

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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: YWCA of Worcester

Other names/site number: YWCA of Central Massachusetts

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 2 YWCA Way

City or town: Worcester State: MA County: Worcester

Not For Publication:  NA

Vicinity:  NA

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Brona Simon</u>	<u>December 20, 2021</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>SHPO Date</b>
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

*Lisa Deline*

2/3/2022

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register           

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/civic  
DOMESTIC/institutional housing  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility  
            
            
            
          

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/civic  
DOMESTIC/institutional housing  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility  
EDUCATIONAL/school

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, CONCRETE

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The YWCA of Worcester is located in the heart of downtown Worcester's urban Theatre District, nestled between the Worcester Canal districts and City Square. The building was designed by the well-known Boston architectural firm of Kilham, Hopkins, Greeley & Brodie and was a cornerstone of a major urban renewal project in the 1960s. Three adjoining lots comprise the triangular site on which the building stands. Containing a total of 2.69 acres, the YWCA site is framed by Franklin Street, Francis McGrath Boulevard, and Library Way (see Figure 1 and attached assessors map). This section of the city is something of an institutional hub, with the public library directly adjacent to the YWCA (to the northwest) and city municipal offices and the city Common just beyond the library on the opposite side of Franklin Street. The setting is distinctly urban, with densely developed lots lying to the southwest and northwest of the YWCA. McGrath Boulevard sets the YWCA off from a mixed commercial/residential neighborhood to the southwest. The YWCA's principal entry faces west toward Library Way (Photo 1), while the functional "rear" of the building faces Franklin Street (Photo 2). Designed in the International Style and constructed in 1961, the YWCA building houses a gymnasium, pool, health and fitness spaces, administrative offices, classrooms, meeting space, a childcare facility, and 40 single resident housing units. The building's simple,

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clean, and functional aesthetic is characteristic of International Style design. Typical of its type, it is constructed of cast-in-place concrete (columns, floors) with a brick skin, cast-stone trim, and flat roofs. Alterations to the exterior have been minimal, most notably replacement of windows and some doors. The original footprint remains intact. The original character-defining exterior features are also intact, including the banded fenestration, horizontal composition, flat roofs, and masonry surfaces. Despite several renovations, the interior retains a high degree of integrity and significant amounts of historic fabric throughout the building, including sleek oak paneling, marble fireplace surrounds, staircases, and built-in cabinetry. The overall structure of the building is in very good condition, and its location, setting, design, materials, feeling, association, and workmanship have been consistent for more than 50 years.

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## Narrative Description

The YWCA building stands on the southeast portion of the site, with very little setback from Franklin Street and McGrath Boulevard. The site is relatively flat west of the building but the land slopes downward to a low point in the southeast corner of the property. Much of the western half of the site is occupied by a large paved parking lot with a single access point from Library Way (see Figure 1 and Photo 1). There is a small secondary paved service lot on the east side of the building, with access from Franklin Street (see Figure 1 and Photo 7). Landscaping is generally limited to the northern end of the site, where there are several small areas of grassy lawn and a few mature deciduous trees; there are also a few deciduous shade trees in scattered locations along the Franklin Street (east) elevation (Photo 2) and south elevation (Photo 4). Brick walls enclose a small garden/patio off the south end of the pool. (Photo 4). Poured concrete walkways run along the building and around the parking lot for access to the various building entries. A small fenced playground is located off the northeast corner of the building.

The building has an irregular footprint, made up of four rectangular blocks (all original to the building – see Figure 5) – a four-story administrative/residential main block, a two-story swimming pool wing, a two-story rear gymnasium wing, and a two-story rear service wing. The slope of the site is such that the ground level (basement) is fully exposed at the east elevation. All sections of the building are clad with red brick in a Flemish bond pattern, interspersed at regular intervals with clinker bricks (partially vitrified bricks, burnt under very high temperatures to achieve a misshapen appearance – visible in Photo 12). The rustic clinker bricks are in sharp contrast to the clean lines that characterize the overall design of the building. The texture and dark shades of the brick are further contrasted by smooth, stylized cast-stone detailing and trim. Each section of the building is enclosed by a flat roof. The administrative/residential wing is finished with rubber-membrane roofing material, while the remainder of the building has older ballasted roofing. Simple narrow cast-stone coping defines the roof edges; the cast-stone coping is now partially covered by added aluminum drip edging. Window openings throughout the building hold aluminum replacement windows from the 2020 rehabilitation. The replacement windows duplicate the appearance of the original steel windows,

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which were a combination of casement and awning windows. The dimensions of the masonry openings for the windows were not modified when the windows were replaced, so the original fenestration pattern remains. Renovations to the building have generally been undertaken in a sensitive manner, minimizing the loss of historic fabric. The building retains its historic integrity both inside and out.

#### *Administrative/Residential Main Block*

The administrative/residential wing (measuring approximately 173 feet by 37 feet) is visually organized into horizontal layers that reflect the use of interior spaces (Photo 5). The principal elevation (west) faces the main parking lot and has four exposed floors. The building's main entry is located at the south end of the first floor and consists of four-panel modern aluminum storefront-type infill from the 2020 rehabilitation (Photo 6). Similar glazed aluminum infill windows from the 2020 rehabilitation are located in the openings just to the south of the main entry. Historic photographs and drawings indicate that the original entry and adjoining windows to the south matched the configuration of the existing (see Figure 5 and attached original architectural drawings). North of the main entry at the first floor are four paired windows and a single-width window in the northernmost bay. These window openings are defined by slender vertical mullions of cast stone. The second floor is finished with a cast-stone skin and projects from the rest of the façade, creating a strong horizontal break between the more public first floor and the two upper residential floors. Slender vertical cast-stone mullions divide the second floor into 43 window bays. The nine evenly spaced window bays at the third and fourth floors are also grouped in pairs, with the exception of the northernmost bay, which holds single-width windows. Stylized cast-stone surrounds similar to those at the first-floor frame windows at the two upper floors, where verticality is emphasized by linking windows with spandrel panels and terminating window bays with a wide upper panel.

The projecting second floor wraps around to the north elevation of the administrative/residential wing, although it is void of fenestration (Photo 3). The north elevation is dominated by a four-story brick stair tower, with vertically joined windows similar to those of the principal façade. A single entry at the first floor of the stair tower holds a flush metal door (likely the original door from 1961).

The long east elevation of the administrative/residential wing has four exposed floor levels plus a partially exposed basement level (Photo 7). There are eight exposed window bays at this elevation, all framed with cast stone in the same manner as those at the third and fourth floors of the principal façade. The service wing of the building abuts the south end of the administrative/residential wing, covering the lower three levels of the two southernmost bays (partially visible in Photo 15). The administrative/residential wing terminates at the south end with a brick stair tower that rises a full story above the main block and features a single bay of windows at its center.

The south elevation of the administrative/residential wing is exposed at the third and fourth floors only (partially visible in Photo 1). Most of the wall surface is taken up by windows that are detailed in a similar manner to those at the second floor of the principal façade. Seven

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vertical cast-stone mullions divide the wall into six window bays. As is the case at other elevations, the verticality of the wall is emphasized by spandrel panels between the two floors and header panels.

### *Swimming Pool Wing*

The swimming pool wing (measuring approximately 92 feet by 62 feet) encloses a two-story space, as suggested by the vertical fenestration on its principal (west) elevation (Photo 8). The west elevation is dominated by ten tall, narrow window bays that are largely glazed. Historic photographs and drawings confirm that the existing glazing is consistent with the appearance of the original windows (see attached architectural drawings from 1961). Window bays are defined vertically by cast-stone molding and terminate at the top and bottom with cast-stone panels. A portion of the brick wall at the far north end of this elevation was painted with a mural in 2016.

The north elevation of the pool wing is a plain brick wall void of fenestration (just visible in Photo 5), while the south wall (Photo 4) features a band of sliding glazed aluminum doors (nine panels) that open onto a small enclosed patio/garden framed by a high brick wall (Photo 9). The existing doors are replacements from the 1990s; however, historic drawings confirm that these openings were originally glazed in a similar manner. A doorway at the west end of this elevation holds a flush metal door (likely the original door) and provides egress from the pool space.

### *Gymnasium Wing*

The gymnasium wing (measuring approximately 98 feet by 120 feet) is located in the southeast corner of the building, adjoining the swimming pool wing. Due to the sloping site, the gymnasium wing has three exposed levels at its east elevation and only two at the south elevation. The longer east elevation of the gymnasium faces Franklin Street and rises above an exposed-basement level of poured concrete (Photos 2 and 10). Two windows and two doors were added at the basement level as part of a renovation in 1998; there was no fenestration at the basement level prior to the 1998 renovation. Fenestration on the brick wall of the upper levels is consolidated in a wide central bay faced with cast stone. The central bay features an added entry door with a fully glazed sidelight; access to the door is by way of an added steel stair from the 1990s. Just south of the entry is a large fully glazed opening. The original architectural drawings indicate that there were formerly two side-by-side doorways with double doors in the location of the existing door and adjacent windows. Slender cast-stone mullions divide four tall original windows at the upper level; these appear to have been original openings.

The south elevation of the gymnasium faces a rear service alley and is not highly visible. The south wall has undergone a number of alterations (Photos 11 and 12) from its original design. When originally constructed, the building included a sun deck that was located at the second floor between the gymnasium and the pool, along the south wall of the building. The sun deck was enclosed with infill brick and a band of large aluminum-frame windows in the 1990s to create additional fitness space within the building (Photo 11). The infill brick is a close match

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to the surrounding original brickwork but it is noticeable nonetheless. The cast-stone panels beneath the infill are original features. Two original doorways at the first floor of this elevation were infilled with brick and a new entry with a concrete stoop was added near the center of the wall in the 1990s.

The north elevation of the gymnasium wing consists of a narrow brick wall with limited fenestration, at the basement level only (Photo 13). The wall originally featured a tripartite window with cast-stone surrounds, similar to those at other elevations. In the 1990s two of the windows were converted to an entrance with a full sidelight. The other window was replaced by a metal panel to accommodate mechanical equipment.

### *Service Wing*

The service wing (measuring approximately 68 feet by 38 feet) extends off the north side of the gymnasium wing and has three fully exposed floors, including the basement level (Photo 14). Its long north elevation is dominated by four window bays occupying the western two-thirds of the wall. Window detailing matches that of the adjacent administrative/residential block. At the base of the easternmost bay of windows is an entry holding glazed metal double doors. Another entrance at the west end of the elevation holds a glazed metal door. The original architectural drawings show the same type of glazed doors in these two entrances, although it is not known if the existing doors are the originals. At the far east end of this wall is an original wide garage opening with a recent overhead door (visible in Photo 14). The original drawings show a multi-paneled overhead door in this location. Brickwork at the western end of this elevation was painted with a mural in 2016, as was the east elevation of the service wing (Photo 14). Windows at the east elevation are limited to a single narrow bay at the north end of the wall. The cast-stone window surrounds match those of the north elevation. An original doorway at the south end of the east elevation holds a single glazed-metal door and full sidelight (original architectural drawings indicate this opening held double doors). A concrete stoop provides access to the entry.

### *Building Interior*

Despite several renovations, the interior of the building remains remarkably intact, both in terms of its layout and finishes. Typical of the International Style aesthetic, the interior architectural adornment is minimal, simple, and clean. The generous use of tall windows brings in abundant natural light. Interior walls with windows allow natural light to filter through to spaces at the center of the building. The centerpiece of the first-floor entry lobby is a “floating” staircase with terrazzo treads and polished stainless-steel railings (Photo 16). This stair hall and many other areas of the building feature sleek oak paneling and trim (as seen in Photos 15–17). Original flat-panel oak doors are also found throughout the building (as shown in Photos 20–22). Two of the common rooms on the administrative floors feature oak-paneled fireplaces with marble tile surrounds (Photo 17). Original fireplaces with characteristic Modernist styling also remain in the two common rooms of the residential floors. The original wall-mounted mailboxes remain in the entry lobby. The building was designed around the function and needs of the YWCA’s mission. The form and function of interior spaces has been adapted to meet the



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changing needs of the YWCAs clients, primarily women and children, over the past five decades.

Much of the basement level is currently occupied by the preschool spaces and outreach services space. While much of the basement level was reconfigured and renovated in the 1990s and again as part of the 2020 rehabilitation, the circulation pattern remains largely as it was originally. The basement level of the administrative/residential wing originally held a variety of storage, work, and activities rooms. The northern half was left unfinished for future development. This area was reconfigured in the 1990s to create a daycare facility and in 2020 as a preschool. The area beneath the gym originally held maintenance rooms and a large crawl space; the crawl space was excavated and the maintenance rooms were reconfigured to create preschool rooms in the 1990s and again as part of the 2020 rehabilitation project, to create the existing layout. The existing layout and finishes throughout the preschool area date to 2020. The area beneath the pool remains much as it was originally, with unfinished utilitarian work and storage spaces. The original garage in the service wing has changed very little as well.

The first floor of the administrative/residential wing holds the main entry lobby and administrative offices, while the second floor is a combination of administrative offices and classroom space. The entry lobby underwent minor reconfigurations in 1991 and 2020 (Photo 15). Rooms in the office/classroom areas at the first and second floors open off of a central double-loaded corridor (Photo 20). The first-floor rooms were reconfigured as part of the 2020 rehabilitation to create space for a daycare facility. Very little has been modified in the office and classroom spaces at the second floor, which remain largely in the original configuration.

The third and fourth floors of the administrative/residential wing are occupied by residential rooms that were designed for short-term single resident occupancy. There is a central double-loaded corridor at both floors. Each residential room has a closet but no other partitions (Photo 22). The layout of the residential floors is largely unchanged from the original 1961 construction. The central corridor remains in its original configuration and minor modifications were made to the layout of residential rooms as part of the 2020 rehabilitation. Both residential floors were originally designed with large common sitting rooms in the southwest corner. These rooms remain and have been updated over the years with the addition of kitchen facilities; today most finishes and fixtures date to 2020. There is a large common bathroom at the center of both floors, on the east side of the corridor. Bathrooms were enlarged and remodeled as part of the 2020 rehabilitation.

The pool area is a two-story space that has been altered very little (Photo 19). The only notable changes were the reconfiguration of the entries from the locker rooms and removing the observation gallery. A glazed wall was constructed across the former observation gallery opening and the floor area was incorporated into an adjacent fitness room in the 1990s. An original spiral stair to the mechanical rooms beneath the pool remains in the northwest corner of the space.

The gymnasium space remains much as it was originally (Photo 18). The space was designed with a stage at the south end, but the stage was replaced by fitness rooms as part of the

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1990s renovation. At the same time, a short corridor was added in the northwest corner of the gymnasium and a raised enclosed hallway was constructed along the west side, leading to a new stairwell that was constructed in the southwest corner of what was the original gym space.

When the building was originally constructed, there were two large locker rooms located between the pool and the gym. The locker rooms were reconfigured and completely renovated in the 1990s and again in 2020. The area between the pool and gym spaces at the second floor originally held offices and a recreation room; the area was reconfigured in the 1990s to create a fitness area; the space was again renovated in 2020.

The service wing originally housed a canteen and kitchen at the first floor, and a health room and program spaces at the second floor. Partitions at the first and second floors of the service wing were reconfigured over the years, most recently as part of the 2020 rehabilitation, so that the original layout is no longer evident. Finishes throughout date to 2020.

A certified rehabilitation project was undertaken by the YWCA in 2020 to update the facility and bring the systems up to code. Specific work undertaken is noted above.

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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.)

- 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation  
Architecture  
Social History: Women's History  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1961-1974  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1961  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Kilham, Hopkins, Greeley & Brodie  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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 YWCA of Worcester in Worcester, Massachusetts is significant on the local level and meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Social History: Women's History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Architecture. Under Criterion A in the area of Social History: Women's History, the building is significant for its association with the Young Women's Christian Association and that group's historic efforts to assist women in becoming independent and self-sufficient. The YWCA building in Worcester is a mixed-use facility built by a non-profit organization to provide critical services addressing key issues of the Postwar and Baby Boomer eras. Among the most crucial themes of this period was the struggle for equality among women and minorities. Since its inception in 1866, the YWCA has provided a safe and healthful environment, making it possible for countless women to work or pursue higher education. Also under Criterion A, the building is significant in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for providing a safe, affordable, and convenient facility for women to exercise and socialize for the past 60 years. Under Criterion C, the YWCA is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of a Mid-Century Modern institutional building. Designed by the prominent Boston architectural firm of Kilham, Hopkins, Greeley & Brodie, the YWCA of Worcester is a well-preserved example of an International Style institutional building from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Constructed in 1961, the building embodies distinctive characteristics of International Style design in its form, proportions, detailing, and materials. The use of poured-in-place concrete, horizontal forms, banded windows, sparse ornamentation, and geometric massing are all hallmarks of the International Style. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The period of significance extends from 1961 to 1974, beginning with the date of construction. Because the building continues to function in its original capacity, thus perpetuating its significance in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Social History, the ending date for the period of significance is 1974, the year when the maximum age limit for residents was raised from 30 to 59 to accommodate a broader demographic.

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

Background

*Worcester Historical Background*

After two unsuccessful attempts at settlement in the area now known as Worcester, a village was finally inhabited on a permanent basis around 1715 and the town was incorporated in 1722. Central Massachusetts, initially part of Middlesex County, had become sufficiently populated by 1730 to justify its own county government and courthouse. Worcester, being centrally located, was selected as the new county seat and a courthouse was established at

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Lincoln Square. Arrival of the court served to spur development in Worcester, so that by 1765 the town could boast 1,478 residents. During Worcester's first industrial boom (1829–1855), which was facilitated by advancements in transportation, development in all sectors increased (industrial, commercial, and residential). During this era of great prosperity, the population of Worcester expanded dramatically, from 2,577 in 1810 to 22,284 in 1855, and Worcester was incorporated as a city (1848). A second industrial boom following the Civil War resulted in a sharp rise in population, to 41,105 by 1870, and a significant increase in real estate values. Increasing numbers of immigrants flocked to Worcester in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to work in the growing industrial sector. Steady expansion within the city continued until the end of WWI, at which time there were over 187,000 residents, many of whom were foreign-born. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Worcester had reached its apex as a major manufacturing center. The surge of immigrant workers from Lithuania, Poland, Italy, Greece, Armenia, and other lands created an ethnic mosaic within the city. By providing housing, recreation, and social services, large-scale manufacturers attempted to promote loyalty, increase productivity, and maintain some degree of control over their workforce. A downturn in the economy during the Great Depression was reversed during World War II, which recharged the city's depression-ravaged industries. The recovery, however, was short-lived. By the 1960s, the city's industrial base was eroding and businesses were closing in response to global competition. The City of Worcester responded with its own planning initiatives to build a "new Worcester."<sup>1</sup> Local businessmen and municipal leaders rallied to reinvigorate the city's sagging economy with the goal of restoring Worcester to a business and transportation hub for central New England. The new YWCA of Worcester was erected in conjunction with the city movement to improve infrastructure and provide expanded services to residents during the 1960s.

### *YWCA History*

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the world's oldest and largest multicultural women's organization, has been providing support and empowerment for women for over 160 years. In a 1908 presidential address, Theodore Roosevelt stated that there was likely no philanthropic movement "in the country which better deserves the interest and support of our people than the movement for Young Women's Christian Associations."<sup>2</sup> The industrial revolution in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century impacted cities throughout the United States, bringing workers in unprecedented numbers to urban manufacturing centers, a large number of them being young females with little experience or contacts in their new communities. The YWCA was founded in England in 1855 with the goal of assisting single women who had come to London from rural areas to join the industrial workforce. The YWCA offered housing, education, and support in an inviting atmosphere. The movement quickly spread globally and by 1898, when the first world conference of the YWCA was held in London, there were YWCAs in seventeen countries. In 1858 the Ladies' Christian Association opened a boarding

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1 "Worcester's Industrial Heritage." Worcesterhistory.org

<http://www.worcesterhistory.org/worcesters-history/worcesters-industrial-heritage/> (accessed February 1, 2017).

2 Theodore Roosevelt, *Presidential Addresses and State Papers November 15, 1907 to November 26, 1908* Vol. VII (New York: The Review of Reviews Company, 1910), 1872.

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house for working women in New York City; this is considered by many historians to be the first YWCA in America, although the name was not actually used for a facility in this country until 1866 when the Boston YWCA was founded. By 1875 the number of YWCAs in the United States had grown to 28, most with the focus of providing housing. Although the YWCAs initially focused on providing housing and “all practical means for the increase of true piety,”<sup>3</sup> the organization evolved into a secular institution as its mission expanded to include social, educational, and advocacy programs for women of all backgrounds, religions, and ethnicities. In the 1870s the YWCA began offering typing and other classes to assist women in obtaining more advantageous jobs within the workforce. The social and health needs of the women were acknowledged, and YWCA facilities began to incorporate spaces for canteens, gymnasiums, and theaters. The founding principles of the YWCA were carried out through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, during which time the primary goal was to insulate woman from any negative moral and social influences of urban life. The 20<sup>th</sup> century brought about a profound shift in the YWCA mission. At the 1910 World YWCA conference in Berlin a resolution was passed compelling the organization to address social and industrial issues and educate working women regarding the “social measures and legislation enacted in their behalf.”<sup>4</sup> This expanded mission of greater social consciousness resulted in a new model for the YWCA, one that it maintains today. Through a variety of programs and services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, education, and recreation, the YWCA continues address the needs of women and families. According to The Social Welfare History Project of Virginia Commonwealth University, the YWCA currently has more than 25 million members in 122 countries worldwide, including 300 associated facilities in the United States. While the YWCA served a similar function as its male counterpart, the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA), the two organizations have always functioned independently of one another.

### Criterion A – Social History: Women’s History and Entertainment/Recreation

The YWCA of Worcester was founded in 1885 by a group of fourteen women to promote “the temporal, moral and religious welfare of women, especially young women who are dependent on their own exertions for support.”<sup>5</sup> Initially, the YWCA of Worcester rented space in the Commerce Building at 340 Main Street (extant) to accommodate its activities. There, a physical culture instructor taught the “art of standing, walking and sitting in a hygienic position and muscle exercises.”<sup>6</sup> Meals were served and women could visit the onsite reading room. The YWCA quickly outgrew their space at the Commerce Building and purchased the former Upham Estate on the corner of High and Chatham Streets in 1889 as the site for a new building, which was under construction by 1892 (no longer extant). The new facility provided housing for 60 “wage-earning girls” on the upper floors and a library, reading room, reception rooms, and

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3 Elaine Finbury, National Register nomination for YWCA Boston, January 2004, Section 8, p. 2.

4 Ibid.

5 From Articles of Incorporation for Young Women’s Christian Association of Worcester. In collection of YWCA-Central Massachusetts.

6 “Our History,” <https://ywcacm.org/about/our-history/> (accessed January 9, 2020).

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an auditorium at the lower levels.<sup>7</sup> The building also included a restaurant where volunteers served more than 10,000 people in its cafeteria over a five-month period. Residence rates were \$3.50 to \$5.50 per week for room, board, and ten pieces of laundry. By 1898 the YWCA building housed 67 residents. In the early 1900s, the YWCA of Worcester began offering gymnastics classes to women and girls and maintained branch libraries in local industries, such as Sherman Envelope Factory and the Royal Worcester Corset Company.

The YWCA was not the first charitable organization to provide housing for local women. The demand for housing in Worcester sharply increased after the Civil War when industrialization drew large numbers of working-class immigrants, many of them women, to the city. The increase in population brought with it the need for safe, affordable housing and social services. The Washburn Home for Aged Women was established in 1869 to accommodate elderly women, eventually occupying the building at 1183 Main Street (WOR.1353), where they operated an infirmary in addition to providing housing. Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the housing provided by the YWCA for local working women was supplemented by St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church in a dwelling at their parish complex (no longer extant) beginning in 1895. Eventually known as St. Joseph's Home for Working Girls, the organization erected a boarding house at 52 High Street (WOR.2042; NR 2021) in the 1920s. In addition to housing, St. Joseph's Home offered informal instruction for women, such as sewing and cooking classes.

There were also several charitable organizations in Worcester providing assistance and housing to men in need. The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was established in 1887 (WOR.1195; demolished), followed by the Odd Fellows Home in 1892 (WOR.137; NR 1980), and the Home for Aged Men in 1918. As was the case with the YWCA, the YMCA offered expanded services beyond housing, including fitness and social programs.

More than 1,100 women were enrolled in YWCA classes and programs of all types by 1914. In 1915 a three-story building (now known as the Education Building) was erected on the Chatham Street site to accommodate the growing demand for expanded programs, with a swimming pool, gymnasium, bowling alleys, and various classrooms. A large six-story Administration Building was constructed on the site in 1926, adjoining the two earlier buildings, and being interconnected to the Education Building. The exact layout of spaces within the Administration Building is not known but, as the name suggests, it likely held office space for YWCA personnel. One report refers to it as an "activities" building, indicating space for meetings and classes. Although the original residential building was demolished in 1963, the Education Building of 1915 and adjoining 1926 Administration Building remain on the site (WOR.2410; NR pending).

The YWCA's Chatham Street facility proved adequate through the period of the Great Depression, but WWII brought radical change in the role of women. Women were seen as stay-at-home mothers before World War II, when the stereotypical American family had the father who brought home the paycheck and the mother who raised their children. This changed during

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<sup>7</sup> Ryan Cameron, National Register Nomination for the Worcester County Young Women's Christian Association (draft nomination 7/12/21).



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WWII when a revolution in the workforce was seen. The numbers of women working outside the home rose exponentially. Gender roles had changed in the modern world; women made a huge impact on the war efforts. Women sought job training from the YWCA. Those who were single working women or students found safe and economical housing at the YWCA in Worcester. The YWCA residences were purposely planned for these young working girls away from home for the first time. In 1955, 188 permanent residents and 1,038 transients were housed by the YWCA in Worcester, confirming the critical need filled by the YWCA residential units.

However, the YWCA's ability to fill the housing, health, and development needs of young women in the area was hampered by the size, location, and condition of its Chatham Street facility. The YWCA commissioned a building assessment, which determined that the present plant was inefficient and inadequate, and that the cost of remodeling could not be justified.

At the same time, the City of Worcester was focused on downtown revitalization and the Worcester Redevelopment Authority had adopted the *Land Assembly and Redevelopment Plan – New Salem Street Project Area in Downtown Worcester, Massachusetts* in 1953, whereby approximately 23 acres of land adjacent to the Worcester Common in the heart of the downtown was to be acquired via eminent domain and cleared of existing buildings for the purpose of eliminating and preventing the recurrence of substandard and blighted conditions there. The New Salem Urban Renewal Project resulted in a new street layout, provided land for new commercial development and parking, and assisted in the development of the Worcester Public Library on the site. The site was attractive to the YWCA for its central location, affordability, and availability of parking facilities. The most important need for the YWCA was a location that gave young working girls the ability to walk to work from the residence and that provided them with a central meeting place within one bus fare. In 1961 the YWCA purchased one of the eight building lots that were established as part of the New Salem Street redevelopment project, Lot 6, which amounted to 103,889 square feet of land.

Groundbreaking for the new facility at One Salem Square took place on May 17, 1961, with substantial completion for occupancy in October of the following year. The new building enabled the YWCA to provide a wide range of services, including housing, education and training, social clubs and activities, health and fitness programs, and social advocacy in an environment that was welcoming and comfortable to girls, women, and children of all races and religions. Its mission and services for women were unparalleled in Worcester.

Two upper floors of the main block were devoted to single and double-occupancy residential rooms, providing a total of 44 rooms. Each floor had a common kitchen and adjoining lounge for use by the residents, along with a large common bathroom. According to a YWCA brochure from 1962 the residential rooms were intended to accommodate "employed girls and students" ages eighteen through thirty, "who enjoy group living and want the conveniences of downtown Worcester." The residential rooms have always been in high demand and have historically been near capacity or fully occupied at any given time. In 1971, for example, the rooms were at 95% capacity. Data from 1974 reports that there were 61 beds available – 50 for permanent residents and 11 for transients. At the time there were 47 residents,

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among them students, waitresses, nurses aides, factory workers, and teachers. In that year the maximum age limit for residents was raised from 30 to 59 to accommodate a broader demographic.

Among the programs offered at the YWCA of Worcester in the early 1960s were fitness classes, including swimming for boys and girls up to eight years old, swimming classes for girls eight and older, weekend activity camps for girls six to twelve, girls' gymnastic classes, clubs for teenage girls, and women's fitness, dance, and swim classes. The YWCA also sponsored arts and crafts classes. The facility included childcare in the mornings for women participating in YWCA activities. Co-ed classes in arts, dancing, and fitness were offered in the evenings. Finally, they sponsored several clubs for women, including swimming, a single-parent group, and social, weight loss, service, and writing clubs. In 1970 alone there were eight active clubs for teens, three of which were coed. The YMCA in Worcester offered similar services for men, including housing, recreation, and social programs. Men were accepted as fitness members to the YWCA in 1955. The YWCA continues to offer a wide variety of fitness and recreational programs for men and women.

The YWCA of Worcester has long been active in promoting racial equality and assisting minority women. As early as the 1930s the YWCA provided opportunities for young Black women to advance in the business world. In 1934 the Business & Professional Girls Department reported that they were actively working to assist Black girls in planning for their future. The following year the Monday Night Club was established to promote training Black girls for careers in business. In 1939 the Negro Women's Club (later the Women's Service Club) was founded to focus on the education of Black children, establishing a scholarship fund. Records of the YWCA board report numerous programs and initiatives from 1940 onward that were intended to address racial inequality. For example, in 1966 the YWCA of Worcester participated in a national undertaking called "Project Equality" to assure equality of opportunity for Black and other minority women. In 1971 the Puerto Rican Power group was established to assist Spanish-speaking youths through leadership development, education, culture, and art. The YWCA continues to actively advocate for racial and gender equality through a number of programs and workshops focusing on awareness and education.

The 1960s was a decade of social and political change throughout America. The Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement, and a new wave of feminism challenged the conservatism of the 1950s. The YWCA responded with a number of programs aimed at empowering women and achieving gender equality. In 1965 the Public Affairs Committee was formed to address issues impacting girls and women, including race relations, family relocation, improving conditions for domestic employees, and working to repeal restrictive laws on birth control. Among the numerous initiatives promulgated by the YWCA in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century was a summer program for young mothers, ages 12 to 15, which was initiated in 1968. By 1969 the YWCA was offering job coaching for women trying to enter the workforce. In 1973 a rape crisis hotline was set up. Health education classes were taught for women in the early 1970s. Sewing classes were offered to incarcerated women in 1974.

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Childcare demand increased significantly between the 1960s and the 1980s due to the growing prevalence of dual-earner families and one-parent families with an employed head of household. The YWCA stepped in to fill the burgeoning demand for quality, affordable childcare in the Worcester area. Childcare hours and facilities were expanded in the 1960s and in 1973 an infant care program was added, making it easier for mothers to return to the workforce.

### Worcester YWCA after the Period of Significance

Programs accommodating the needs of residents and the community continued to function and develop after the period of significance. A mentoring program for disabled girls and women was established in 1989. By 1993 the YWCA also offered programs for women in recovery and victims of domestic violence. This is by no means a complete list of the programs and initiatives promoted by the YWCA but it demonstrates the breadth of issues they were committed to addressing.

The number and ages of children accommodated in the YWCA childcare program increased significantly between 1975 and 2000, serving infants through preschool children, so that by 2015 there were 310 children in the childcare program. The YWCA summer camps provided another opportunity for supervised childcare. Throughout the years, the YWCA operated camps at their Worcester location and at several sites in more rural areas of central Massachusetts. As early as 1896 the YWCA was operating a summer camp in Princeton. Camp Wind-In-The-Pines in Leicester was established in 1973 and remains a popular summer program for children. Today the YWCA provides childcare and preschool for roughly 250 children each day.

More than 50 years after its initial construction, the YWCA of Worcester continues to serve as the regional headquarters of the YWCA in the Worcester area. Known as the YWCA-Central Massachusetts since 1993, the organization continues its mission of providing support for women of all ages, faiths, and races. More recently, emphasis has expanded to include increased focus on women's physical activity and exercise, youth outreach, and domestic violence services. Today the YWCA continues to adapt to the needs of the community. In addition to the long-standing services of housing, recreation, education, and childcare, the YWCA continues to expand programs for mentoring, domestic violence, and racial/gender equality. Similarly, the two other institutions that have historically focused on the care of women in Worcester have evolved to address current needs. The Washburn Home for Aged Women, now Washburn House, treats men and women with addiction issues. St. Joseph's Home for Working Girls, now Abby's House, continues to provide affordable housing for women and their children.

YWCA participation numbers have fluctuated over the years but remained high throughout its history. By 1975 more than 8,000 individuals were served by the YWCA in the various fitness, childcare, and social programs offered by the YWCA. That number dipped to

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6,072 by 1994, at which time there were 146 people employed full and part time by the YWCA in Worcester. Over 5,000 people participated in YWCA programs in 2018. Today the YWCA of Worcester continues to expand and modify programming to serve the needs of the community and remains an important facility for education, health and wellness, advocacy, and social interaction.

In 2020 a certified rehabilitation project was completed for the YWCA of Worcester. Little change was made to the building layout but all fixtures and finishes were updated and the mechanical systems were brought up to current building code requirements. The exterior was improved with new windows to match the appearance of the originals.

### Criterion C – Architecture

The YWCA of Worcester is significant as a well-preserved example of an International Style institutional building from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The International Style has its roots in the 1920s when it emerged as the result of four principal factors:

“(1) Increasing dissatisfaction with building designs that incorporated a mixture of decorative features from different architectural periods, especially where the resulting design bore little or no relation to the function of the building; (2) The need to build large numbers of commercial and civic buildings that served a rapidly industrializing society; (3) The successful development of new construction techniques involving the use of steel, reinforced concrete, and glass; and (4) A strong desire to create a "modern" style of architecture for "modern man.”<sup>8</sup>

Thus was born a functional, utilitarian, and economical architectural style that expressed an honesty not previously achieved in traditional architecture. Technology had a profound influence on the form this new style would take. Traditional brick and stone building techniques had been rendered obsolete with the emerging availability of affordable iron and steel and the development of steel skeleton structure in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The use of plastics, aluminum, and concrete had become more prevalent as the result of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century wartime shortages of more traditional building materials such as wood, rubber, steel, and iron. Steel-reinforced concrete floors and secondary structural elements were being used more commonly in the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as were large expanses of exterior glazing. The resulting architectural form was one of rectilinear forms, planar surfaces lacking applied ornamentation, and open interior spaces. While façades were balanced, strict symmetry was avoided. An overall horizontality in design was emphasized by bands of windows, flat roofs, and cantilevered elements that gave the sense of floors being stacked one upon the other like blocks. Utilitarian building components, such as stair towers and elevator shafts, were often highly visible and

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<sup>8</sup> American Architecture Series, “International Style of Modern Architecture”  
<http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/architecture/international-style.htm> (accessed February 24, 2017).

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incorporated as design elements. The International Style was well suited to institutional and municipal buildings, making them cost-effective and easily enlarged. It is no surprise that numerous YWCA chapters settled on the International Style when constructing new facilities in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, including those in Boston, Toledo, Philadelphia, Vancouver, and Salem (Oregon) to name just a few. The style was particularly advantageous after World War II, when there occurred a surge in growth and development in cities throughout the United States and large-scale urban development projects were undertaken at a rapid pace.

The YWCA of Worcester embodies the distinctive characteristics of the International Style, as expressed in its massing, construction method, materials, and sparse detailing. The irregular footprint is created by an assemblage of rectilinear blocks of varying sizes, one of which encloses the rear stair tower and serves as a major design element, rising above the roofline of the main block. The functional designs of the Modernist movement allowed organizations like YWCA to adapt to changing times and needs. The design was modular so that it could be built up, rather than out if needed (although expansion was never undertaken at the Worcester facility). The cantilevered second floor of the main block of the YWCA in Worcester, along with its band of windows, emphasizes the horizontality of the building. The flat roofs with very shallow cast-stone coping further serve to accentuate the horizontal design. Instead of heavy applied ornament on the exterior walls, elevations are enlivened by flat concrete window surrounds that contrast with the darker rusticated brick and highlight the large expanses of windows. The functional quality of the style is carried over to the interior treatments as well. Rather than employing the more traditional applied ornamentation, the architects designed clean open spaces highlighted by flat oak paneling covering large wall surfaces, flush marble fireplace surrounds, and glazed walls. The main lobby features a floating stair with cantilevered granite treads and sleek stainless-steel balustrade.

The design of the YWCA of Worcester is consistent with other institutional buildings constructed in the city around the same time. These structures share many of the same features found at the YWCA, including the use of brick walls with simple concrete surrounds defining the window bays, a sense of horizontality created by fenestration, massing with distinct blocks that emphasize the various internal functions. Examples include the Temple Beth Israel (17 Jamesbury Drive – 1958) and several buildings at the former Worcester State Hospital (Hospital Drive – NR 1980), including the Bryan Building (1955 – WOR.272) and the New Laundry Building (1962 – WOR.274). The International Style was well suited to institutional buildings for its versatility and affordable construction and was utilized at several local campuses in the 1950s and 1960s. Although Colonial Revival-style brick buildings continued to be constructed through the 1950s, the International Style became more prominent in the 1960s. Notable examples include Hogan Hall (1967 – WorOR.2018) at College of the Holy Cross, and Daniels Hall (1963 – WOR.2271) and Goddard Hall (1965 – WOR.2272) at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The Worcester Public Library (1964) was constructed just to the west of the YWCA as part of the mid-century redevelopment of Salem Square. The design of the library, however, is more consistent with the Brutalist style. It is constructed entirely of concrete, with narrow deep-set windows. Similarly, the Gordon Library at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (1966 – WOR.2268) features a significant amount of concrete and narrow recessed windows.

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The International Style influence can be seen throughout downtown Worcester, as many earlier buildings were updated and “modernized” in the mid-twentieth century. The façade of the 1882 Denholm Building (484–500 Main Street) was reconstructed in the 1950s with alternating bands of windows and concrete panels, providing a very sleek edifice for the department store that occupied the building. The large 1955 annex to the 1840s Worcester County Courthouse (WOR.374; NR 1980; NR for 1955 annex pending) is another good example of the International style, with its banded windows, flat roof, and sparse ornamentation. In this case, the exterior is finished with gray bricks and concrete to blend with the original granite structure.

The YWCA of Worcester was designed by the prominent Boston architectural firm of Kilham, Hopkins, Greeley & Brodie. (Original drawings are located in the YWCAs record collection in the building.) According to YWCA meeting minutes, the firm was selected for the YWCA of Worcester commission as the result of their experience in the areas of low-cost housing, educational architecture, and community buildings. The firm had also demonstrated a practical understanding of the principals of the International Style, having designed a number of buildings in that vocabulary during the 1940s and 1950s, among them a large YWCA dormitory building in Boston (standing at 40 Berkeley Street – 1951 design). The YWCA records reveal that William Greeley engaged directly with YWCA in the design and development of the building at One Salem Square; Kilham and Hopkins predeceased the project.

Kilham and Hopkins founded the firm of Kilham & Hopkins in 1901. During the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the firm became well known for designing public schools, urban apartment buildings, and private homes for Boston’s upper middle class. They also designed a number of residential developments of reform housing using various revival styles, a vocabulary they most commonly employed. Walter Kilham (1868–1948) attended the architectural program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), graduating in 1889. James Cleveland Hopkins (1873–1938) graduated from the MIT architecture program in 1896. William Roger Greeley (1881–1966), an architect and planner, joined Kilham and Hopkins in 1916. A member of the Massachusetts Civic League's state housing committee and a progressive reformer, Greeley was an important addition to the firm and published several articles on architectural practice and housing reform before becoming a partner in 1925. Walter S. Brodie (1911–1985) joined the firm in 1945. After 1945 the firm increasingly designed buildings, particularly public buildings, in a more Modern vocabulary, including commissions in Massachusetts for Hasbrouck Hall at the University of Massachusetts (1947; AMH.1167) and the Johnson Elementary School in Natick (1949; NAT.357). It is not known if this was the result of Brodie’s influence or if the firm was simply responding to the demand for more functional affordable construction. The firm produced a number of fine International Style designs in the 1950s and 1960s, many for municipal commissions in Massachusetts, including Amesbury High School (1969 – extant), Braintree Public Library (1954 – demolished), Dedham Town Hall (1962 – demolished), Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School (1963 – extant), and North Middlesex Regional High School (1961 – demolished). The design of the YWCA of Worcester is typical of the work of Kilham, Hopkins, Greeley & Brodie. The firm’s designs for their 1960s buildings (noted above) are consistent with the YWCA design. Brick served as the

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principal construction material, simple concrete trim highlighted the window openings, horizontality was emphasized through the use of low rectilinear massing and windows were generously glazed. Massing was arranged with distinct blocks of varying sizes that distinguished the various internal uses.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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<http://www.worcesterhistory.org/worcesters-history/worcesters-industrial-heritage/> (accessed February 1, 2017)

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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):** WOR.3181

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2.69 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

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

1. Latitude: 42.260085 Longitude: -71.798866

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

The nominated building and associated land occupy Worcester city lots 05-002-00001, 05-002-00002 and 05-002-00003. Boundaries are on delineated on attached city assessors map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register boundaries were drawn to include all land currently associated with the YWCA of Worcester. Three adjoining lots comprise the triangular site on which the building stands, and contain a total of 2.69 acres. The lot on which the building stands was acquired by the YWCA in 1961. The other two lots were purchased by the YWCA in 1986 and are used as a parking lot.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Christine Beard, Preservation Consultant, Essex Preservation Consulting and Carol Stolicny, Project Fellow for YWCA, with Ben Haley, National Register Assistant, and Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director  
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city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125  
e-mail betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us  
telephone: 617 727 8470  
date: January 2020

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, 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: YWCA of Worcester

City or Vicinity: Worcester

County: Worcester State: MA

Photographer: Christine Beard

Date Photographed: March 10, 2021

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

- 1 of 22 View northeast showing principal façade (southwest elevation)
- 2 of 22 View southwest showing rear (northeast) elevation
- 3 of 22 View southeast showing northwest elevation
- 4 of 22 View northeast showing southeast elevation
- 5 of 22 View northeast showing façade (southwest elevation) – detail of administrative/residential wing
- 6 of 22 View northeast showing façade (southwest elevation) – detail of main entry
- 7 of 22 View southwest showing rear (northeast) elevation – detail of administrative/residential wing
- 8 of 22 View northeast showing façade (southwest elevation) – detail of pool wing
- 9 of 22 View northeast showing southeast elevation – detail of pool wing
- 10 of 22 View south showing rear (northeast) elevation – detail of gymnasium wing
- 11 of 22 View northeast showing southeast elevation – detail of gymnasium wing
- 12 of 22 View northwest showing southeast elevation – entry to gymnasium wing
- 13 of 22 View southeast showing northwest elevation of gymnasium wing
- 14 of 22 View southwest showing northwest elevation of service wing
- 15 of 22 First Floor – view west in entry lobby
- 16 of 22 First Floor – view south showing historic stair in main lobby
- 17 of 22 First Floor – view southwest in meeting room off main lobby
- 18 of 22 First Floor – view southwest in gymnasium

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- 19 of 22 First Floor – view northwest in pool wing
- 20 of 22 Second Floor – view northwest in corridor of administrative/residential wing
- 21 of 22 Third Floor – view southeast in elevator lobby
- 22 of 22 Third Floor – view southwest in typical residential room along northeast wall

### Figure List

- Figure 1 of 6 Sketch Map/Exterior Photo Key
- Figure 2 of 6 Photo Key – First Floor
- Figure 3 of 6 Photo Key – Second Floor
- Figure 4 of 6 Photo Key – Third Floor
- Figure 5 of 6 Aerial Photograph//Building Key
- Figure 6 of 6 Circa 1961 Photograph of YWCA of Worcester

**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.

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**Figures**

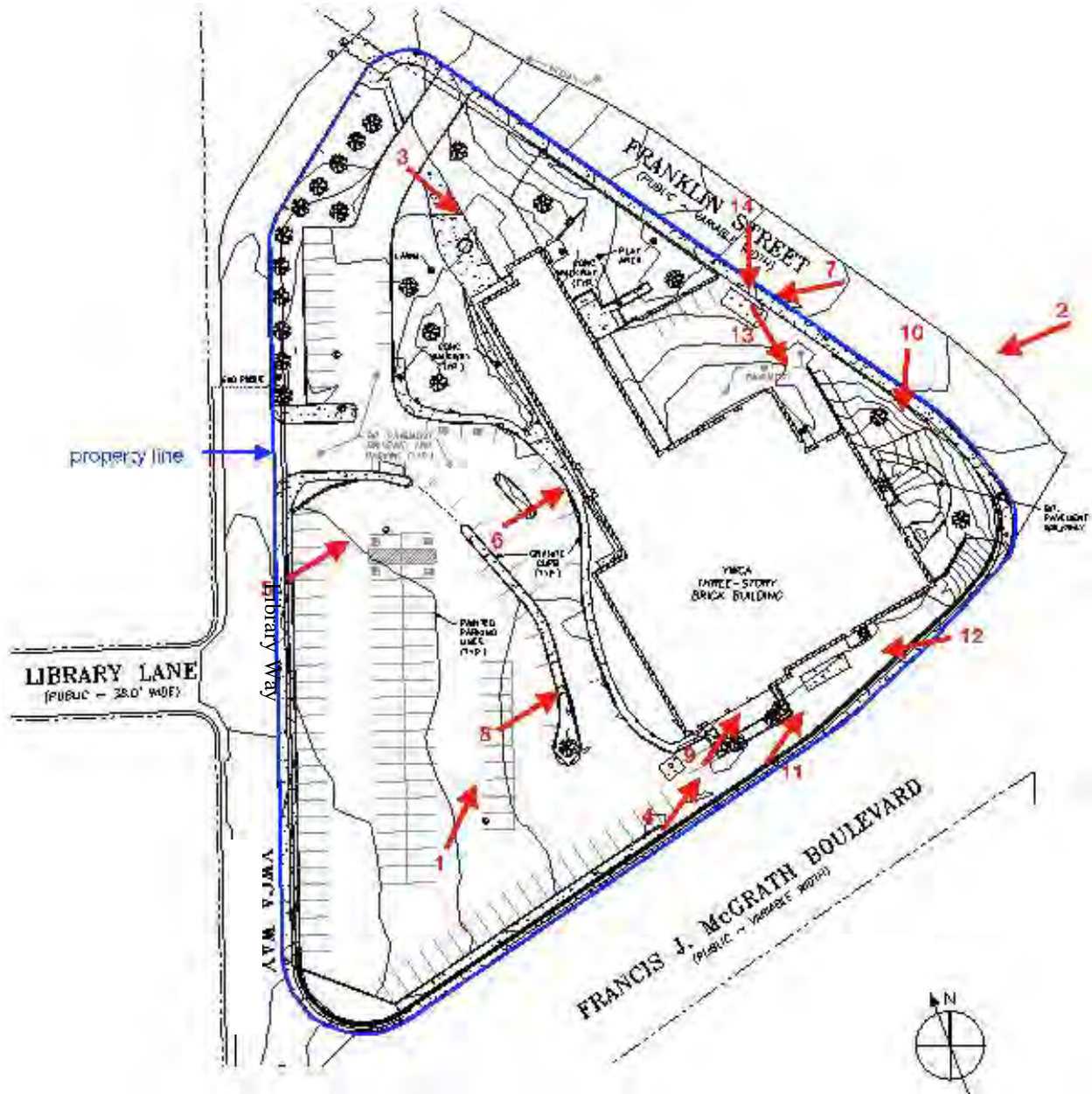


FIGURE 1  
YWCA OF WORCESTER  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
SKETCH MAP/EXTERIOR PHOTO KEY  
(2017 architectural drawing used with permission of Fennick McCredie Architecture)

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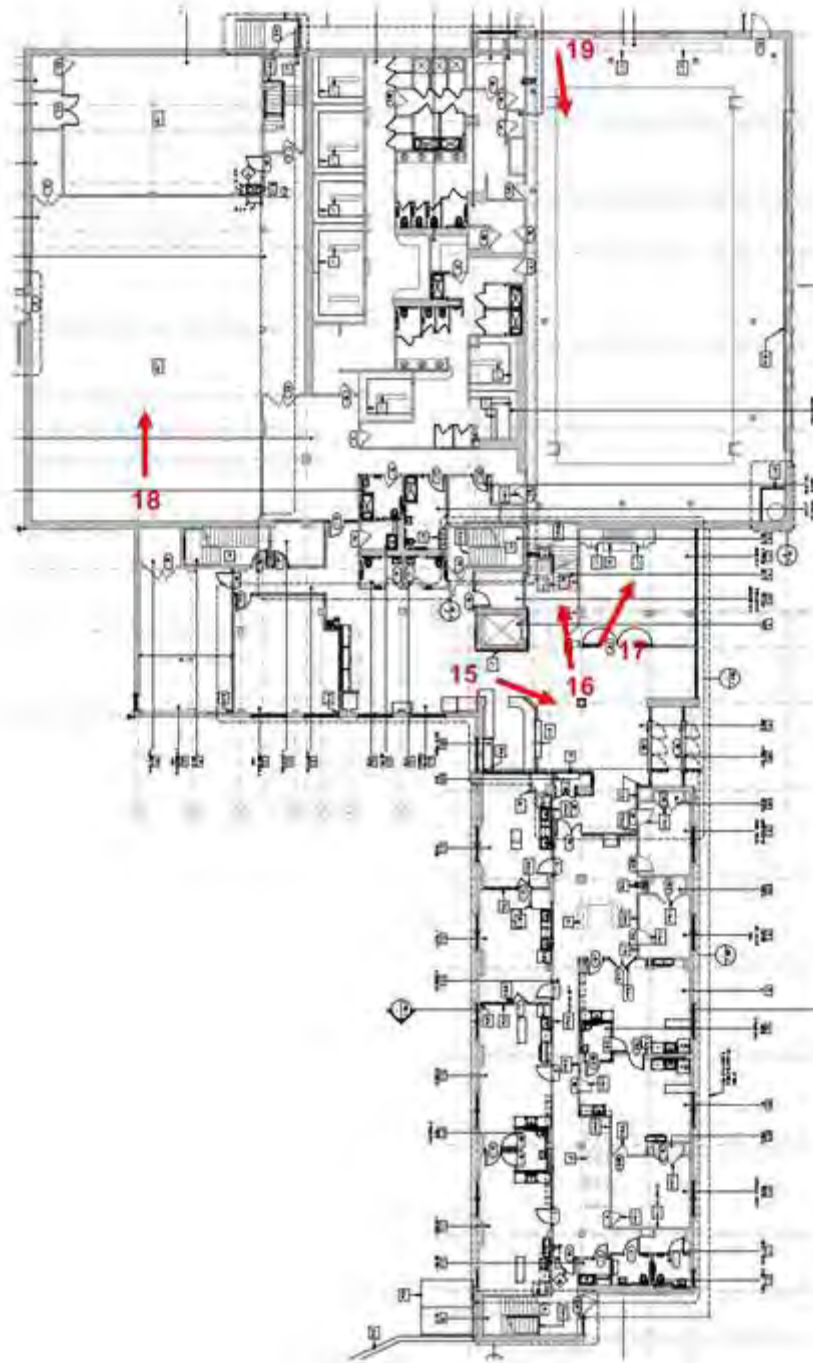


FIGURE 2  
YWCA OF WORCESTER  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
INTERIOR PHOTO KEY  
FIRST FLOOR

(2019 architectural drawing used with permission of Fennick McCredie Architecture)

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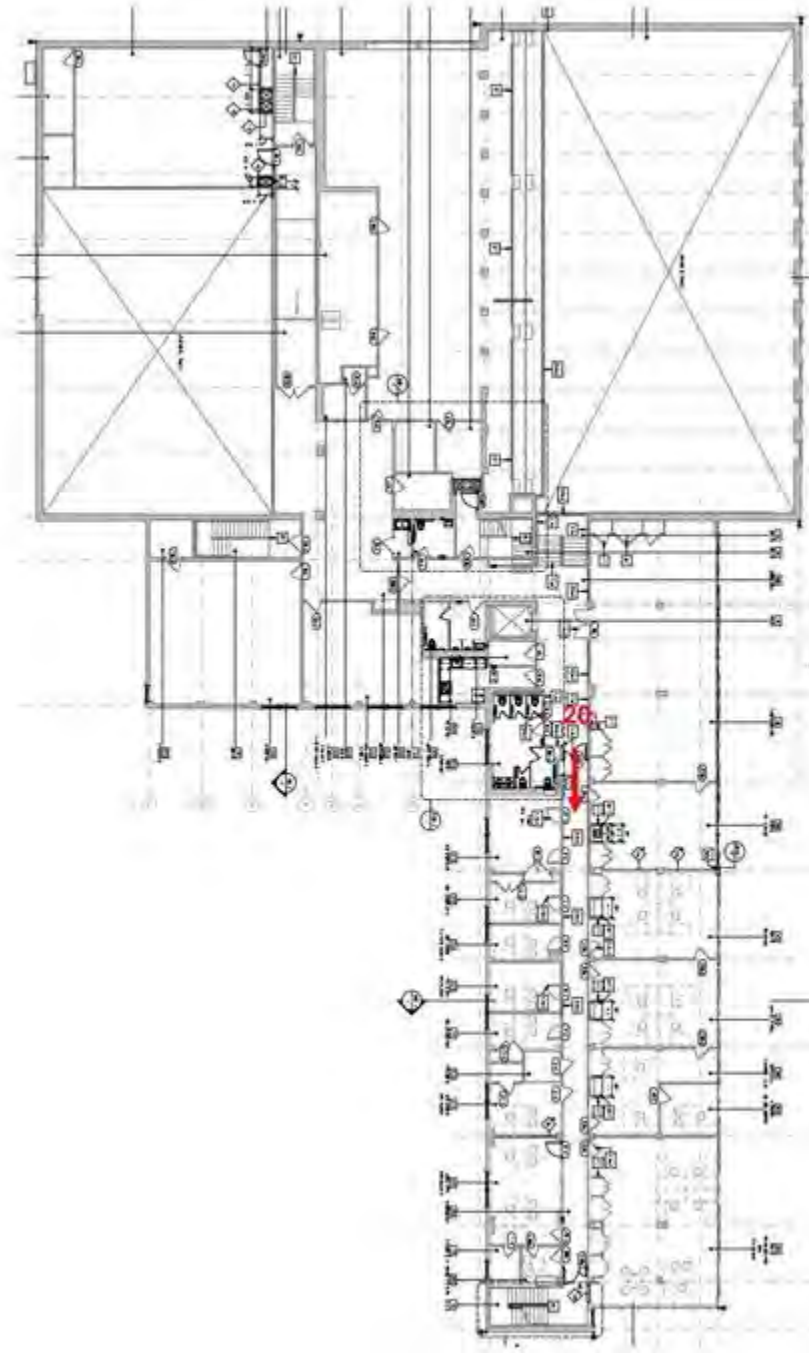


FIGURE 3  
YWCA OF WORCESTER  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
INTERIOR PHOTO KEY  
SECOND FLOOR

(2019 architectural drawing used with permission of Fennick McCredie Architecture)

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Worcester, Massachusetts  
County and State

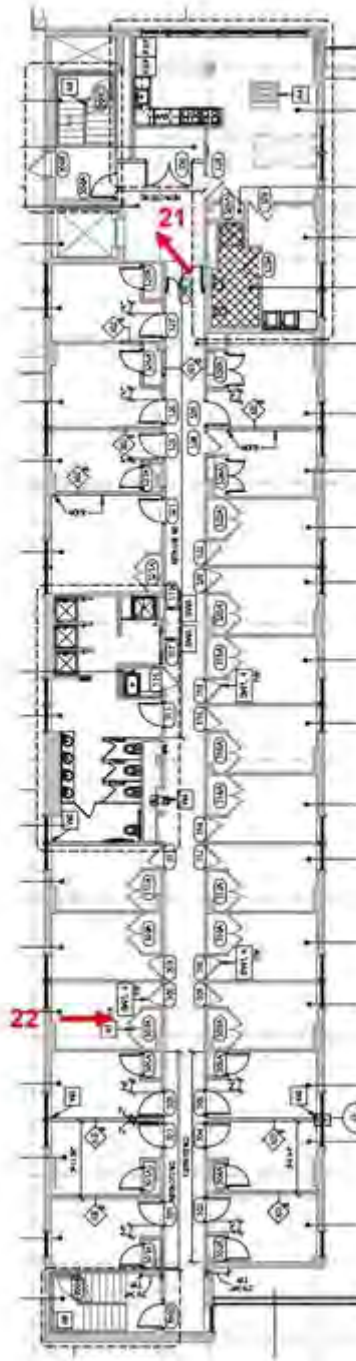


FIGURE 4  
YWCA OF WORCESTER  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
INTERIOR PHOTO KEY  
THIRD FLOOR

(2019 architectural drawing used with permission of Fennick McCredie Architecture)



YWCA of Worcester  
Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts  
County and State



FIGURE 5  
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH / BUILDING KEY / COORDINATE MAP  
(from Google Maps, August 1917)

Geographic Coordinates at: ★ 42.260085, -71.798866

YWCA of Worcester  
Name of Property

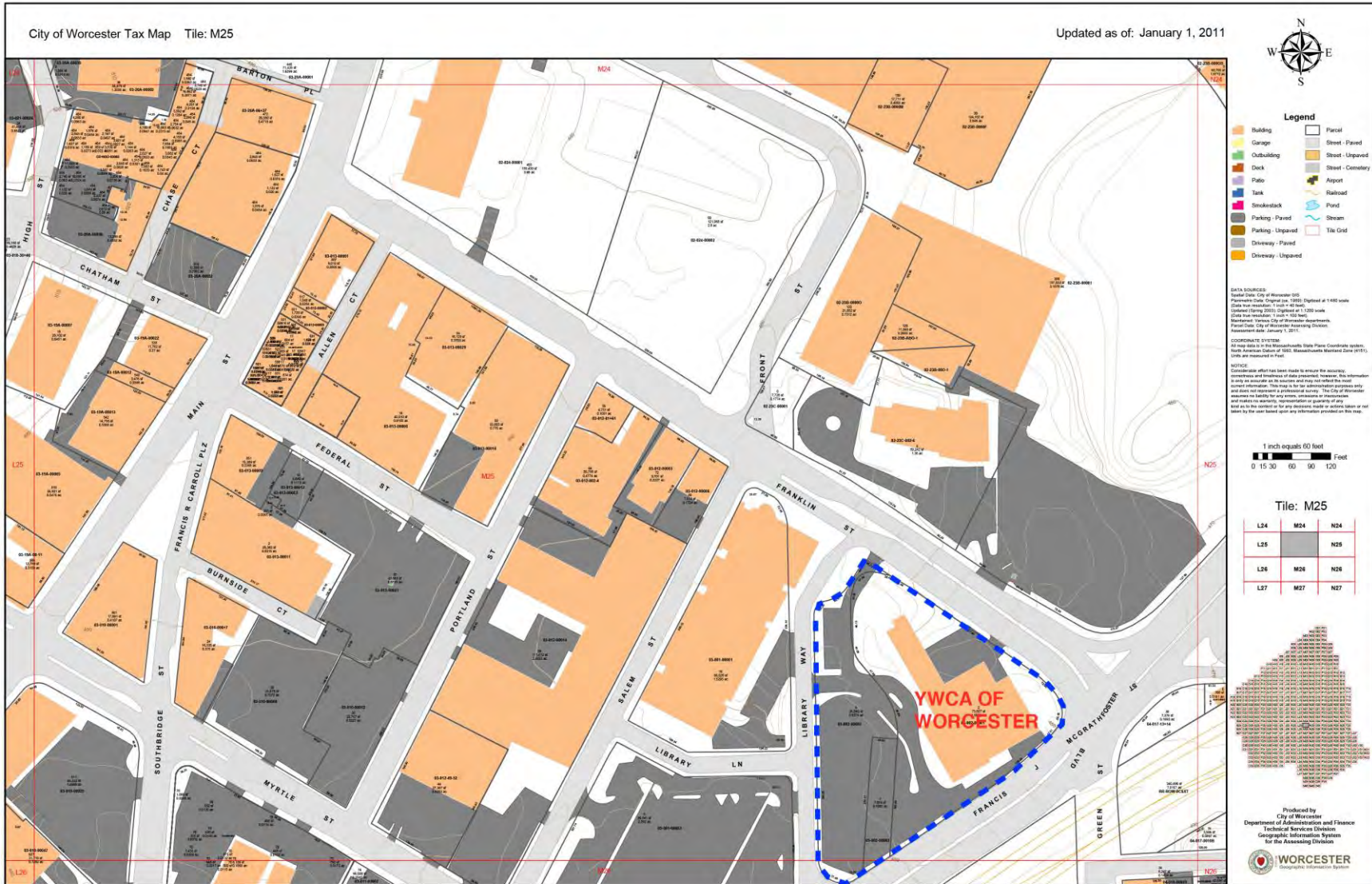
Worcester, Massachusetts  
County and State



FIGURE 6  
YWCA OF WORCESTER  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
Circa 1961 Photograph  
(from collection of YWCA-Central Massachusetts  
Included with permission of YWCA-Central Massachusetts)

YWCA of Worcester  
 Name of Property

Worcester, Massachusetts  
 County and State



CITY OF WORCESTER ASSESSORS MAP M25  
 Sections 9-end page 35

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



1. View northeast showing principal façade (southwest elevation)



2. View southwest showing rear (northeast) elevation

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



3. View southeast showing northwest elevation



4. View northeast showing southeast elevation

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



5. View northeast showing façade (southwest elevation) – detail of administrative/residential wing



6. View northeast showing façade (southwest elevation) – detail of main entry

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



7. View southwest showing rear (northeast) elevation – detail of administrative/  
residential wing



8. View northeast showing façade (southwest elevation) – detail of pool wing

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



9. View northeast showing southeast elevation – detail of pool wing



10. View south showing rear (northeast) elevation – detail of gymnasium wing



# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



11. View northeast showing southeast elevation – detail of gymnasium wing



12. View northwest showing southeast elevation – entry to gymnasium wing

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



13. View southeast showing northwest elevation of gymnasium wing

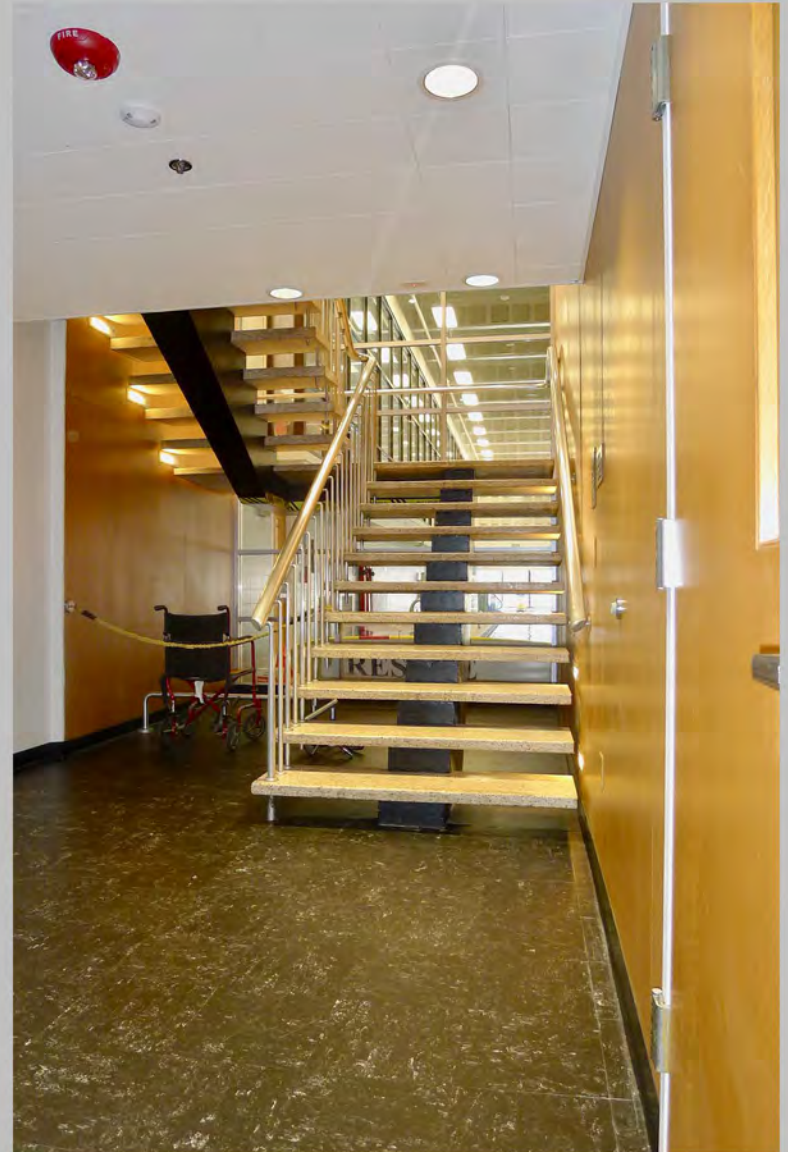


14. View southwest showing northwest elevation of service wing

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



15. First Floor – view west in entry lobby



16. First Floor – view south showing historic stair in main lobby

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



17. First Floor – view southwest in meeting room off main lobby



18. First Floor – view southwest in gymnasium

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



19. First Floor – view northwest in pool wing



20. Second Floor – view northwest in corridor of administrative/ residential wing

# YWCA of Worcester, Worcester (Worcester Co.), MA



21. Third Floor - view southeast in elevator lobby



22. Third Floor – view southwest in typical residential room along northeast wall



YWCA

1SMB 06

37Z 455



Y W

Franklin St

↑



YWCA



ywca · cm  
1  
SALEM  
SQUARE

SALEM SQUARE







eliminating racism  
empowering  
ywca

NO  
PARKING

Handicap parking sign



SALEM SQUARE

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca



STAFF  
PARKING  
ONLY

30 YD



YWCA







YWCA









harvey  
1-800-321-3007

NO  
PARKING











**YWCA'S MISSION**

**ywca live**  
leading with integrity  
& vision for equality









3

ATTENTION!  
MICROBIAL DISTANCE

EXIT

FIRE

TRASH  
208  
FOOD PANTRY  
209

PLEASE WEAR  
A MASK AT ALL  
TIMES WHEN  
OUTSIDE YOUR  
ROOM.



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: 12/20/2021      Date of Pending List: 1/6/2022      Date of 16th Day: 1/21/2022      Date of 45th Day: 2/3/2022      Date of Weekly List:

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      2/3/2022 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Lisa Deline      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239      Date 2/3/22

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.



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

December 20, 2021

Joy Beasley  
Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

YWCA of Worcester, 2 YWCA Way, Worcester (Worcester County), Massachusetts

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

Sincerely yours,

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

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Christine Beard, Essex Preservation Consulting  
Deborah Hall, YWCA of Central Massachusetts  
Michelle Johnstone, Preservation Planner, City of Worcester  
Randolph Bloom, Chair, Worcester Historical Commission  
Albert LaValley, Chair, Worcester Planning Board  
Joseph Petty, Mayor of Worcester