

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

B-4111

For NPS use only

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

received OCT 16 1985
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Young Men's & Young Women's Hebrew Association Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 305-311 West Monument Street N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of Seventh Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county independent city code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name 305 West Monument Associates, c/o Mark A. Turnbull

street & number 201 North Broad Street

city, town Philadelphia N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania 19107

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Courthouse

street & number 100 North Holliday Street

city, town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources		Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: <u> 0 </u>
Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> buildings	Original and historic functions and uses: Entertainment, Social
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites	
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures	
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association Building on West Monument Street between Howard and Eutaw Streets, which was completed in 1930, is a three story, flat-roofed, rectangularly shaped brick structure that extends south the depth of the lot with an ell projecting west along the back property line to Eutaw Street. The principal facade or north elevation is symmetrically divided into five bays with a centered two story recessed entranceway with a round arch which is flanked on the first floor by six-over-nine, double-hung windows with stone corniced surrounds. The second floor windows flanking the arch are casements. The third floor area which rests on a narrow cornice is also five bays wide with the centered three a part of a recessed arcaded section with cushion-capitaled columns. The arcaded section is flanked by narrow four-over-six double hung windows. Moorish and Jewish motifs decorate the exterior. The bricks of all elevations are laid in Flemish bond. The interior is simple with architrave molding and divided into classrooms and offices.

For General Description, see Continuation Sheet No. 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheets Nos. 7 and 8.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Baltimore East, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	6	0	2	4	0	4	3	5	0	7	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet No. 9.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven Wiesenthal, Project Architect

organization Reshetar Architects date May 15, 1985

street & number 201 North Broad Street - 3rd floor telephone (215) 569-0395

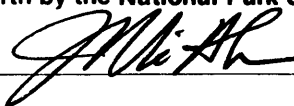
city or town Philadelphia state Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

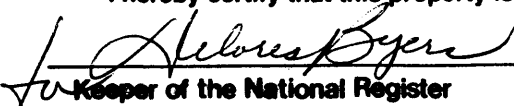
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  date 10-2-85

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

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

 date 11-14-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association
Baltimore City, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Dedicated on October 19, 1930, the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association (YM & YWHA) remained for over 25 years the heart of Baltimore's Jewish Community. In 1960, the building was sold to an AFL-CIO Trade Union Local. During the transition to its new use as a Union Headquarters panels of metal grille and masonry veneer were bolted to the three-story brick facade. The new facade wrapped around at both the east and west, extending approximately 15 feet each side. The grille and veneer were removed in June 1985.

The facade includes a double-height recessed entry, a stepped-profile limestone string course and wood casement and double-hung windows. At the third floor, with the stringcourse as its base, a recessed arcade of five arched openings frames three 8 over 12 double-hung windows and within each arch, a carved design alternating between a Star of David and a wine chalice (Kiddush cup). Moorish shapes can be found in the arches, pilasters and columns of the arcade and in the brickwork above the entry arch.

Combined with classical proportioning, the Moorish detailing contributes to a facade of clear vertical delineation and ordered horizontal symmetry. A limestone wainscot base rises to form the first floor window surrounds and wall and column surfaces of the vaulted entry. Centered between two columns of the recessed entry, a hexagonal "porthole" window opens to the second floor. A narrow dentilled cornice defines the vestibule walls beneath the vaulted ceiling above. The entrance vestibule is currently sheathed in masonry panels, and a suspended ceiling hides the vault and dentils above.

Along Druid Hill Avenue, the nearly 200 foot long south elevation forms the main secondary facade of the YM & YWHA. Divided both horizontally and vertically into three sections, the building's mass steps down the street, following the grade change. Simple stone stringcourses, sills and window heads provide the only material variation to the otherwise common bond brick walls. Window openings are regularly sized and spaced within each of the three facade sections. Surface articulation in the form of piers, arches and ornamental brickwork is concentrated on the two outer sections of roughly equal size.

The south elevation westernmost section projects slightly with vertical bays of segmental arched windows and large piers. The easternmost section contains a central focus highlighted by an arched window within a two-story arched recess. The third floor windows, underlined by a cyma reversa stringcourse, forms the most highly modulated portion of the secondary facades. Brickwork, stone highlights and stepped surfaces create a strong rhythm that balances the massiveness of the western section of the facade. This type of ornamental detailing is found repeated on other secondary facades. A streamlined center section links the two sides with horizontal rows of windows at each of three floors. All windows at the south facade have been either boarded up, changed to glass block or covered with metal grilles.

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Continuation sheet	Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association Baltimore City, Maryland	Item number	7	Page	2
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Facing State Street, the east facade exhibits strong verticality and both local and overall symmetry. At both ends, detailing from the adjoining facades wraps around to form symmetrical end piers framing five recessed center bays. Each bay contains a two-story recessed panel with brick infill and a stone sill. Openings at the basement have been infilled with concrete block.

Within the "crook" of the ell-shaped building, the west facing wing reflects the transition from the highly refined main facade, to a pier with the repeating decorative motifs of the third floor, ending in rows of unadorned windows. The north-facing wing is the most utilitarian of all facades. Ten windows punctuate the otherwise blank masonry wall. A plaster ghost of a two-story building indicates the former existence of a party wall. Paving between the two wings currently serves as a parking lot bounded by a brick wall approximately 15 feet in front of the west-facing wing. Between the brick wall and the building facade, a low concrete patio remains. It originally served as the children's playground.

Flat roofs cover all wings at a variety of heights. Penthouse projections, chimney stacks and steel rails modulate the surfaces. A brick-paved roof deck extends along the northeast corner of the building.

At the north facade facing Monument Street and wrapping around approximately 20 feet at each side, was metal grille, masonry panels and canopy installed in the 1960s and removed in 1985. The original facade appears virtually intact. All masonry openings, the third floor arcade and the entry vestibule remain in good condition. Above the first floor windows, limestone lintel mouldings were damaged during the installation of the false facade. Other areas of limestone damage include several gouges at the third floor belt course. The cyma recta cornice moulding is missing entirely. Within the vestibule, the limestone-clad piers and modillioned frieze were removed at the entry. The side walls and vaulted ceiling have survived the building transition. At the two facade side walls, original masonry openings with steel frame windows appear undamaged. Brickwork throughout has been punctured with bolts, sleeves and related hardware for the false facade assembly. Most holes are approximately 1 inch in diameter; however, four 12 inch square areas have been removed for the insertion of steel beams that supported the canopy. Overall, an estimated 85% of the facade survives intact.

Inside, a maze of classrooms and offices reflects the expansion and subdivision of administrative and educational needs. Original windows, doors and trim remain throughout. Subsequent partitions and doors, wall paneling and suspended ceilings obscure some of the original features; however, plaster and brick surfaces can be found behind most alterations. Remnants of three large gathering spaces remain intact.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

At the first floor behind the entry vestibule, a gymnasium 50 feet wide by 83 feet long has been reduced to a single story by the insertion of two floors above. In the basement directly below, a social hall retains its layout and original surfaces. Brick piers and low walls outline a terrazzo-paved floor 5 risers down from the aisles. In the east wing, a suspended concrete swimming pool spans the building beneath exercise rooms at the top floor.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Built in 1930, the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association Building fulfilled the long-sought aspirations for unity and prominence of the Baltimore Jewish Community. A history of the community reveals much of the struggle to unify. Baltimore Jews first joined together in 1854 as the Hebrew Young Men's Literary Association. As the "first Jewish 'Y' in America...(it) represented the beginning of a community center movement which now includes 350 centers throughout the country."¹ Prominent leaders of Baltimore civic and commercial life founded the 1854 Association. Abram G. Hutzler², Aaron Friedenwald³ and Moses, Ansel and Henry Bamburger⁴ all became influential for generations to come through their activities and the contributions of their offspring. Firmly entrenched in Baltimore's establishment, these German immigrants prospered and moved "uptown." In the 1880s an influx of Russian Jews fleeing pogroms settled in East Baltimore, in many of the homes vacated by upwardly mobile and assimilated German Jews. A divisive tension developed between the two immigrant groups. Issues of assimilation, culture and financial importance separated them. The "downtown" Russian Jews formed independent societies, including the "United Hebrew Charities" of 1907 to compete with the "uptown Jews" Federated Jewish Charities of 1906. With the realization that the future of Baltimore Jewry lay in the investment to its youth, community leaders began to take notice of neglected social dilemmas.

William Levy gathered \$1,000 from 1,000 young men in 1916 to form a "Y"; however, in 1917 World War I interrupted all efforts at organization. After the war, the Anna Sindler Literary Society formed a Young Women's Hebrew Association, and a men's group followed shortly thereafter. In a 1926 brochure entitled "Reasons Y", the National Jewish Welfare Board argued the cases for demanding a combined and strengthened YM & YWCA to replace the inadequate facilities of the separate groups. Juvenile delinquencies, Jewish membership in Christian organizations and a shortage of space for educational, religious and social gatherings formed the argument for a state-wide fund-raising campaign. During the week of February 28 to March 8, 1926, \$530,000 was raised in an impressive show of strength and solidarity. Both Jewish settlements were represented in the contributions to the future of a unified wholesome community. Located precisely between the "downtown" and "uptown" settlements, the Monument Street building is a landmark to this united effort.

Not only would the new building unite the two disparate cultural communities, but it also would join, for the first time nationally, the two sexes into one facility. In a 1928 paper entitled, "Organizational Relations of Women to the Jewish Center," YM & YWCA Executive Director Frank Rubenstein proposed the combined facility to bring men and women together in a supervised spiritual life, while avoiding duplication of expense and efforts in separate buildings. The layout of both shared and private spaces accessible from separate support rooms served as a model for future community centers.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Both inside and outside, the YM & YWHA exhibited a strong hierarchy and functional clarity typical of its architect. Baltimore architect Joseph Evans Sperry designed several landmarks in the city, including the Bromo Seltzer Tower, the YMCA on Cathedral Street and several hospitals and synagogues for the Jewish community. At 305 West Monument Street, the YM & YWHA was not officially completed until one month after the Architect's death. As perhaps the final design of his illustrious career, Sperry's YM & YWHA artfully expressed his cumulative experience with exotic European details and craftsmanship within refined classical ordering principles. Culminating a career in which a long list of satisfied clients included many members of the Jewish community, Sperry was the obvious choice of the building committee.

In a quote from the "Y" dedication book, the building location is seen to be significant to the city at large as well as to the Jewish community. "Monument Street between Howard and Eutaw has for many years been the haunt of intent young men and women. The site of McCoy Hall, the largest building in the Howard Street section of Johns Hopkins University, was the very heart of the intellectual life of the city and it is particularly fitting and proper that this site should now be the home of the graceful building which the Y.M. and Y.W.H.A. has erected."⁵ Other large academic and cultural centers in the immediate vicinity include the Baltimore City College, the 1922 Recreation Centre and, the former Stanley, Mayfair, and Maryland theaters.

During its full quarter-century of vitality, the YM & YWHA fulfilled services anticipated as the backbone of the influential Baltimore Jewish community. Athletic, artistic, educational, religious, social and humanitarian events filled the schedules. During World War II, the building served as a primary support facility. "A business college was organized to provide trained stenographers and typists for the burgeoning war industries; dances that began at midnight continued until 4:00 a.m. for defense workers on the swing shift; the billiards room was turned into a servicemen's lounge,...between 4,000 and 5,000 servicemen used the building per month... By the end of the war, the YM & YWHA was a firmly entrenched community institution."⁶

Lectures by prominent international figures included a French Premier, a member of the British Parliament, and eminent scholars, journalists and artists. The official motto, "To everything that is noble in Judaism, to everything that is fine in Americanism - a happy blending of the two,"⁷ best expressed the goal of community service.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

In celebrating the 8154-1954 centennial of organized American Jewish centers, President Dwight Eisenhower said "The century of significant human service the Jewish Community Center has rendered makes it an asset of rare worth to the life and developing civilization of our America. The Jewish Community Center has infused the ordinary lives of an uncounted number of people - ranging in age from the pre-school to the senior citizen - with purpose, cheer, creative self-awareness, and living meaning. For this dedicated work, the Jewish Community Centers and YMHA's of America deserve the gratitude of millions."⁸

FOOTNOTES:

1. "YMHA Plans Celebration," Baltimore Sun. January 4, 1954.
2. Abram G. Hutzler established Baltimore's largest department store.
3. Aaron Friedenwald began 3 generations of nationally known doctors.
4. Moses, Ansel and Henry Bamburger were strong supporters of Johns Hopkins University.
5. "Y.M. and Y.W.H.A. Dedication Program." Baltimore, MD. October 19, 1930.
6. Kellman, Naomi, "Tour to the Past: 130 Year History of the JCC," February 18, 1985, Associated Jewish Charities & Welfare Fund, Baltimore MD.
7. Bisgyer, Gustave. "This is Your 'Y', 1948 report."
8. 1954 Jewish Community Center Centennial Program.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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Glushakow, A.D., "A Pictorial History of MD Jewry", J.V.
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Md, 1934, p. 19, 20.

"Hebrew Building Formally Opened", Baltimore Sun, October 20, 1930.

"Hebrew Y's Planning New Quarters", Baltimore Sun, February 21,
1926.

"Jewish Center's Founding in 1854 Is Being Celebrated Nationally",
Baltimore Sun, January 11, 1954.

Jewish Community Center Centennial Program, January 1954.

"Jewish Y's and J.E.A. will be Merged", Baltimore Sun, June 14,
1951.

Kellman, Naomi, "Tour to the Past: 130 Year History of the JCC",
Associated Jewish Charities Welfare Fund, Baltimore, Md, February
18, 1985.

Kellman, Naomi, Interview of May 6, 1985.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

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"New Hebrew Association Building", Baltimore Sun, September 6, 1930.

"New YMHA Building Dedicated Last Night", Baltimore Sun, October 10, 1930.

"Public Auction Sale: The Jewish Community Center 'Y' Building", Baltimore Sun, June 19, 1960.

"Reasons Y", National Jewish Welfare Board, New York, NY, 1926.

Rubenstein, Frank, "Organizational Relations of Women to the Jewish Center", Baltimore, Md, June 1928.

Sanborn Insurance Map: 1932.

"The Jewish Times" volume XXIII October 17, 1930, No. 6.

"The Jewish Times" volume XXIII December 5, 1930, No. 13.

"The Y Messenger", Baltimore, Md, December 1920.

"YM & YWHA Handbook", Baltimore, Md, 1933.

"Y.M.H.A. Plans Celebration", Baltimore Sun, January 4, 1954.

"Young Men's & Young Women's Hebrew Association Dedication Program", Baltimore, Md, October 19, 1930.

"Young Men's Hebrew Group 100 Years Old This Week", Baltimore Sun, January 8, 1954.

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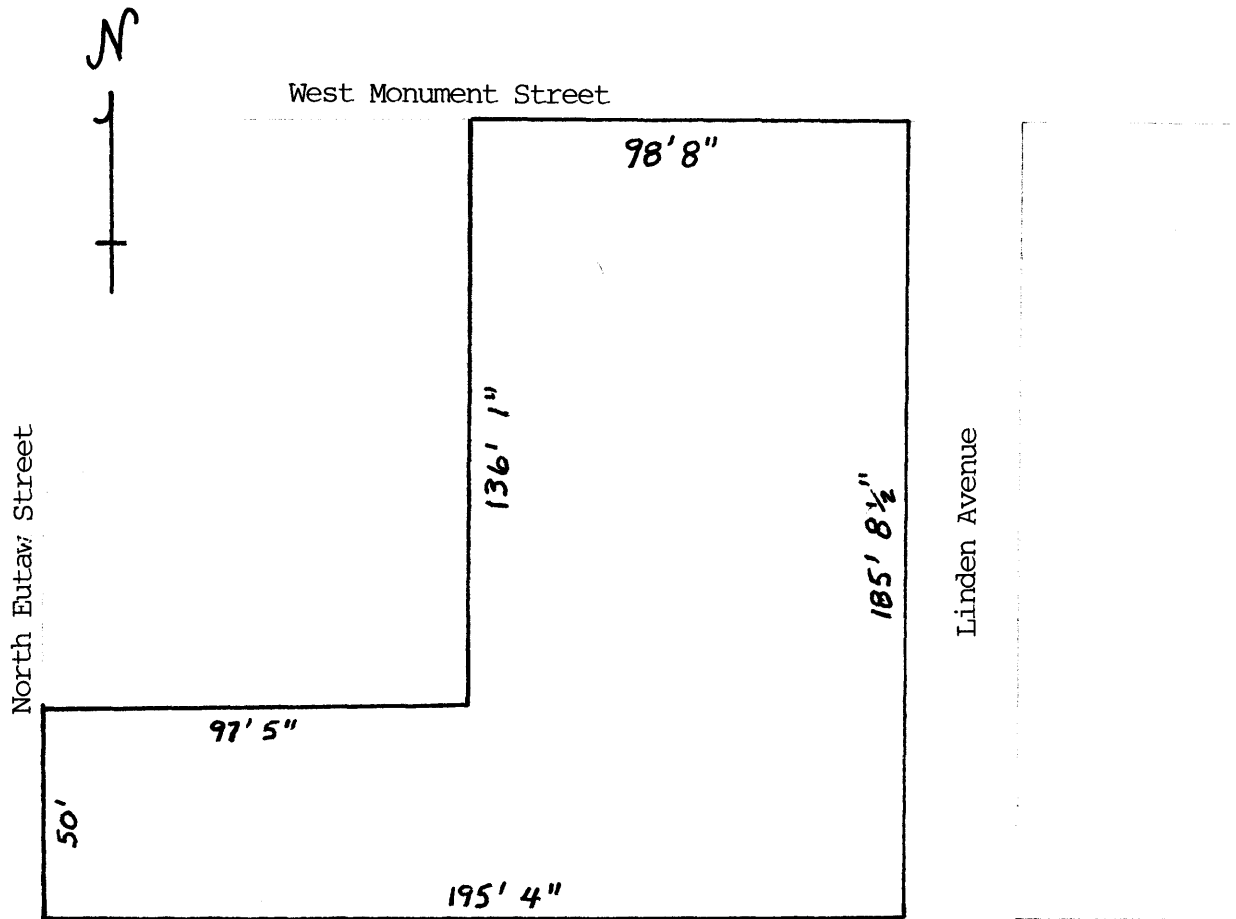
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Young Men's & Young Women's Hebrew Association

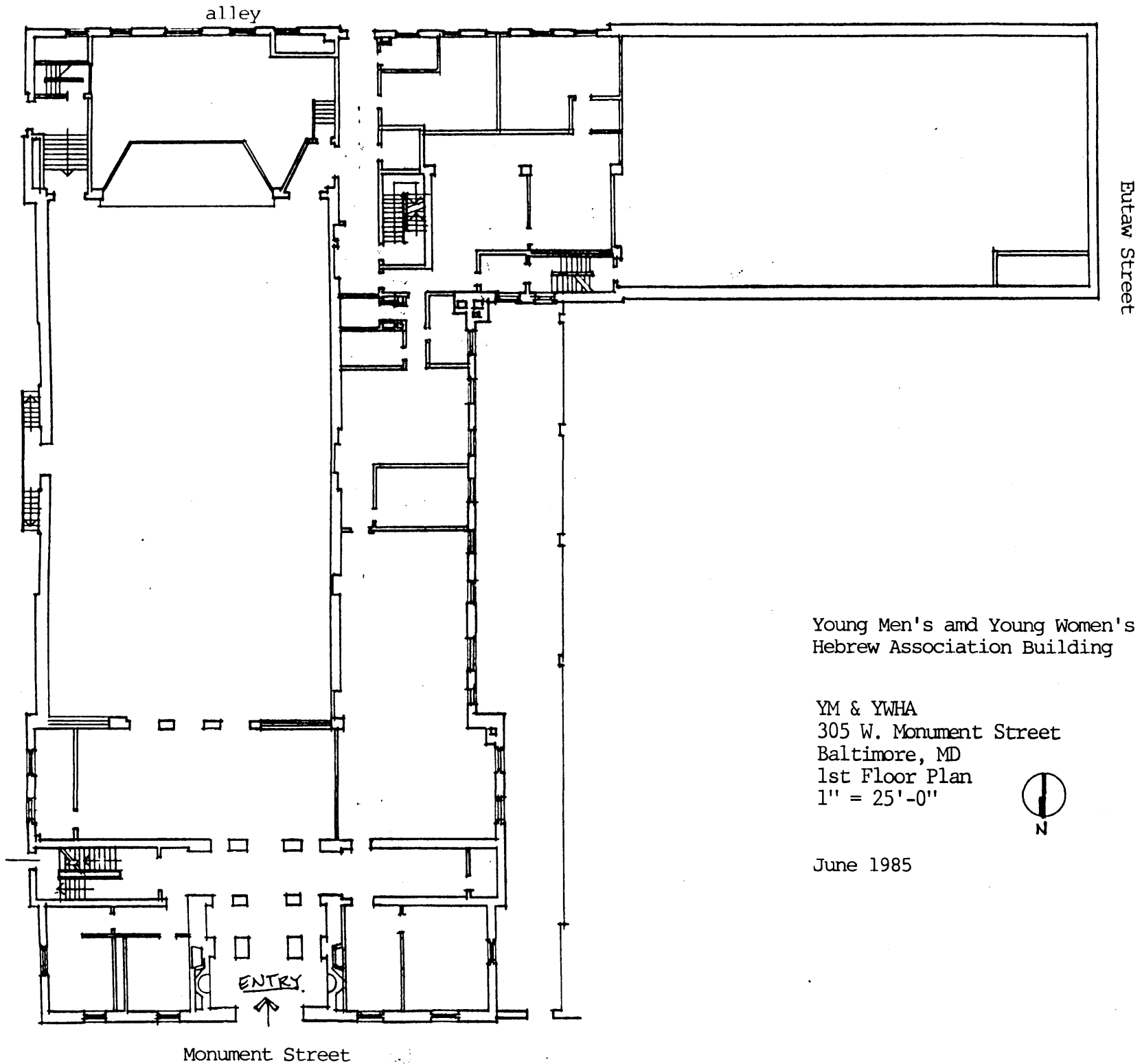
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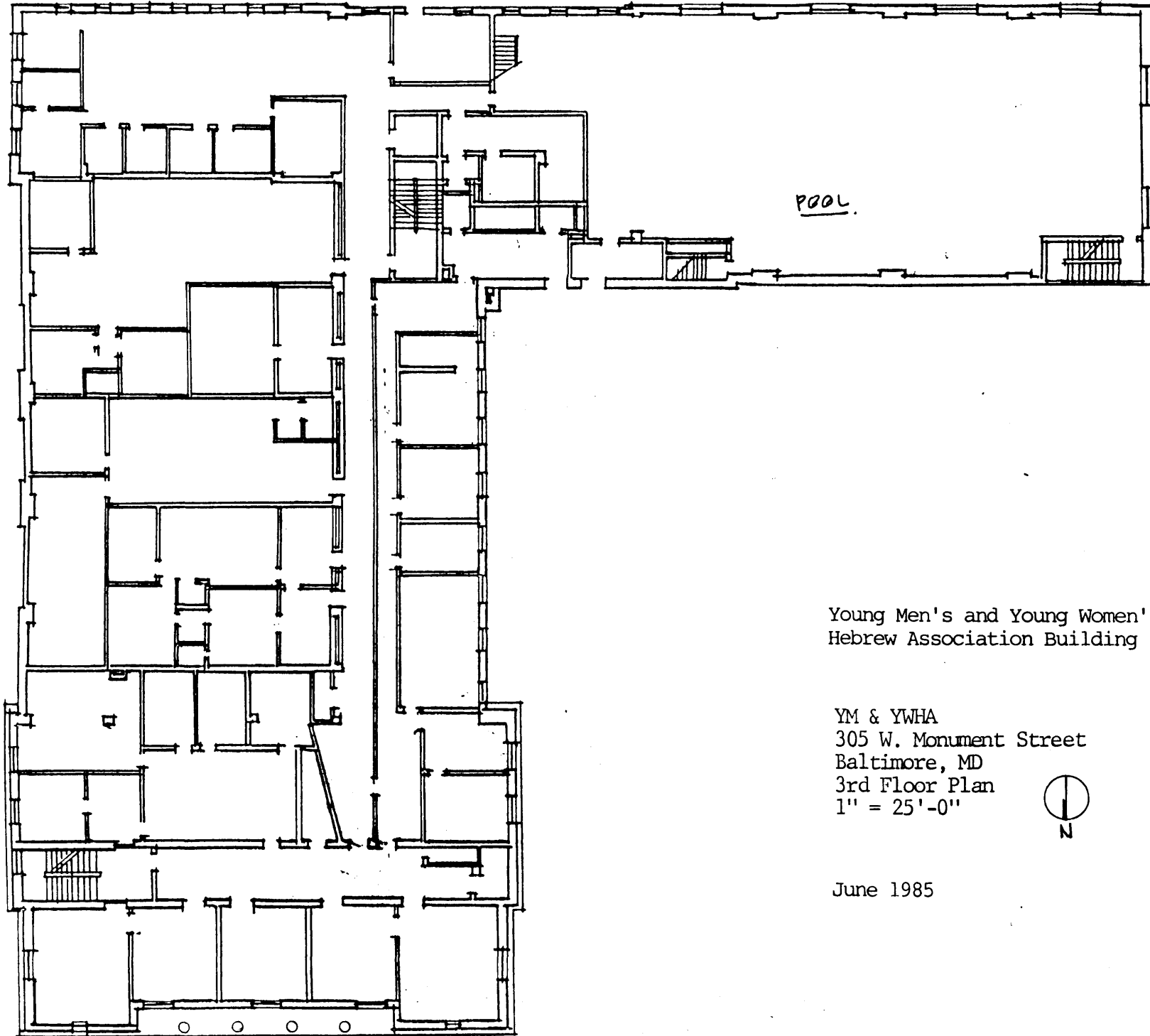
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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:



The nominated property consists of the city lot upon which the resource stands. The property is L-shaped with the measurements given in this drawing.





Young Men's and Young Women's
Hebrew Association Building

YM & YWHA
305 W. Monument Street
Baltimore, MD
3rd Floor Plan
1" = 25'-0"



June 1985