NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 10024-0018 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

See continuation sheet [].

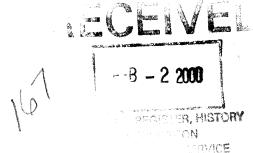
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National Register

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| Registration Form | A STANKE OF THE STANK OF THE ST |
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| Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or | and districts. See instruction in <i>How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form</i> (Nationar by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrativer, or computer, to complete all items. |
| 1. Name of Property | |
| historic name McCook Y.M.C.A. | |
| other names/site number RW05-15 | |
| 2. Location | |
| street & number 424 Norris Avenue | N/A not for publication |
| city or town McCook | N/A vicinity |
| state Nebraska code NE county | Red Willow code 145 zip code 69001 |
| 3. State/Federal Agency Certification | |
| determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards | ervation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the lart 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register. |
| determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR P criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significa (See continuation sheet for additional comments [].) | for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the lart 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register |
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Name of Property

County/State

5. Classification

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------|------------|
| (Check as many boxes as apply) | (Check only one box) | (Do not count previously listed resources.) | | |
| | | Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| [x] private | [x] building(s) | | | |
| [] public-local | [] district | 1 | 0 | buildings |
| [] public-State | [] site | 0 | 0 | sites |
| [] public-Federal | [] structure | 0 | 0 | structures |
| | [] object | 0 | 0 | objects |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>O</u> | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL / civic

EDUCATION / college SOCIAL / meeting hall

SOCIAL / clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

DOMESTIC / multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS -

Mission / Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls

BRICK

roof

ASPHALT

other

WOOD Rafters and Window Surrounds

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County/State

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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY
ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION
ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1925-1950

Significant Dates

1925 (Date of Construction)

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

William N. Bowman Company / Swanson & Sudik

Name of Property

County/State

| Previous documentation on file (NPS): | | | Primary location of additional data: | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| [] | preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) | [x] | State Historic Preservation Office | | |
| | has been requested | [] | Other State Agency | | |
| [] | previously listed in the National Register | [] | Federal Agency | | |
| [] | previously determined eligible by the National Register | [] | Local Government | | |
| [] | designated a National Historic Landmark | [] | University | | |
| [] | recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey | [] | Other: | | |
| | # | | Name of repository: N/A | | |
| [] | recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # | | | | |

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. Zone Easting Northing 14 361630 4451190

[N/A] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carl McWilliams, Principal

organization Cultural Resources Historians date November 18, 1999 address 1607 Dogwood Court phone (970) 493-5270

Fort Collins, CO 80525

Additional Documentation: (Submit the following items with the completed form)

Continuation Sheets

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

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

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name McCook Y.M.C.A. Apartments I Limited Partnership

address P.O. Box 55205

Omaha, NE 68155

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

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

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McCook Y.M.C.A., Red Willow County, Nebraska

Architectural Description

The county seat of Red Willow County, the city of McCook is located in southwestern Nebraska, less than twenty miles from the Kansas state line to the south, and some seventy-five miles from the Colorado state line to the west. U.S. Highway 34, paralleled by the Burlington Northern Railroad, is the principal east-west route through McCook, while U.S. Highway 83 links the city with North Platte, to the north. Following an easterly course, to the south of the city, the Republican River is the region's most notable geographic feature. Situated at approximately 2500 feet above sea-level, the city itself was built on a gently-rising bluff which extends northward, from the bottom-land of the river. McCook is the largest city for more than sixty miles in any direction, and for this reason, it is an important agricultural center, serving farms and smaller communities throughout southwest Nebraska, northwest Kansas, and northeast Colorado. The 1990 census placed McCook's population at just over 8100.

The McCook Y.M.C.A. is located at the southwest corner of Norris Avenue and West E Street, at the north end of the downtown commercial district. Norris Avenue is McCook's main street, running north-south through the middle of town. The Red Willow County Courthouse is located across West E Street, to the north of the Y.M.C.A.; McCook's Carnegie Library (Museum of the High Plains) is across Norris Avenue to the east, and the United Methodist Church is located diagonally across the intersection from the Y.M.C.A., at the northeast corner of Norris Avenue and East E Street. The Y.M.C.A. building is flanked on the south by the Gazette Building, now occupied by the Nebraska Light and Power Company.

At its east end, toward the facade, the Y.M.C.A. is a two story structure, with a full basement, while the building's west end is only one story, also with a full basement. The building is supported by a concrete foundation, and the exterior walls are comprised of brown brick courses, laid in running bond. Extensive use of red brick courses appear around door and window openings, in stringcourses, and along the tops of the parapet walls. The building is covered by an intersecting gables roof, and its overall dimensions are approximately 64 feet north-south by 120 feet east-west. The 1925 building was designed in the Mission Revival style by Denver architect William N. Bowman, and constructed by contractors Swanson and Sudik of McCook. The building's most distinctive architectural feature is its Mission Revival style parapets, which extend above the roof line, on the east, north, and south elevations.

The concrete foundation ranges from approximately one-foot above grade on the north elevation, to five-feet above grade on the south elevation. The foundation is topped by a beveled watertable, and a continuous stringcourse of red bricks, laid as rowlocks, visually divides the building's basement and first story levels. Historic photographs reveal that the intersecting gables roof was originally finished with red clay tiles. The roof is presently covered with red asphalt shingles, over painted white wood decking and rafters. The rafter ends are exposed beneath the eaves.

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The building's asymmetrical facade, located on the east elevation, is set back approximately twenty feet from Norris Avenue. Wide concrete sidewalks, flanked by low concrete retaining walls, parallel

feet from Norris Avenue. Wide concrete sidewalks, flanked by low concrete retaining walls, parallel Norris Avenue to the east, and West E Street to the north. The building is separated from the sidewalk on Norris Avenue by a small planted grass lawn.

The main entry on the facade is offset to the north. Seventeen poured concrete steps, flanked by sloping concrete kneewalls, and with a center railing, lead to the entry from the sidewalk along Norris Avenue. Non-original, paired, glass-in-steel frame entry doors lead into a foyer. The foyer is covered by a one-story pent roof, and it is flanked on either side by slender brown brick columns. The tops of the columns are finished in a pointed ogee arch pattern, with red brick coping, laid as rowlocks. Each column is inlaid with seven small green tiles, arranged vertically down the face of the columns. The paired entry doors are covered by a common transom light, set under an arch with a large center keystone. Within the foyer, a set of paired, painted white, wood-paneled doors, topped by a 14-light transom, lead from the foyer into the interior of the building.

The facade's Mission Revival style parapet wall is located at the north end of the elevation. The top of the parapet is finished with red brick coping, laid as rowlocks, and there are urn-shaped finials at each end of the parapet. The parapet walls on the north and south elevations are also topped with red brick coping, although without the urn-shaped finials.

Many of the building's windows are non-original Marvin replacements, set within the original window openings, and with glazing patterns that match the original. All of the windows on the facade feature painted white wood frames and surrounds. Basement windows on the facade are comprised of three sets of three one-over-one double-hung sash windows, with continuous concrete sills. On the facade's first story, there are three window openings with segmental red brick arches, and red brick slipsills. One of the openings, located to the north of the entry, features an eight-over-one double-hung sash window, flanked by two four-over-one double-hung sash windows. The facade's other two first story window openings are located to the south of the entry, and are comprised of six-over-one double-hung sash windows, flanked on either side by four-over-one double-hung sash windows. Second story windows on the facade all feature rounded red brick arches, and red brick slipsills. There are two sets of paired 14-light windows, located to the south of the entry. A nine-over-nine double-hung sash window, to the north of the entry, is flanked on either side by a narrow six-over-six double-hung sash window. Finished in concrete, the rounded arches of these three windows are inlaid with small diamond-shaped tiles. Above the foyer's pent roof, an 8-light rounded arch window is flanked on either side by slender 10-light rounded arch windows.

The building's long north elevation is set back only a few feet from the sidewalk paralleling West E Street. An enclosed one-story entryway, located near the east end of the elevation, measures four feet north-south by ten feet east-west. The entryway is of brown brick construction, and features a flat roof. The top of the entryway is finished with a course of red bricks, laid as rowlocks. A set

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McCook Y.M.C.A., Red Willow County, Nebraska

of paired, painted white, wood-paneled entry doors open directly onto the sidewalk along West E Street. Each door has a large single light in its upper sash, and both doors are set under a single rounded-arch transom light. The entire rounded-arch doorway is outlined with projecting brown brick youssoirs.

Above the entryway on the north elevation, there is a set of paired nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows, set within a rounded arch. This arch is outlined by red brick voussoirs, laid as soldiers. Within the arch, four small diamond-shaped tiles are inlaid in a diamond or lozenge pattern.

A canted hipped-roof bay window is located to the east of the entryway. First story windows in the bay include a set of paired six-over-one double-hung sash windows, flanked by two single six-over-one double-hung sash windows. Below these windows, on the lower portion of the canted bay, there is one set of paired double-hung sash basement-level windows, flanked by two single one-over-one double-hung sash basement-level windows. Above the canted bay, on the second story, a single six-over-six double-hung sash window, is flanked by two narrower six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Each of these windows feature a red brick slipsill, and rounded red brick arches. A small diamond-shaped tile is inlaid within each arch, above the windows.

The west end of the north elevation is penetrated by three sets of paired six-over-one double-hung sash windows, each with a six-light transom. These windows are set between decorative brick columns, and feature painted white wood frames and surrounds, flat arches, and red brick slipsills, laid as rowlocks. To the east of these windows, there are two non-original single-light Marvin windows, with red brick slipsills. There are also four sets of paired two-light or four-light basement-level, casement, windows on the north elevation.

The west (rear) elevation of the Y.M.C.A. Building fronts directly onto an asphalt paved alley. The brown brick wall surface here is laid in running bond, and features a parapet which extends above the roof line. The only openings on the west elevation are two sets of paired one-over-one double-hung sash basement-level windows, with painted white wood frames and surrounds.

The building's south elevation is located just five feet from the Gazette Building next door to the south. The wall surface on this elevation is comprised of brown brick courses, laid in running bond, with a Mission-Revival style parapet located at the east end of the elevation. There are three large 99-light glass block windows, and one 54-light glass block window, located on the elevation's first story. On the south elevation's second story, there are three more 99-light glass block windows.

A set of paired solid wood doors open onto a 7-step wood stoop, leading to a concrete dock, at the west end of the south elevation. Windows at the west end of the south elevation include one set of paired six-over-one double-hung sash windows, topped by six-light transoms, as well as one set of paired one-over-one double-hung sash windows. All of these windows feature painted white wood frames and surrounds, and red brick slipsills, laid as rowlocks.

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The interior of the McCook Y.M.C.A. was comprised of three floors, connected by an interior stairway in the building's north end. The main level included a large lobby, a meeting room, the gymnasium, offices for the director and staff, and a sauna. Accessed through the main entrance on the east elevation, the lobby was located in the building's southeast end, and featured the Y's registration desk, an area to store equipment, and ping pong tables. The offices were located behind the south end of the lobby, in the building's southwest end. The meeting room was located in the northeast corner, while the remainder of the main level was taken up by the gymnasium. A balcony originally overlooked the east end of the gymnasium, but was later closed in. The facility's swimming pool was located directly below the gymnasium, with showers and lockers in the basement's east end, and the boiler and mechanical works in the basement's southwest corner. The building's second story was comprised of an auditorium with a stage, to the south, and a meeting room, to the north.

The McCook Y.M.C.A. has retained a high degree of historic integrity, relative to the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building is in its original location, and its setting at the north end of McCook's commercial district is little changed from the period of significance. Downtown McCook's wide streets and avenues are still paved with brick, and in addition to the Y.M.C.A., many other historic buildings in the area are still very much intact. Those in closest proximity to the Y.M.C.A. include the Red Willow County Courthouse, built in 1926, the United Methodist Church, built in 1927, the Gazette Building, built in 1926, the U.S. Post Office, built in 1915, and the Carnegie Library (Museum of the High Plains), built in 1907. Although, the Y.M.C.A.'s interior is presently being renovated into twelve low-income apartments, its exterior is largely unchanged from the period of significance. There have been no additions, and no major exterior alterations, to the building within the past fifty years. As such, the building's original design, materials, and workmanship are still very much in evidence. Overall, the McCook Y.M.C.A. building expresses feeling and association that conveys a clear sense of its historic significance.

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McCook Y.M.C.A., Red Willow County, Nebraska

Statement of Significance

The McCook Y.M.C.A. is historically significant relative to National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, because the building served as a cultural center in McCook, from the time it was built in 1925 until it closed in 1981. Constructed at the height of a building boom, the Y.M.C.A. represents McCook's economic prosperity of the 1920s, and through the years, it has touched the lives of tens of thousands of people, bringing together various constituents, including families, churches, schools, business leaders, and clubs, in an atmosphere designed to enrich the community's physical and social well-being. In addition to its use as a Y.M.C.A., the building was also the home of McCook Junior College from 1926-1936, and was used as a meeting place for dozens of organizations, including the American Red Cross, the Federated Women's Club, the American Lutheran Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Navy Mothers Club, the Junior Music Club, and Railway Conductors Lodge #95.

The McCook Y.M.C.A. is architecturally significant relative to National Register Criterion C because it is a notable, and locally rare, example of the Mission Revival style of architecture. The building is also the work of a master architect, William N. Bowman, of Denver. Based on Spanish Colonial mission antecedents, the Mission Revival style evolved out of California beginning circa 1890. Used initially in the design of houses, and later in public buildings, the Mission Revival style typically featured the use of gabled or hipped roofs, with red clay tiles, rounded arches over door and window openings, and smooth stuccoed walls, occasionally with patterned tiles or carved stonework. The style's most distinctive feature, though, was a Mission-shaped parapet wall, prominently located on buildings' facades, and often on secondary elevations, as well. As with other "revival" styles, Mission Revival resulted from a resurgent interest in historical styles, and it gained popularity because it was well suited to the warm climate of the American Southwest. By 1900, houses in the Mission Revival style were spreading eastward, popularized by prominent architects of the day, and by architectural periodicals. Constructed in 1925, near the end of the Mission Revival style's period of popularity, the McCook Y.M.C.A. embraced the style's key elements, including Mission-shaped parapets, rounded arches, red clay tile roofing, and small decorative tiles. Unlike more pure examples of the style which displayed characteristic smooth stuccoed walls, however, the McCook Y.M.C.A. featured masonry wall construction. This was likely a compromise by the architect to harmonize the building with downtown McCook's existing architecture.

Background History

McCook, Nebraska 1882 - 1917

The city of McCook was founded in 1882-1883 as a railroad town along the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad line between Lincoln and Denver. Established at the site of a post office known as

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Fairview, McCook became the divisional point for the rail line, located near the midway point between the Nebraska and Colorado state capitals. Building westward, the Burlington and Missouri River, a subsidiary of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad (later the Burlington-Northern) reached Indianola, twelve miles east of McCook, in the summer of 1880. Construction of the railroad continued into Colorado, during 1881-1882, while at the same time, another CB&Q subsidiary, the Burlington and Colorado Railroad, constructed some 150 miles of track in northeast Colorado, through Fort Morgan to Denver. The entire line was completed to Denver in May 1882, with nearly 250 miles of track having been laid in just 229 working days.¹

When CB&Q officials determined that McCook would become the divisional point, the Lincoln Land Company, an affiliate of the railroad, quickly began purchasing tracts of land where the new city would be located. Anselmo B. Smith surveyed the townsite in May 1882, and the "Plat of Original McCook" was filed with the Red Willow County Clerk's office on June 8, 1882. Along with Smith, the plat was signed by H.B. Scott, President, and R.O. Phillips, Secretary, of the Lincoln Land Company.² Lots became available for sale, and building construction soon followed. Administratively, McCook was officially organized on December 3, 1883, with the election of a village board, and the adoption of the city's first ordinances.³ The city was named McCook in honor of Brigadier General Alexander McDowell McCook, a Civil War veteran who gained further prominence as a leader of U.S. military campaigns against Indian tribes in the late 1860s and 1870s. A native of Ohio, and an 1852 graduate of West Point, McCook was a close personal friend of Alexander Campbell, the first superintendent of the local division of the Burlington Railroad.⁴

Among the nascent community's first businesses was the "Chicago Lumberyard", owned by Illinois natives A. Barnett⁵ and B.M. Frees. Born November 25, 1855 in Knoxville, Illinois, Barnett came of age working as a school teacher and as a dock laborer in his native state. Frees, meanwhile, was a Chicago businessman, with extensive lumber interests throughout the West. Frees and Barnett met in Chicago in the late 1870s, and the two men quickly developed mutual business interests. In 1882, soon after McCook had been platted, Frees sent his young associate west to set up the new town's first lumberyard. Barnett was on hand that summer when the first carload of lumber arrived in McCook, and the Chicago Lumber Yard (later the Barnett Lumber Company) was soon in business, supplying construction materials for the town's first buildings.⁶

Far from being eastern Capitalists, out to turn a quick profit, Frees and Barnett, rather, became two of McCook's most notable business and civic leaders. Together, they would have a lasting impact on the city's physical, cultural, and socioeconomic development. In the late 1880s and early 1890s, Barnett helped establish other lumberyards in Stuart, Scottsbluff, Curtis, and Culbertson, Nebraska, as well as in Fort Morgan, Colorado, before he returned to McCook as a permanent resident in 1893. In partnership with H.N. Rosenbush, Barnett formed the McCook Cement and Stone Company, which paved many of the city's first streets and sidewalks. Later, Barnett would be instrumental in planning and building several of McCook's most prominent buildings, including the Y.M.C.A.

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As McCook grew through the turn of the twentieth century, the influence of the railroad remained paramount. Because of its importance as an intermediate terminal on the route to Denver, the city's early growth and economic development was closely tied to the Burlington line. Among the most tangible signs of McCook's railroad prominence was an enormous roundhouse, constructed in 1882, the same year the town was platted. By 1910, with the city's population approaching 4000 citizens, seventy-five percent of McCook's labor force worked directly for the railroad. The remaining twenty-five percent, primarily business owners and their employees, were indirectly dependent on the railroad. Gradually, though, the importance of the railroad waned, as during the twentieth century, McCook evolved as a major regional agricultural service center for southwest Nebraska, northwest Kansas, and northeast Colorado.

The Evolution of the Young Mens Christian Association

The Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London on June 6, 1844, in response to unhealthy social conditions resulting from the industrial revolution. George Williams, a sales assistant in a London draper's shop, is credited with organizing the first Y.M.C.A., and with fostering the organization's rapid early growth. By 1851, twenty-four chapters, or "Y"s as they were known, had been established throughout Great Britain, with over 2700 members. From these auspicious beginnings, the Y.M.C.A. movement spread. By the end of 1853, 397 separate Ys had been established in seven countries, with more than 30,000 members. From the beginning, the Y.M.C.A. movement sought to cross the rigid lines which separated different religious denominations, as well as restraints separating gender, race, and social classes. In time, Y.M.C.A.s would become open to all men, women, and children, regardless of race, religion, or nationality. A testament to the Y.M.C.A.'s importance in England, Williams was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1894, and following his death in 1905, Williams was buried under the floor of St. Paul's Cathedral, among England's other heroes and statesmen.

The first Y.M.C.A. in North America was founded at Montreal on November 25, 1851, followed by one at Boston on December 29, 1851. During the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, the Y.M.C.A. movement in America was led by evangelists Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899), and John Mott (1865-1955). The Y.M.C.A.'s primary goal was "the improvement of the spiritual, mental, social, and physical condition" of its members, and thereby to strengthen communities and society as a whole. By the 1890s, this fourfold purpose had been transformed into the Y.M.C.A.'s "triangle of spirit, mind, and body", which became the organization's national symbol.

The Y.M.C.A. movement in America was formally endorsed by President Lincoln during the Civil War, as northern Ys formed the United States Christian Commission to assist troops and prisoners of war. This was the beginning of the Y's commitment to assist armed forces personnel during times of conflict, a tradition which has continued to the present day. Perhaps most notable in this regard,

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during World War II, the National Council of Y.M.C.A.s was instrumental in creating the United Service Organization (U.S.O.) which operates recreation centers for service personnel, and sends performers abroad to entertain troops. Also during World War II, the Y.M.C.A.'s National Council joined other Ys around the world to assist prisoners of war from thirty-six nations. During the Great Depression, many individual Y.M.C.A.s formed partnerships with other social welfare agencies, in an effort to improve their communities through a wide variety of character-building programs. A typical program offered a wide range of services, including physical programs, medical clinics, and courses on a wide range of subjects, from vocational education to recreational classes.

In the years following the turn of the twentieth century, the Y.M.C.A.'s membership grew steadily, and numerous Y.M.C.A. buildings were built throughout the country. Reflecting the Y's goals to improve the body, along with the spirit and mind, these buildings featured gymnasiums, swimming pools, auditoriums, and in some instances, bowling alleys. Most Y.M.C.A.s also had dormitory rooms, which provided needed housing for young men, and helped pay for a wide variety of Y.M.C.A. programs.

Following World War II, the Y.M.C.A. placed a greater emphasis on family programs, while continuing its efforts involve both men and women, from different religions, and of different races, at all levels of the organization. By 1950, nearly seventy percent of the nation's Ys were admitting women, and other barriers were beginning to fall as well. The McCook Y.M.C.A., which included programs for men, women, boys, and girls from the time it opened in 1926, was at the forefront of these important trends.

Today, more than 2200 Y.M.C.A.s are in operation throughout the United States, serving more than 10,000 communities. Collectively, these Y.M.C.A.s comprise the nation's largest not-for-profit community service organization.

Formation and Building of the McCook Y.M.C.A. 1917 - 1926

Credit for the idea and initial funding to create a Young Men's Christian Association in McCook is due directly to B.M. Frees. Envisioning a program that would spiritually and physically enrich the community, in 1917, Frees developed a plan to build and operate a McCook Y.M.C.A. Frees placed a \$35,000.00 Certificate of Deposit in the First National Bank of McCook, and issued a challenge that if another \$15,000.00 were raised, he would donate the money, to construct a Y.M.C.A., and to begin an endowment fund for operations. Of the \$50,000.00 total, Frees' plan called for \$35,000.00 to be spent on the construction of a building, with the remainder set aside as an endowment. Frees even went so far as to select a building site, which was later traded for Lots 1-3, Block 9, of Original McCook, where the Y.M.C.A. was ultimately built.

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The community's business leaders were up to Frees' challenge, and on December 21, 1917, a meeting was held to form "The Young Men's Christian Association of McCook, Nebraska." 12 Those in attendance included C.G. Bosworth, H.E. Culbertson, W.T. Davis, C.L. Fahnstock, L.I. Flood, L. Heib, W.F. Jones, C. Naden, C.D. Ritchie, H.C. Seidel, C.L. Sharp, G.H. Watkins, W.B. Whittaker, F.L. Wolf, and A.L. Zink. A nine member Board of Directors was elected, with C.L. Fahnstock, President, W.F. Jones, Vice President, G.H. Watkins, Treasurer, and C. Naden, Recording Secretary and Clerk. Naden dutifully recorded the minutes of the first meeting, as the group of men drafted the "Articles of Incorporation for the Young Men's Christian Association of McCook, Nebraska." Article II proclaimed the corporation to be a "benevolent Association", and outlined its purpose "...to develop the character and usefulness of its members, to improve the spiritual, mental, social, physical, and economic condition of the young men and boys and to acquire, hold and use, property, both real and personal for such purposes..." Other provisions provided that any man, twenty-one years of age or over, and that was a member of an evangelical church, could become an "active member", while men and boys of good moral character who were not members of a church, could become "associate members." Only active members could vote and hold office, however. One other provision of note was that no more than four members of the Board of Directors could be of the same religious denomination. 14

By 1920, the additional \$15,000.00 had been raised by popular subscription, however, two circumstances occurred which jeopardized the project before it had barely begun. One problem was that building costs had gone up considerably, so that an adequate building could no longer be constructed for \$35,000.00. The other circumstance was that B.M. Frees passed away in 1920, and in settling his estate it became necessary to provide for the disposition of the \$35,000.00 Certificate of Deposit. Accordingly, his heirs set a time limit within which construction of a building must begin, or the money would be returned to the estate for distribution. Throughout the community, the general sentiment was that there would be little choice but to allow the gift to return to Frees estate. The Y's Board of Directors, however, determined that they would never be forgiven if this were allowed to happen. In the winter of 1924-1925 an all-out fund-raising campaign was launched adding another \$30,000.00 to the building and endowment fund. Combined with Frees original \$35,000.00, and the earlier \$15,000.00 raised through subscriptions, the McCook Y.M.C.A. Board of Directors then had some \$80.000.00 at its disposal. These funds were ultimately allocated as follows: 15

| Building Construction § | \$55,000.00 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Fixtures | . \$1000.00 |
| Dedication and Initial Operation | . \$4000.00 |
| Endowment Fund | \$20,000.00 |

While B.M. Frees provided the idea and initial funding to build the McCook Y.M.C.A., it was his old business partner, A. Barnett, who, as much as anyone, ensured that the project actually came to fruition. Working behind the scenes, Barnett corresponded with Frees' brother-in-law, H.K.

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Adams, who was in charge of Frees' estate, convincing Adams that there was sufficient interest in McCook not only to build the Y.M.C.A., but to sustain it for years to come. ¹⁶ Barnett was also integrally involved in the fund-raising campaign, and he headed the building committee which planned the actual construction of the Y.M.C.A. building. ¹⁷

In early March 1925, Barnett and his wife traveled to Denver and met with architect William N. Bowman whose firm had been selected to complete the drawings and plans for the McCook Y.M.C.A. ¹⁸ Choosing to execute the building's design in a bold Mission Revival style, Bowman, and his staff, drafted plans for the building in Denver, between late March and early May 1925. Bids for the construction of McCook's new "Y" were received and opened at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday May 23, 1925. The local building firm of Swanson and Sudik was awarded the general construction contract, while the plumbing and heating contract was let to Charles Miller, also of McCook. ¹⁹

Construction work on the Y.M.C.A. was begun in early June 1925, and by late October, the building's exterior had been completed. Finish work on the interior, including painting the walls and ceilings, staining and varnishing the woodwork, and sanding the wood floors, along with the heating and plumbing installation, continued through the end of the year.²⁰ Among the final tasks was the tiling of the facility's swimming pool, known as the "Y Plunge."²¹

An advertisement for "The New Y.M.C.A. - A Recreation Center for the Whole Family" first appeared in the *McCook Daily Gazette* on December 18, 1925. The ad. extolled readers to "join now", and promoted memberships as "a fine xmas gift." A. Barnett was at the forefront of the membership drive. At a meeting held December 29, 1925, he pledged to take out a \$100.00 year sustaining membership, guaranteeing to maintain it for five years, if nine other men would join him. H.C. Clapp and Louis Suess signed up that evening, and other businessmen soon followed.²³

The McCook Y.M.C.A. was officially opened in a gala dedication ceremony held Sunday January 10, 1926. Speakers included Charles A. Musselman, State Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Mayor, Roland Scott, and W.G. Springer, Head of the McCook Y.M.C.A. Board of Directors. Reverend C.A. Boughton read an opening prayer, and Reverend C.M. Foreman delivered the dedication address. G.H. Marshall, who had recently been hired as Secretary, in charge of the facility, outlined the Y's programs for prospective members. Interspersed between the speakers, the Ladies Chorus and Orchestra performed America the Beautiful, and Onward Christian Soldiers. A male quartet sang as well. The building's dedication continued throughout the following week, with various groups presenting a program each day. The McCook Chamber of Commerce presented a program on Monday January 11th, followed by the Kiwanis Club and American Legion on Tuesday, the Rotary and Women's Clubs on Wednesday, the Business Women's League on Thursday, and the McCook area high schools on Friday. McCook grade schools also presented daytime programs on Tuesday and Thursday. The McCook grade schools also presented daytime programs on Tuesday and Thursday.

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William Norman Bowman, and the William N. Bowman Company

The selection of William N. Bowman as architect, demonstrates that the Y's Board of Directors, and in particular the building committee, envisioned that the McCook Y.M.C.A. would be a landmark building. As head of the building committee, A. Barnett presumably had a major say in the hiring of Bowman. In business in Denver from 1910 until his death in 1944, William N. Bowman²⁶ ranks among the region's most important and prolific architects. Born March 12, 1868, at Carthage, New York, Bowman was the eldest of five children born to Lucius S. and Elizabeth (Hurd) Bowman. At age eleven, young William was forced to quit school and help support his family by working in a woolen mill, after his father was gravely injured in a sawmill accident. He studied at a teacher's home three evenings a week, however, eventually showing promise in mathematics and drawing.

Despite his lack of formal schooling, Bowman was offered an entry-level job in the office of Colonel Elijah E. Myers, a prominent Detroit architect, who designed the Colorado State Capitol. ²⁷ At Myers suggestion, Bowman became a carpenter's apprentice where he learned the basics of building. Following his apprenticeship, Bowman gained employment as a construction foreman where he gained valuable experience in interpreting construction drawings. Bowman next worked for Mortimer L. Smith and Son, Architects in Detroit, and Thurtle and Fleming, Architects in Indianapolis. In the late 1890s, he then became a partner in the building company Rush, Bowman, and Rush, based in Indianapolis and Grand Rapids. In 1899 Bowman met and married Miss Alice May Kniffen, secretary for the manager of the *Grand Rapids Herald*. The couple then moved to Indianapolis, where Bowman established a short-lived building and architecture firm in his own name. In 1902, he abandoned the venture to take a position with the Stewart Iron Works in Cincinnati.

After six years with the Stewart Iron Works, Bowman resolved that he had attained the experience, talent, and financial wherewithal to launch his own architecture firm. Looking to the west, Bowman and his wife settled in Denver, attracted by the Queen City's climate and economic outlook. The William N. Bowman Company was founded in Denver in 1910, and it quickly became one of the city's most respected architectural firms, specializing in the design of major public buildings. One of Bowman's first commissions was designing the Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Denver, in 1910. This was followed by the design of several Colorado courthouses during the 1910s, including the Jackson County Courthouse in Walden (1913), the Weld County Courthouse in Greeley (1915), the Moffat County Courthouse in Craig (1917), and the Montrose County Courthouse in Montrose (1922).

Bowman was at the peak of his career in the 1920s. He designed the entire administration complex at Adams State College in Alamosa, including Richardson Hall in 1923, and the President's House, and the Casa del Sol Faculty residences, both in 1929. In 1921, Bowman designed the Colorado State Office Building, a part of the Colorado Capitol complex. Among other buildings, this was

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followed by the Fort Collins, Colorado High School in 1924, the El Jebel Shrine and Clubhouse in Denver in 1925, the Gunter Hall of Health, at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, in 1928, and the Mountain States Telephone Building in Denver, in 1929. Other notable Denver buildings designed by Bowman include the Denver Theater, the Cosmopolitan and Colburn Hotels, Park Hill Methodist Church, Byers and Cole Junior High Schools, the Denver School Administration Building, and the Continental Oil Building. Outside of Denver, Bowman is credited with the design of several buildings at the Colorado State Penitentiary in Canon City, the State Reformatory Gymnasium at Buena Vista, the Colorado Building in Pueblo, as well as high schools in Longmont, Greeley, and Fort Morgan. Outside Colorado, Bowman designed public buildings as far west as Phoenix, and as far east as Wichita, Kansas. He was also a member of a consortium of architects which designed the Denver City and County Building, a monumental edifice located at the west end of Civic Center Park, across from the Colorado State Capitol. In 1927, Bowman was named, by Governor William H. Adams, to serve a four year term on the Colorado State Board of Architect Examiners.²⁸ During his career in Denver, Bowman gained membership in the Blue Lodge of Masons, the Scottish Rite, Knights Templar, and the American Institute of Architects. He passed away on August 28, 1944 at the age of 76.

The McCook Y.M.C.A. 1926 - 1981

Prior to the Y.M.C.A.'s opening in January 1926, the Board of Directors hired G.H. Marshall as the facility's first Secretary (Director). In a career which began in 1910, Marshall had overseen Y.M.C.A.s in Grand Junction, Colorado, and in Salt Lake City, before serving on the State Y.M.C.A. staff in Kentucky. Marshall selected J.E. Arner, a former all-state athlete at Curtis Agricultural College, as his assistant. Marshall developed the McCook Y.M.C.A.'s first programs, and launched an aggressive membership drive, during his first month on the job. A detailed outline of the Y's programs appeared in the McCook Daily Gazette on December 19, 1925. Among the most notable features was that memberships and classes were available for men and boys, as well as for women and girls. The idea of admitting women was not addressed in the Articles of Incorporation, adopted in 1917, and it apparently was a departure from "males only" policies, in place at most other Y.M.C.A.s. The McCook Y.M.C.A. was also unusual in that it had no dormitories.

In McCook, the Y.M.C.A. was promoted as a family recreation center from the very beginning. Annual membership rates ranged from \$3.00 for Preps (boys age 10-12), to \$25.00 for Business Men. The annual rate for "Business Women" was considerably less at \$6.00, but they had correspondingly fewer programs. Classes for boys were divided by age. In addition to the Preps, there were Juniors (age 12-15), Intermediate (age 15-18), and Seniors (age 18-20). Classes for girls, meanwhile, were more limited, and were not divided by age groups. Facilities and equipment at the new "Y" included the swimming pool, lockers for 25 men, 25 women, and 50 youth, a club room with a billiards table and game tables, wrestling mats, boxing gloves, rings, basketball hoops, pommel

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horses, medicine balls, volley balls, and other athletic items. Church basketball and volleyball leagues were formed, and an overall emphasis was placed on swimming. A slogan adopted for the first year was "every member learn to swim." ³⁴

In 1929, L.B. Glaze came from the Omaha Y.M.C.A., and during the 1930s, he worked to expand the Y's physical programs for youth, primarily for boys, but to a lesser extent, also for girls. From its inception, the McCook Y.M.C.A. placed a strong emphasis on the importance of serving the community's youth. Brochures from the late 1920s and 1930s, promoted youth programs with a variety of related slogans, such as: "It is Better to Save Boys Than to Mend Men"; "Better to Build Boys and Girls Than to Repair Men and Women - Invest Your Money in Boys and Girls"; "Physical Activity, Properly Directed, Develops Christian Character"; "Clean Speech, Clean Sports, Clean Scholarship, and Clean Living"; "Keep Fit and Clean"; and "Play Fair." 36

Beginning in the early 1930s, the Y's youth clubs included "Friendly Indians", "Pioneers", and the "Hi-Y" and "Leaders' Clubs." Each club was designed for a specific age group, with a particular goal in mind. In the Friendly Indians club, for example, 9-12 year old boys went on hikes, and learned Indian craft and lore in activities designed to build character training. The Y.M.C.A. also sought to build fellowship between churches by developing basketball and volleyball leagues, and encouraged Boy Scout troops to use the swimming pool to pass swimming and life saving merit badges. ³⁸

Special events, such as the annual Y.M.C.A. Circus, allowed children to take part in athletic games, and to demonstrate what they had learned for parent audiences. In the 1940s, dances were started at the Y, eventually becoming a regular Friday night event, known as the "Bison Corral." In the 1950s, Gra-Y, Junior Hi-Y, and Tri-Hi-Y clubs were organized, and competitive swimming teams were formed. In 1956, the McCook Y.M.C.A.'s first championship swimming team took honors at the All-Sports Festival in Lincoln. Also in the 1950s, representatives were sent to the State Capital to participate in the "Youth in Government" program, which later became the "Model Legislature." In the late 1950s, a "slimnastics" class was added for women, and in the 1960s, other classes, such as bridge lessons were offered. Ladies bridge games were scheduled during the afternoons, while mixed couples played in the evenings.³⁹

In addition to its primary use as a Y.M.C.A., the building also served as a meeting place for a variety of organizations over the years. The McCook Junior College opened in the new building in the Fall of 1926, remaining here for the next ten years. Civic organizations and church groups that met at the Y included the American Red Cross, the Federated Women's Club, the American Lutheran Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Navy Mothers Club, and the Junior Music Club.⁴⁰ During the Depression-era, the Y was also used as a homeless shelter for transients,⁴¹ and for many years, the building was designated as an emergency shelter in case of a local disaster. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Railway Conductors Lodge #95 maintained an office in the building as well.⁴²

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McCook's New Ed Thomas Y.M.C.A. 1981 -

Over the years, the Y's membership grew steadily. When it opened in 1926, the McCook Y.M.C.A. had 231 charter members. By the 1970s, this had grown to over 1000 members, with some 225 persons using the Y's facilities on a typical day. In 1975, with the old Y.M.C.A. no longer able to meet the community's needs, several facets of the community, including the newspaper, school district, McCook Community College, city officials, and the Y.M.C.A., all began to express an interest in building a new recreation center. In 1978, the effort to construct a new Y.M.C.A. was begun in earnest, and McCook's new, 37,000 square-foot, Ed Thomas Y.M.C.A. opened three years later. The old Y.M.C.A. building, meanwhile, was used briefly as an art and dance center, but subsequently sat vacant into the late 1990s. In 1995, the property was acquired by an Omaha Company which became known as OnTrac Development. In the late 1990s, OnTrac, in association with the Paramount Companies of Granville, Ohio, restored the building's exterior, and refurbished the interior into twelve low-income apartment units. Thus, having found a new use, McCook's old Y.M.C.A. Building will again be able to serve the community for many years yet to come.

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¹Kenneth Jessen, Railroads of Northern Colorado, (Boulder: Pruett Publishing Company, 1982), p. 181.

²"Plat of Original McCook", June 8, 1882, recorded in Deed Record Book 1, page 556, Red Willow County Clerk's Office.

³"Railroad Decision Gave City Birth," *McCook Daily Gazette Centennial Edition 1882-1982*, 1982, n.p.

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⁵Mr. Barnett's given name was Albert, but he preferred the use of only his first initial. In McCook, he was generally known as A. Barnett.

⁶"Barnett Was Known as 'The Builder'," McCook Daily Gazette Centennial Edition 1882-1982, 1982, n.p.

7Ibid.

⁸"Railroad Is Special to McCookites," *McCook Daily Gazette Centennial Edition 1882-1982*, 1982. n.p.

⁹Contextual information about the Y.M.C.A. movement was obtain from the Y.M.C.A. of America's Web page, at www.ymca.net

¹⁰Louis Suess, "A History of the Building and Endowment Funds of the Y.M.C.A. of McCook, Nebraska," December 5, 1939.

11Ibid.

¹²"Articles of Incorporation of the Young Men's Christian Association of McCook, Nebraska," December 21, 1917.

13Ibid.

14Ibid.

¹⁵Suess, "A History of the Building and Endowment Funds of the Y.M.C.A. of McCook, Nebraska."

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¹⁶"Good News Received From Estate Of the Late B.M. Frees," *McCook Daily Gazette*, December 18, 1922. The text of a letter from H.K. Adams to A. Barnett, in which Adams commits Frees estate to honoring the \$35,000.00 gift, was printed in that day's edition of the *Gazette*. The letter was accompanied by an article explaining that there had been "considerable correspondence on the part of Mr. Barnett with the estate" to ensure that Frees gift would be used to build a Y.M.C.A.

¹⁷"Y.M.C.A. Bids To Be Opened May 23," McCook Daily Gazette, May 6, 1925, p. 1.

¹⁸"Drawings and Plans For New Y.M.C.A.," McCook Daily Gazette, March 12, 1925, p.1.

¹⁹"McCook Contractors Land 'Y' Building," *McCook Daily Gazette*, May 23, 1925, p. 1.

²⁰"Y.M.C.A. Interior is Being Finished Rapidly," *McCook Daily Gazette*, November 23, 1925, p. 1.

²¹"Finish Work On Tiling Sides of 'Y' Plunge," McCook Daily Gazette, December 16, 1925, p. 1.

²²"The New Y.M.C.A. - A Recreation Center for the Whole Family," [advertisement] *McCook Daily Gazette*, December 18, 1925, p. 7.

²³"Finances Of 'Y' Subject Of Talk By Business Men," *McCook Daily Gazette*, December 29, 1925, p. 1.

²⁴"McCook Y.M.C.A. Dedication and Opening Program to be Held at 'Y' Building at 3 P.M. Sunday," *McCook Daily Gazette*, December 9, 1925, pp. 1, 2; State Y.M.C.A. Secretary Speaks at M'Cook 'Y' Opening Program," *McCook Daily Gazette*, December 10, 1925, p. 1.

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Women of Colorado, (Phoenix, Tucson, Denver) Pioneer Publishing Company, 1944), p. 28.; Thomas J. Noel and Barbara S. Norgren, Denver The City Beautiful and Its Architects, 1893-1941, (Denver: Historic Denver Inc., 1987); "The Story of William Norman Bowman," Rocky Mountain News, October 25, 1941; "Architect William Norman Bowman, Designer of Denver Buildings, Dies," Rocky Mountain News, August 29, 1944; "W.N. Bowman, Architect of Denver, Dies," Denver Post, August 29, 1944, p. 8.

²⁷Thomas J. Noel and Barbara S. Norgren, Denver The City Beautiful and Its Architects, 1893-1941.

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²⁸"Denver Man Named On State Board," Denver Post, May 7, 1927, p. 3.

²⁹"G.H. Marshall Chosen Secretary of Y.M.C.A. In Meeting Held Today," *McCook Daily Gazette*, December 4, 1925, p. 1.

30 Ibid.

³¹"Select Assistant to 'Y' Secretary," McCook Daily Gazette, January 5, 1925, p. 1.

³²"Y.M.C.A. Program Outlined Today," McCook Daily Gazette, December 19, 1925, p. 1.

³³"The New Y.M.C.A. - A Recreation Center For the Whole Family," *McCook Daily Gazette*, [advertisement] December 18, 1925, p. 7.

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³⁶"McCook Young Men's Christian Association The Year's Work, 1928 Financial and Other Facts," January 21-23, 1929; "Invest In McCook Youth," 1938. (brochures for the McCook Y.M.C.A.)

37 Ibid.

³⁸"McCook Y.M.C.A. Records 50 Years of Service," McCook Daily Gazette Recreation Section (Nebraska Centennial Edition 1867-1967), 1967, n.p.

39 Ibid.

⁴⁰McCook, Nebraska City Directories, 1931-1998 (generally published annually, various years available) (Kansas City et. al.: R.L. Polk and Company, Publishers.)

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"Y.M.C.A. Bids To Be Opened May 23." McCook Daily Gazette, May 6, 1925, p. 1.

"McCook Contractors Land 'Y' Building." McCook Daily Gazette, May 23, 1925, p. 1.

"Contractor Starts Ellingson Building." McCook Daily Gazette, May 26, 1925, p. 1.

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"Four New Store Buildings Soon." McCook Daily Gazette, July 30, 1925, p. 1.

"Y.M.C.A. Opening Before Christmas." McCook Daily Gazette, November 2, 1925, p. 1.

"Propose M'Cook Junior College." McCook Daily Gazette, November 4, 1925, p. 1.

"Y.M.C.A. Interior is Nearing Completion." McCook Daily Gazette, November 9, 1925, p. 1.

"Y.M.C.A. Interior is Being Finished Rapidly." McCook Daily Gazette, November 23, 1925, p. 1.

"G.H. Marshall Chosen Secretary of Y.M.C.A. In Meeting Held Today." *McCook Daily Gazette*, December 4, 1925, p. 1.

"Finish Work On Tiling Sides of 'Y' Plunge." McCook Daily Gazette, December 16, 1925, p. 1.

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"Y.M.C.A. Program Outlined Today." McCook Daily Gazette, December 19, 1925, p. 1.

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"A. Barnett Will Take \$100 Year Sustaining Card If Are Nine More." McCook Daily Gazette, December 29, 1925, p. 1.

"Select Assistant to 'Y' Secretary." McCook Daily Gazette, January 5, 1926, p. 1.

"'Y' Opening To Be January 10." McCook Daily Gazette, January 8, 1926, p. 1.

"McCook Y.M.C.A. Dedication and Opening Program To Be Held At 'Y' Building At 3 P.M. Sunday." McCook Daily Gazette, January 9, 1926, p. 1. NPS Form 10-900a OMB No. 1024-0018

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"Denver Man [William N. Bowman] Named on State Board [of Architect Examiners]." Denver Post, May 7, 1927, p. 3.

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"Copy of the Articles of Incorporation of the Young Men's Christian Association of McCook, Nebraska." December 21, 1917. (On file at the McCook, Y.M.C.A.)

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"History of the McCook Y.M.C.A." n.d. (circa 1970). (Typewritten manuscript on file at The Museum of the High Plains, 421 Norris Avenue, McCook, Nebraska.)

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Suess, L. "A History of the Building and Endowment Funds of the YMCA of McCook, Nebraska." December 5, 1939. (Typewritten manuscript, on file at The Museum of the High Plains, 421 Norris Avenue, McCook, Nebraska.)

Warranty Deeds, and Quit Claim Deeds, regarding Lots 1, 2, and 3, in Block 9, Original McCook (424 Norris Avenue), appear in the following deed books and pages, on file at the Red Willow County Clerk's Office, Red Willow County Courthouse, McCook, Nebraska: book 111, page 901, July 15, 1981; book 116, page 353, April 30, 1984; book 116, page 354, December 30, 1986; book 118, page 525, December 4, 1989; book 120, page 320, February 1, 1992; book 121, page 438, March 4, 1993; book 121, page 532, April 6, 1993; book 124, page 115, December 3, 1995.

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McCook Y.M.C.A., Red Willow County, Nebraska

Verbal Boundary Description

The verbal boundary description for the McCook Y.M.C.A. is a parcel of land known as Lots 1, 2, and 3, in Block 9, of the Original McCook Addition, McCook, Nebraska. This parcel of land measures 75-feet north-south by 140-feet east-west. The property's street address is 424 Norris Avenue, McCook, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

Lots 1, 2, and 3, in Block 9, of the Original McCook Addition, McCook, Nebraska, comprises the entire parcel of land that has historically been associated with the McCook Y.M.C.A.

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Section number Additional Page 23 McCook Y.M.C.A., Red Willow County, Nebraska Documentation (Photographic Index)

All photographs were taken by Carl McWilliams on October 20, 1999. The original negatives are located at the Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Photo No. 1. View to west

Photo No. 2. View to southwest

Photo No. 3. View of cornerstone, located on the building's east elevation

Photo No. 4. View to northeast

Photo No. 5. View to southeast

Photo No. 6. View to south

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McCook Y.M.C.A., Red Willow County, Nebraska

Documentation (Sketch Map) North 40 Feet West E Street Sidewalk McCook Y.M.C.A. Building Norris Avenue Alley [paved] Sidewalk Gazette Building Property Line