

OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received DEC 20 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Y.M.C.A. Building

and/or common 714 Market Building

2. Location

street & number 714 Market Street not for publication

city, town Tacoma vicinity of congressional district

state Washington code 053 county Pierce code 053

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name 714 Market Associates

street & number 601 Valley Street, Suite 308

city, town Seattle vicinity of state Washington 98109

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pierce County Assessor

street & number 2401 South 35th Street

city, town Tacoma state Washington 98409

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) Tacoma Cultural Resource Survey
title (2) Tacoma Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date (1) 1974; (2) 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Tacoma, Community Development Department, Office of
Historic Preservation

city, town 740 St. Helens, Tacoma state Washington 98402

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Y.M.C.A. building is located on the west side of Market Street just one block to the west of the Old City Hall Historic District. It is now visually isolated at the north end of the block, flanked by an asphalt parking lot to the south and an overgrown vacant lot to the north.

The building comprises two distinct units, with a connecting link housing an elevator shaft and stairwell. The more formal eastern section, fronting on Market Street, contained the entrance lobby, public areas, classrooms and sleeping rooms of the association, and presented a noble image of the well-established service organization that the Tacoma Y.M.C.A. had become by 1910. Nearly square in plan (approximately 70'x72'), this eastern block rises six stories above a full basement. Exterior walls are faced with selected red common brick laid in Flemish bond. External embellishments are mostly confined to the eastern (Market Street) facade and include a first story faced with rusticated Wilkeson sandstone, three central window bays framed by two-story round-arched surrounds of the same stone, and contrasting light-tan brick and sandstone in decorative belt courses and flat arches above window openings. Three sandstone panels, with the incised words "Body," "Spirit," and "Mind," appear in the three spandrels under the central arches. The letters "YMCA", originally incised in the stone lintel above the entrance, have been filled in but are still visible. The topmost story is especially coloristic, with a repeated pattern of contrasting brickwork encircling the entire building. Culminating the design is a wide projecting terminal cornice supported by heavy curvilinear brackets.

The western annex at the rear of the property contained the athletic facilities of the association. A reinforced concrete structure, approximately 55'x125', its unadorned wall surfaces and simple fenestration indicated its more utilitarian function. The annex originally housed a swimming pool and handball courts on the first floor; locker rooms, galleries for the handball courts, and offices on the second floor; and a gymnasium (48'x112') with an elevated running track occupying the third and fourth levels.

In 1950 a quarter-million-dollar renovation of the aging interior was undertaken. All of the athletic facilities and nearly every room of the main building were completely remodelled. Further alterations were made after the Y.M.C.A. vacated the property in 1977 and a new owner converted the main building to office use. A fire in 1980 extensively damaged the interior of the annex, which was being used by an athletic club.

Consequently, nothing of the original interior remains today. The exterior of the main building, however, retains its original appearance with only the most minor alterations (a covered stairwell addition on the south and a new marquee replacing the lost original). Alteration of some windows is the most noticeable change in the external appearance of the annex.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1908-09 **Builder/Architect** George W. Bullard, Architect
Irwyn H. Hill, Associate

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Y.M.C.A. building is significant to Tacoma as the embodiment of the city's first social service organization, which served important functions in the early educational, social, recreational, and spiritual life of the community. At a time when there was not even an apprenticeship system for non-skilled workers, the association provided valuable vocational training for the many young men attracted to the "City of Destiny" in the years of its early development.

The Tacoma chapter of the Young Men's Christian Association, one of the first in the Pacific Northwest, was founded in 1883, during the decade of the city's greatest expansion and population growth. It served the community (initially men and boys only) by providing a meeting place and instruction for the enhancement of body, spirit, and mind (exemplified by the three words incised in stone on the 1909 building). Located at first in rented quarters and later in a building acquired by default during the depression of the 1890's, the Tacoma Y.M.C.A. initiated the services which made it a leading social institution in the growing city. Early on it established the first employment service for the many young men attracted to this port city and transcontinental railroad terminus. It provided recreational facilities for members' physical well-being (building the town's first tennis court), and began the vocational education program that was to be its strongest contribution to the community.

The success of the Y's programs dictated a large specialized building to house them, but the depressed economy of the 1890's prevented early realization of these plans. It was not until after the turn of the century that the association was able to commission a locally prominent architect, George W. Bullard, to design an appropriate structure. Under construction in 1908-09, the new building, with its impressive annex housing well-equipped athletic facilities, was dedicated in February 1910.

Bullard's design for the Y.M.C.A. incorporated spaces for all of the diverse functions and activities of the association. Especially important were provisions for the city's first evening vocational school. Classrooms on two floors of the main building were provided for instruction in both business subjects and the trades. Two-hundred and fifty-five students were enrolled in the night school alone in 1910. Offerings included chemistry, electricity, mechanical drafting, machine design, sheet metal drafting, and free hand drawing in the trade division, and commercial law, bookkeeping, stenography, and typing in the business division. In addition, surveying and mapping were taught to high school students who wished to pursue a career in engineering, and courses in the new skill of automobile repair were offered in a nearby garage.

The number and range of these educational programs are significant. In those early decades Tacoma had little to offer in vocational training and, like other industrial coastal cities, it attracted immigrant workers with widely differing ethnic and

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Daily Ledger (Tacoma), "Educational work at the Y.M.C.A. carried on in a general trades and business school," December 4, 1910.

"'Y' to have new look," April 2, 1950. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Tacoma North, Wash.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References 7.5 Minute Series

A

10	542270	5233670
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

Zone	Easting	Northing

D

Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 7 through 11, Block 708, Plat of New Tacoma, Washington

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

state n/a code county code

state n/a code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley L. Courtois, Architectural Historian

organization _____ date April 30, 1982

street & number 4021 E. Highland Drive telephone (206) 325-9346

city or town Seattle, Washington state 98112

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title Jacob E. Thon date Dec. 10, 1982

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

 Keeper of the National Register
 date 1/27/83
 Attest: _____
 Chief of Registration
 date _____

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

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



Continuation sheet Y.M.C.A. Building

Item number 8

Page 2

Tacoma, Washington

educational backgrounds. Indeed, one of the association's most popular services was providing instruction in English for the foreign born. By 1919 the Y.M.C.A. education program had evolved into Tacoma City College, and within two years there were 800 students enrolled in over 50 courses.

In subsequent years, membership in the Y increased and the association outgrew its downtown facilities by the 1940's. However, it was not until 1977 that it was able to move to new and larger quarters. At the time of its closure in 1977 the facility at 714 Market Street was reportedly the second oldest operating Y.M.C.A. building in the nation.

Item number 9

Page 2

Pacific Builder and Engineer, "Tacoma Y.M.C.A.," vol. 6, no. 52, December 26, 1908, p. 449.

Tacoma News Tribune, "Y.M.C.A. home to be dedicated," January 30, 1910.

"Remodeling for YM let," March 7, 1950.

"From old to new: a big jump for YMCA," November 9, 1975.

"Old 'Y' to get rubdown, facelift as healthy new office building," May 21, 1977.

Obituary of George W. Bullard, "Prominent Tacoma architect and civic builder," May 30, 1935, p. 1.