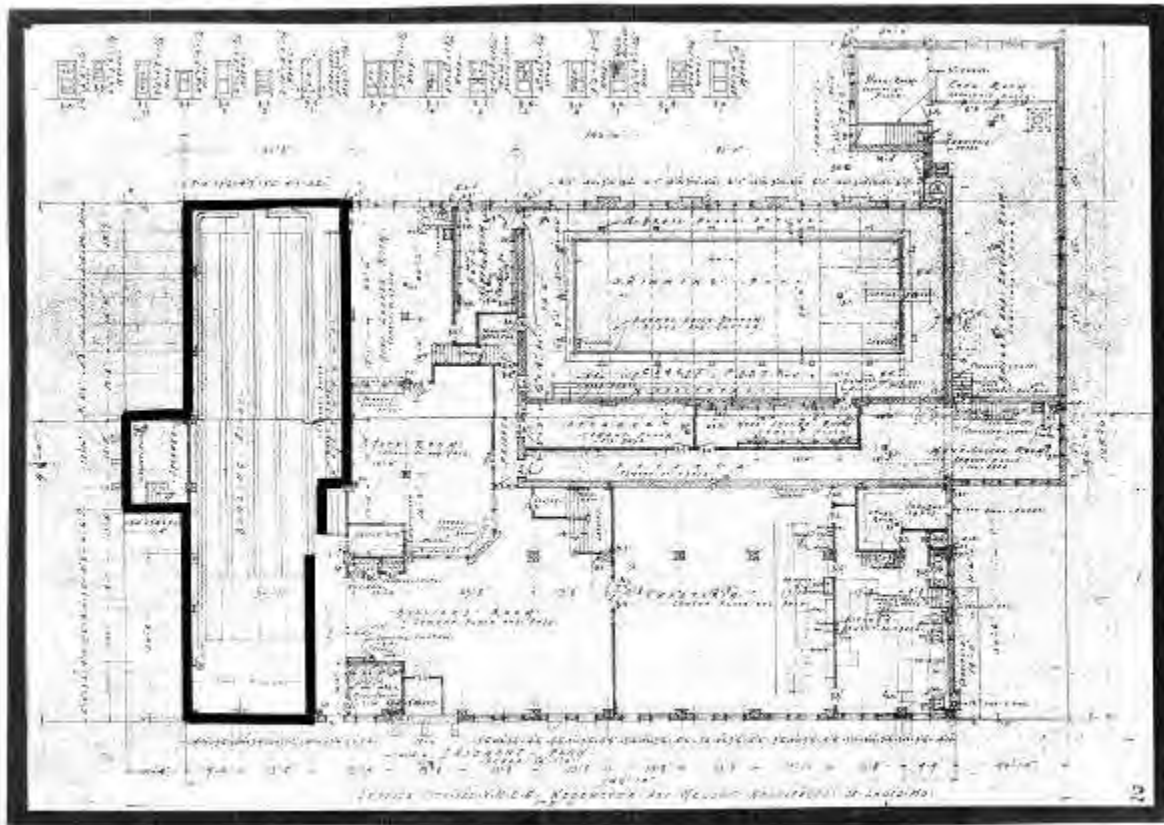
N/A

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Figure 25: Historic Floor Plans Showing Bowling Alley



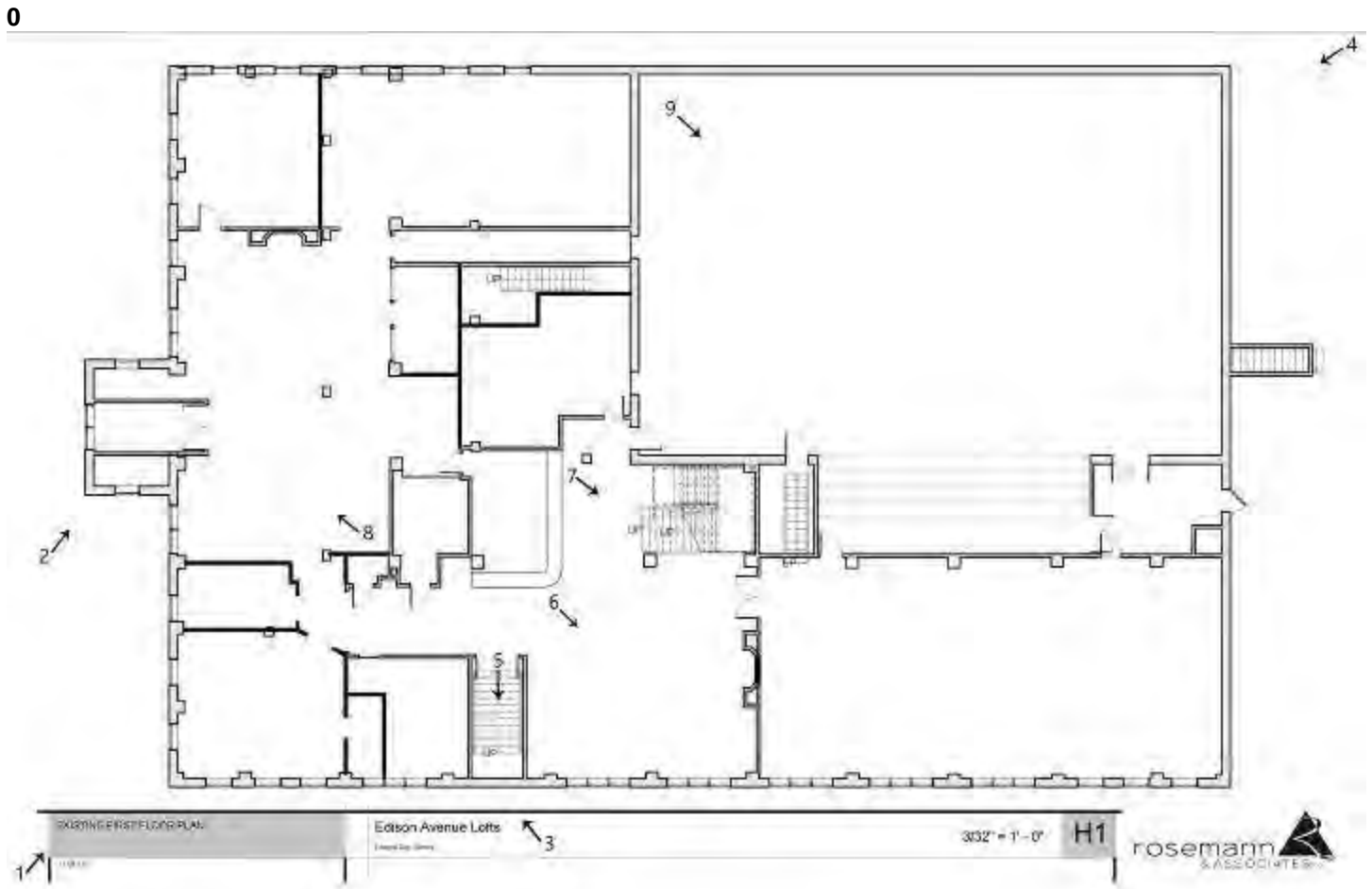
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Figure 26: Existing First Floor Plans with Photo Log, Courtesy of Rosemann & Associates, P. C.



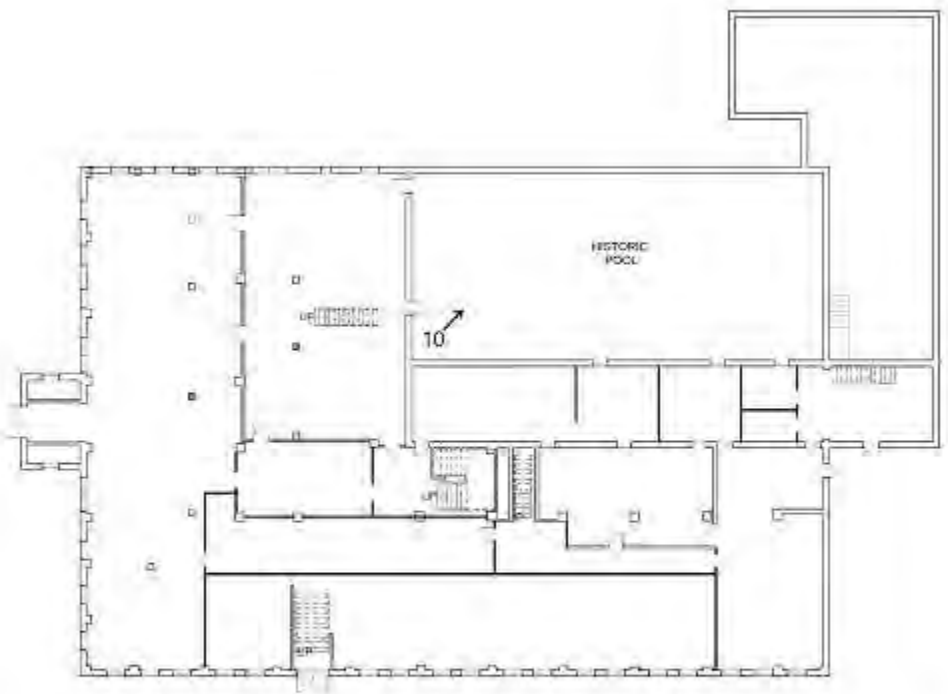
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Figure 27: Existing Basement Plans with Photo Log, Courtesy of Rosemann & Associates, P. C.



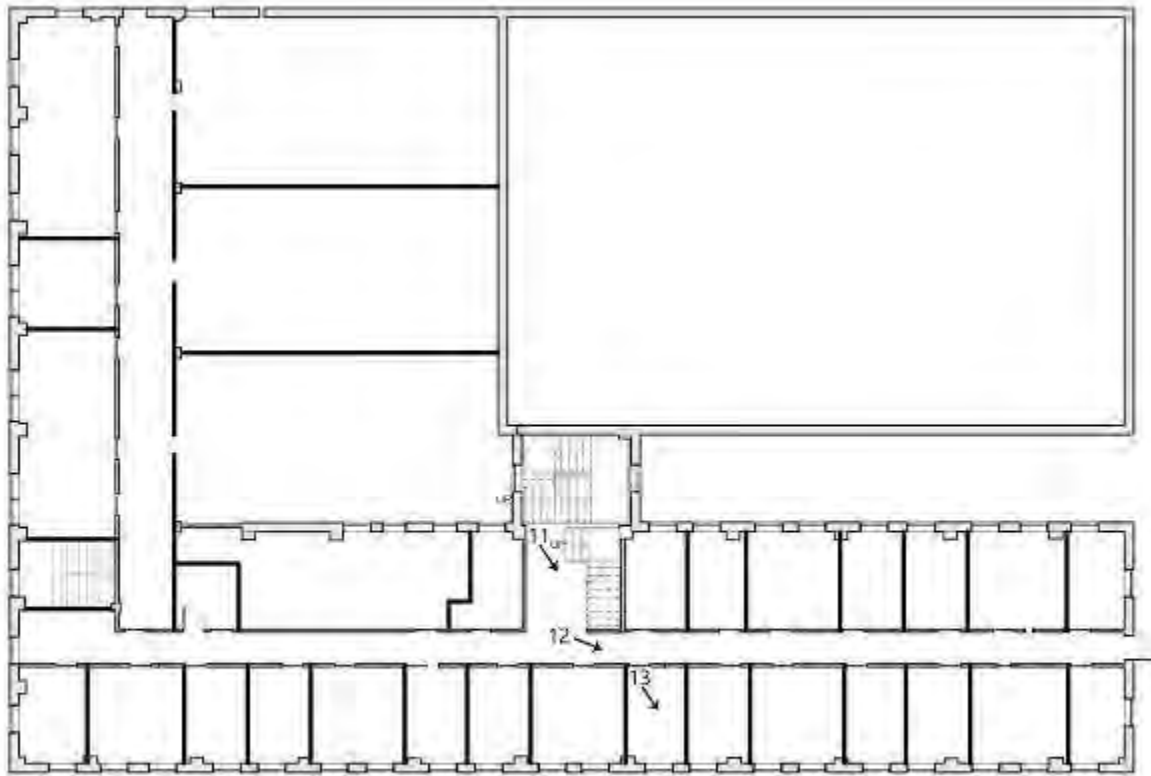
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Figure 28: Existing Second Floor Plans with Photo Log, Courtesy of Rosemann & Associates, P. C.



EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN	Edison Avenue Lobby	3/32" = 1'-0" H2	 rosemann & ASSOCIATES
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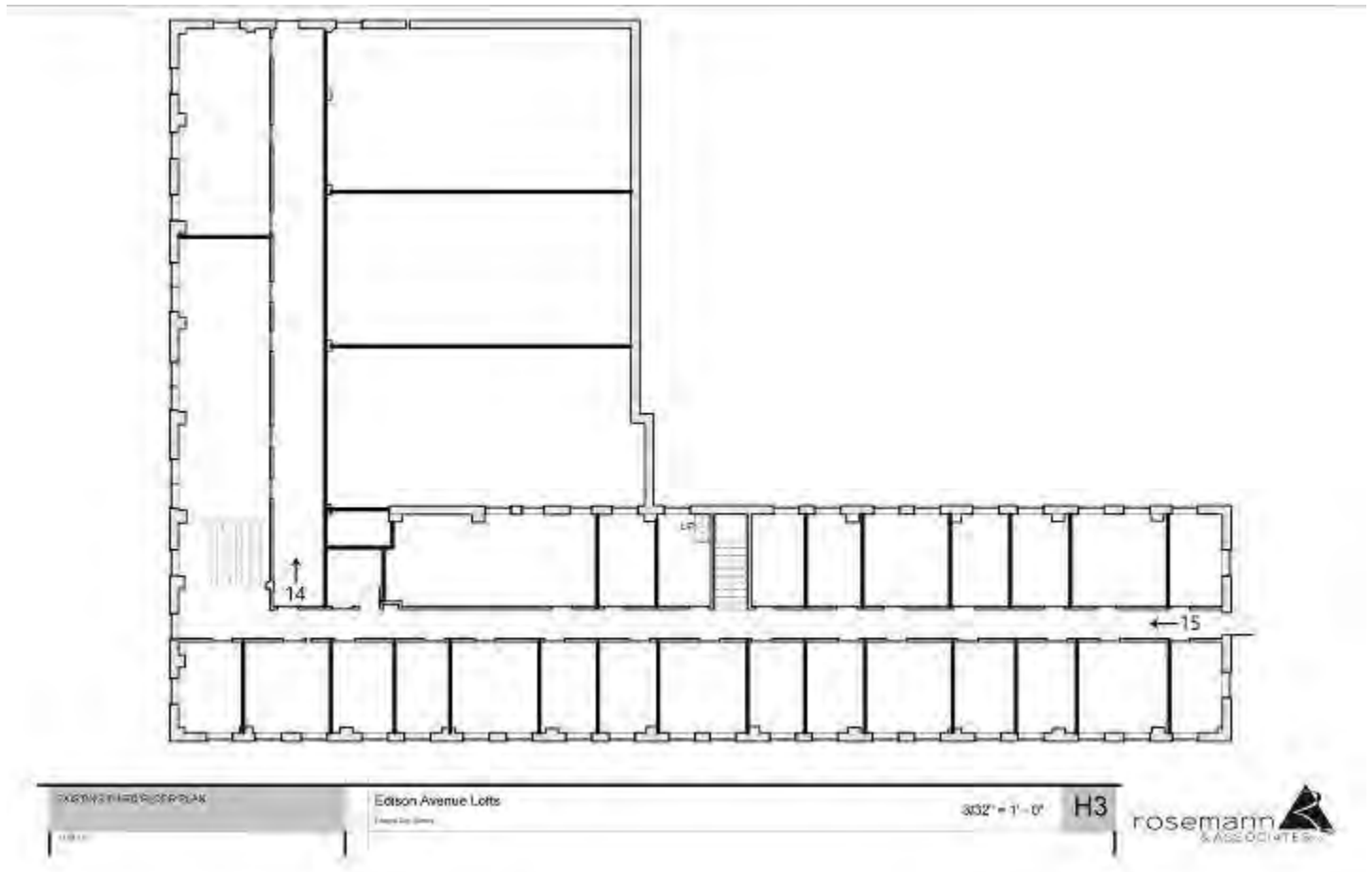
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Figure 29: Existing Third Floor Plans with Photo Log, Courtesy of Rosemann & Associates, P. C.





Land Use
Public Use



· Y · M · C · A ·















NO DIVING

DEEP END

4 FT

5 FT

6 FT

8 FT

WALK

7 FT

10

20

30

NO DIVING









11/10/10



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 7/21/2017 Date of Pending List: 8/16/2017 Date of 16th Day: 8/31/2017 Date of 45th Day: 9/5/2017 Date of Weekly List: 9/7/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 9/5/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



July 18, 2017

Ms. Barbara Wyatt
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

Enclosed are the disks that contain the true and correct copies of the National Register nominations recommended for nomination by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council at its June 30, 2017 meeting and signed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:

Covent Hotel, Chicago, Cook County
John Lothrop Motley School
Shoreline Apartments
Granite City YMCA, Granite City, Madison County
Zenas Aplington House, Polo, Ogle County
Frances E. Bryant House, Bement, Piatt County

Please contact me at 217/785-4324 if you need any additional information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Heckenkamp, Coordinator
Survey and National Register program
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

enclosures

1 Old State Capital Plaza
Springfield IL 62701

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