

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 06001215

Date Listed: 12/29/2006

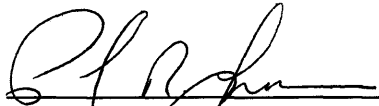
YWCA Building--Seattle
Property Name

King
County

WA
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

12/29/2006
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Location:
The correct county code for King County is: 33

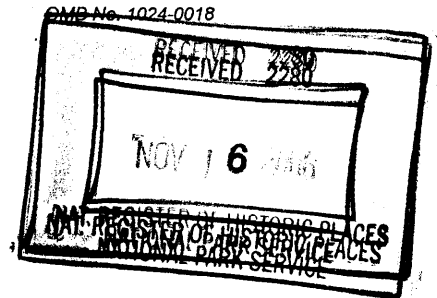
Historic Function:
The historic functions are revised to read: *Recreation/Culture-Sports Facility*

U. T. M. Coordinates:
The correct U.T.M. coordinates should read: 10 550250 5272750

These clarifications were confirmed with the WA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1215



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name YWCA Building - Seattle

Other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1118 Fifth Avenue _____ not for publication

city or town Seattle _____ vicinity

State Washington code WA county King code 33 zip code 98101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Allyson M. 11-9-06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ___ removed from the National Register.
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature] 12/29/2006

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Recreation & Culture
- Social-Civic
- Domestic-Hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Recreation & Culture
- Social-Civic
- Domestic-Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival:
- Italian Renaissance

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Concrete
- walls Concrete
- Brick
- roof Asphalt
- other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Entertainment/Recreation

Social History

Period of Significance

1914 -1954

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Champney, Edouard F. (Architect)

Grant Smith and Company (Builder)

Robert Durham & Associates (Architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
#
recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record#

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
X University
Other

Name of repository:

University of Washington, Special Collections Division

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Less than One Acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>5</u> <u>50</u> <u>650</u> Easting	<u>52</u> <u>72</u> <u>750</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Harvey
 organization Northwest Cultural Resources Services date August 20, 2006
 street & number 1931 Harris Avenue telephone 509-946-5834
 city or town Richland state WA zip code 99354

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Young Women's Christian Association of Seattle-King County-Snohomish County
 street & number 1118 Fifth Avenue telephone 206-490-4380
 city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98101

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet –

YWCA BUILDING - SEATTLE
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Seattle Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Building occupies a 120-foot x 120-foot lot on the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street in the heart of Seattle's central business district. Completed in 1914, the eight story, reinforced concrete building is an intact example of the Italian Renaissance (Revival) style, a popular mode for architect-designed landmarks in the nation's metropolitan areas during the early 20th century prior to World War I. The primary elevations face Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street and have an exterior cladding of brick and concrete with terra cotta trim. The secondary elevations have a plaster cement finish. The east facade is flush with a north-south alley, while the south facade faces an adjacent hotel. The bottom half of the south facade is flush with the hotel's parking garage. The entire building is situated on a concrete foundation.

The YWCA Building has overall integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and location. Except for a decorative roof balustrade that has been removed, and ornate street entrances and surrounds that have been replaced with contemporary wood and glass doors, the exterior of the building still exhibits historically significant architectural features. The building's classical symmetrical composition, imposing design, with Italian Renaissance inspired arched, wood frame windows, and a balustrade belt course, have been retained. The wood frame, double hung sash windows on the middle floors facing Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street are also intact.

Edouard Frere Champney, a well-known and prolific Pacific Northwest architect, designed the building. Champney, raised in France and educated in the eastern United States, brought to this region an unusual background in large-scale urban and landscape planning as well as a knowledge of elaborate Beaux-Arts eclectic styles, ultimately reflected in his design of the Seattle YWCA building. The building represents a superb, intact example of the Italian Renaissance style that has retained its key historic exterior detailing, and due to its lengthy period at its current location, serving essentially the same function, has retained its historic identity, feeling and association with the YWCA's over century-long service and mission in downtown Seattle.

Setting

The Seattle YWCA building is located in the center of the downtown business district of Seattle, Washington. The imposing eight-story building is situated on the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street. The primary elevations of the building are flush with the sidewalks. Buildings adjacent to the YWCA building consist mainly of hotels and parking garages, including the historic Fairmont Olympic Hotel, which occupies an entire city block

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directly northwest of YWCA Building on University Street. Opened in 1924, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Olympic, like the Seattle YWCA building, is a superb example of the Italian Renaissance style buildings built in major urban areas during the first quarter of the 20th century. The Olympic Hotel and the YWCA building were two of the more notable commercial buildings of this genre constructed during this period in downtown Seattle.

Current Appearance

The Seattle YWCA building is constructed of reinforced concrete, anchored on a concrete foundation. The primary street elevations have an exterior cladding of brick and concrete with terra cotta trim and repetitive window fenestration. The building has a flat roof with a distinctive cornice. The ornate roofline balustrade was removed after the 1948 earthquake, but the prominent dentiled cornice remains. The building's eight stories are divided into a three-part vertical block consisting of a (1) base, (2) shaft, and (3) capital. The base consists of a full basement, with the first two stories dominated by Italian Renaissance-inspired, wood frame arched windows. The shaft includes floors 3-6 with symmetrically placed, wood frame, doubled hung sash windows. The capital consists of the top two stories with Italian Renaissance-inspired arched windows that are separated from the floors below by a distinctive terra cotta belt course.

Exterior

The primary street elevations have retained most of their original historic architectural features. Repetitive window fenestration dominates the primary facades. Intact Italian Renaissance detailing include terra cotta belt courses, a flat roof with an ornate roofline cornice, terra cotta rosettes, brick facing, and paired arched windows on the upper and lower floors separated by small columns with Corinthian crowning.

Eight stories

As noted, the building's eight floors are divided into a three-part vertical block: 1) a full basement, with the first two stories dominated by Italian Renaissance-inspired, wood frame arched windows, (2) floors 3-6 have symmetrically placed, wood frame, double hung sash windows, and (3) the top two stories are separated from the floors below by a distinctive terra cotta belt course with a balustrade balcony (facing Fifth Avenue) and Italian Renaissance-inspired, wood frame arched windows. Matching double hung sash windows are separated by ornate modified Corinthian capital pilasters with classical surrounds.

Secondary (east and south) elevations

The original fenestration was a combination of wood and steel sash windows, with some above the original courtyard replaced by aluminum (probably in the 1950s and 60s). The

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east (alley) elevation still exhibits repetitive window fenestration with wood frame, double hung sash windows. Off the south façade of the fifth floor is a rooftop daycare play area, which is partly surrounded by the upper floors of the east and south facades. The two secondary facades consist of a concrete frame and clay tile infill walls with Portland cement plaster cladding. Recently the facades have been re-plastered to repair deteriorated areas. The lower floors of the south elevation are flush with the adjacent hotel garage. A vintage fire escape is situated on the south elevation above the play area.

Base

The smooth cut, granite basement or "plinth" with a flush mortar joint is separated from the first two floors by a concrete block stone course. On the stone course is a pair of matching copper plaques at the corner of the building inscribed with "YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION". The first two floors of the primary facades consist of seven bays with large arched, wood frame windows and centrally located entrances on Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street. A pair of original ornate lamps flanks both entrances. Two original circular terra cotta rosettes are situated over both doorways. The brick finish of floors 1-2 is lighter (tan) than the upper stories, which have a darker red hue.

Alterations

During the 1950s remodel, contemporary glass doors replaced the original ornate, classical surround entrances. During the 1980s remodel, the current historically compatible wood and glass doors replaced the 1950s doors. While the Fifth Avenue entrance is flush with the sidewalk, the Seneca Street entrance is recessed to provide for handicapped access. Historically neither door had awnings or canopies. During the 1950s remodel, arched plastic awnings/canopies were installed over both entrances, but were later removed. During the 1980s remodel, flat canopies with metal scroll brackets were installed.

Except for a single basement window facing Seneca Street, all the original basement windows with iron grillwork have been replaced with glass block windows.

Floors 3-6

The middle floors on the primary elevations have symmetrically placed, wood frame, double hung paired windows with terra cotta sills. The two street elevations have an exterior brick facing applied over concrete. The bricks are a dark red in contrast to the tan/lighter color brick on floors 1-2.

Floors 7 & 8

The top floors consist of a prominent, dentiled cornice along the flat roofline. The distinctive roofline balustrade was removed after the 1948 earthquake. The two floors are separated

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from the floors below by a distinctive terra cotta belt course with a balustrade balcony (facing Fifth Avenue) and Italian Renaissance-inspired, wood frame, arched windows. Modified Corinthian capital pilasters with classical surrounds separate the paired double hung sash windows. Along with the middle section, floors 7-8 has a dark red brick finish in contrast to the lighter brick (tan) applied to floors 1-2.

Interior

Basement

The basement consists of a full-length swimming pool, locker/changing rooms, bathrooms, maintenance storage rooms and shop, utilities room, and a furnace/boiler room. The "Dress for Success" Seattle program is located at the north end of the basement, with access from Fifth Avenue. The swimming pool and locker rooms are currently closed, and the pool has been partially filled in at the deep end. The pool area is currently used for clothes and miscellaneous storage. The decorative floor tiles around the perimeter of the pool have been retained. During the 1950s remodel, the ceiling skylights were removed and filled in with a concrete slab. The ceiling currently consists of dropped acoustic tiles with fluorescent lights. The original basement laundry and dark room are closed.

Lobby (1st Floor)

The first floor originally had an imposing lobby of splendid proportions. Concrete and plaster Corinthian columns extended from the ground floor to a second floor balcony, with a decorative balustrade. The lobby had an elaborate fireplace and a distinctive tile floor. During the 1950s remodel, the lobby was dramatically changed. The lobby no longer extends two floors. The second floor balcony was infilled to provide for additional office space. The altered lobby now consists of a low dropped (plaster) ceiling, recessed and inset ceiling lights, plasterboard walls, and a vinyl composition tiled floor. The fireplace has been removed and all the original furnishings have been replaced.

The Seneca Street entrance leads to the current residential reception area and daycare. Immediately inside the Fifth Avenue entrance are five terrazzo steps, installed during 1950s remodel, which lead to the lobby and elevators. Additional terrazzo stairs lead to second floor offices. During the 1940s and 1950s remodels, the stairwell was enclosed. A delicatessen/café is situated at the south end of the lobby. During the 1950s remodel, the former cafeteria at the northeast corner of the first floor was converted to a delicatessen and restaurant. It is closed, with a new tenant scheduled to occupy the space. A daycare facility occupies the former Association offices/living room at the northwest (Fifth and Seneca) corner of the first floor. The original music room and reception room on the first floor are currently used as offices.

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The former assembly hall/auditorium at the east end of the first floor has been converted to daycare classroom use. The room still retains the original stage and some of the ornate ceiling cornices and concrete and plaster Corinthian columns. The original tile floor was covered over with vinyl asbestos tile, and later with vinyl composition tile. During the 1950s remodel, the courtyard between the auditorium and lobby was infilled and converted into a two-story gymnasium/day care play area (with skylights).

Intact 1st floor features

As noted, the former auditorium still retains some of its distinctive ceiling cornices and Corinthian columns. The rear concrete stairwells leading to the upper floors have retained their original width and features, including the wood railings and metal supports. The elevators are still in their original location although the car interiors have been modified.

2nd Floor

The former clubrooms, which face Seneca Street, have retained some of their decorative ceiling cornices and columns, ornate ceiling medallions, and original wood frame, arched windows. During the 1950s remodel, fluorescent lights were placed over the medallions, and a couple of the windows were covered over. The second floor rooms facing Seneca Street originally included three clubrooms, a library, lounge, and a tea room (later a kitchen). During the 1950s remodel, they were partitioned into offices and a conference room, and the kitchen/tea room was closed.

As noted, during the 1940s and 1950s remodels the front (5th Avenue) stairwell between the 1st and 2nd floor was enclosed. The second floor balcony (with a decorative balustrade) above the two-story, open lobby was infilled to provide for additional office space. Consequently, the 2nd floor hallway is not as wide as the original upper floor hallways. Ornate columns and decorative cornices are still evident adjacent to the second floor elevator and the rear stairwell. The original double hung sash windows in the former hotel rooms (now offices) on the east side of the second floor have been retained.

3rd - 8th floors

The rear concrete stairwells are intact between these floors. They have retained their original width and features, including wood railings with metal supports. The hallways have retained their original dimensions. The "Seattle Steam" pipes in the hallways (and the radiators in the hotel rooms) are intact, as well as most of the vinyl composition and vinyl asbestos tile floors. As noted, off the south façade of the fifth floor is a rooftop day care play area, which is partly enclosed by the upper floors of the east and south facades. While the rooms that face the street have retained their wood framed windows, some of the

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windows that face south and east (secondary facades) are no longer the double hung variety.

During the 1950s remodel, the 4th floor hospital suite, and the kitchen, cafeteria, and dining rooms on the 6th and 7th floors were closed. The original 7th - 8th floor gymnasium (which extended between the two floors) and balcony/running track were infilled to provide space for additional hotel rooms. The gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen were relocated to the first floor. Vocational training classrooms were originally located on the third and fourth floors. They were closed to make room for additional hotel units. The classrooms were relocated to the 1st and 2nd floors. During the 1950s remodel, small kitchens were added on all the resident's floors.

The janitor's quarters were located in a small "penthouse" on the roof. The rooms are currently used for records storage. A tennis court was also located on top of the building. It is currently closed.

Rooms on the 4-8 floors are for extended stay occupants, while the 3rd floor is an emergency women's shelter.

Interior Remodeling Efforts

As the YWCA's mission and priorities changed over the years, and the building aged, remodeling and alterations were undertaken throughout the interior of the building. In 1944 the Seattle YWCA contracted with Naramore and Brady of Seattle to undertake the first significant remodeling of the facility. The architectural firm designed enclosures for the main stairwell, installed interior fire doors, and designed numerous code upgrades that consisted of electrical wiring, lighting, plumbing and lighted exit signs.

In the early 1950s, the Seattle YWCA contracted with Robert Durham and Associates of Seattle to design the most significant renovations of the building. The first floor lobby was considerably modified. The second floor balcony and balustrade were removed and infilled to provide space for additional second floor offices and meeting rooms. Contemporary plaster walls and ceiling were applied along with vinyl asbestos tile flooring and recessed ceiling lights. Terrazzo steps were added to the interior Fifth Avenue front entry and to the front stairs connecting the first and second floors. The first floor courtyard between the lobby and the assembly hall was infilled and converted into a two-story, multi-purpose room/gymnasium. The skylights over the basement pool, located in the courtyard, were removed and filled in with a concrete slab. A dropped ceiling of acoustic tiles and fluorescent lights was added over the pool. The ornate Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street entry's were removed and replaced with contemporary glass doors. Arched cloth canopies were installed

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over both entries. The 7th - 8th floor gymnasium and balcony was removed and infilled to provide space for additional hotel rooms. Small kitchens were added to each of the resident's floors.

During the mid-1980s, Stickney and Murphy Architects of Seattle were contracted to design several changes to the building. The architects replaced the 1950s glass doors with historically compatible wood and glass entry doors. Flat canopies were designed and installed over the front entries. The 1950s era plastic arched canopies had been removed at an earlier, unknown date.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Seattle YWCA Building, located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street in the heart of Seattle's downtown business district, was completed in 1914. The building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its' association with the YWCA's important mission and historic commitment to the social, economic and educational advancement of all women throughout the City of Seattle and King County for over the past 100 years. From its beginning the Association's mission was to provide a secure environment for the ever-increasing number of self-supporting women who were migrating to fast-growing industrial centers like Seattle during the late 19th/early 20th century. The opening of the eight story YWCA building in downtown Seattle in 1914 provided the Association with the opportunity to expand its promotion of the advancement of all women, especially those working and/or living in downtown Seattle, through education/training, economic independence, recreational opportunities, clubs, and pursuit of voting rights and racial and gender equality in the work place.

The building was designed by well-known Pacific Northwest architect Edouard Frere Champney (1874-1929). Champney was one of the few Pacific Northwest architects who possessed formal French academic architectural training. His design of the Seattle YWCA building added "a relatively sophisticated composition to the Seattle cityscape" (Oschsner 1994, p. 136).

The interior design and layout of the building served the Association's mission and functions well for the next several decades. But by the end of the Second World War the building's aging utilities and infrastructure along with a change in the Association's mission and program priorities led to a major interior redesign in 1953-54 by the architectural firm of Robert Durham & Associates.

From its beginning, the Seattle YWCA's mission was dedicated to serving the needs of working women throughout Seattle and King County. The Association's concern for the physical comfort and safety of women that had recently arrived in Seattle went hand-in-hand with their concern for the workingwoman's character.

The new building will furnish not only material comfort, . . . but also a real home with the proper environments for developing the character of the girl in the best way. The aim will be to throw around her the protection of a Christian home with all the encouragements of the most uplifting influences (Seattle Times 1914, n. p.).

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The Seattle YWCA was committed to the social advancement of all women through economic independence, education/training and equality in the work place and voting rights. Over the years the program of the YWCA has adapted to meet the ever-widening professional, recreational and emotional interests of women.

According to the Seattle Press Club in 1915, the Seattle YWCA building:

"...was the finest YWCA building in America next to the national headquarters in New York City . . . it houses all activities for women and girls, including transient hotel accommodations, cafes, swimming pool and gymnasium. Social and educational features and extensive free welfare work make these spacious quarters an important feature of Seattle's civic life." (Seattle Press Club 1915, p. 1)

The YWCA has had a long, consistent legacy of adapting its services and facilities to meet emerging community needs, which it has done continuously in their building at 5th and Seneca since its construction in 1914.

The Seattle YWCA building is the largest and oldest YWCA facility in the State of Washington. At the time of its construction the Seattle YWCA building was the only fireproof Association building built on the west coast. It is one of the few buildings built in the early 20th century in downtown Seattle that has retained its original occupant and function. The building is a fine, intact example of the Italian Renaissance style that has retained its key historic exterior fabric, and due to its lengthy period at its current location, has retained its historic identity, feeling and association with the YWCA's over century long service and mission in downtown Seattle.

History

Mission and Purpose

From its inception the Seattle YWCA's mission was to provide a secure environment for the ever-increasing number of self-supporting women who were migrating to fast-growing industrial centers like Seattle during the late 19th/early 20th century. The economic depression of the 1890s and the increasing urbanization/industrialization of the United States attracted many single women to Seattle seeking employment in offices, garment industries and work as household domestics. The opening of the new YWCA building in downtown Seattle provided the Association with the opportunity "to carry on big work for daughters who are away from home . . ." (Seattle Times 1914, n. p.).

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The YWCA was established in Great Britain in 1855. From the beginning its mission was dedicated to serving the needs of workingwomen throughout the world. The first YWCA established in the United States was in Boston in 1866. The Seattle YWCA was established in 1894 by a group of 28 women to provide a wholesome environment for young women, and to assist "the working girl" toward self-reliance and independence.

Early Years

The last two decades of the 19th century were a tumultuous period in American history, when numerous immigrants made their way to the United States, attracted by the prospects of cheap land, jobs and a better way of life. Many were attracted to the Pacific Northwest for the plentiful employment opportunities in the region's natural resource extraction industries. Single men and women found jobs in the Northwest's forests, mills, and port cities like Seattle. This migration to the Pacific Northwest resulted in an exponential growth in the region's population. The population of Seattle reportedly grew from approximately 45,000 in 1890 to over 310,000 in 1910.

The 1889 Seattle fire, and subsequent recovery boom, and the nationwide depression in 1893 attracted many young women to Seattle seeking employment. A few years later the discovery of gold in the Yukon in 1896 led to a large influx of people to Puget Sound. Seattle became the major departure point for Alaska and, consequently, the settling place for those supplying the prospectors and many of those returning from the gold fields. Similarly, a decade later the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle attracted numerous young women to the area, seeking better paying jobs than could be found elsewhere in the country.

Turn-of-the-century Seattle, however, was a wide-open town, with gambling halls, houses of prostitution, and saloons. Seattle had a fast-growing population that included approximately 40,000 women between 15 and 45 years of age, 10,000 of who were self-supporting. Many were living in boarding houses or single rooms in hotels.

Frequently alone, many of these women had lived sheltered lives, having grown up in rural areas and small towns, and so were often exploited when they first arrived in the big city. In response to this situation, the Seattle YWCA created the Traveler's Aid program. This program, a joint effort by the YWCA and the Union Pacific, provided a depot matron who met trains and steamers to guide these young women travelers to safe, "wholesome" environments like the YWCA.

The first wave of single women who arrived in Seattle pursued traditional female occupations in factories, bakeries, garment shops and other labor-intensive industries. They often

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worked long hours in difficult, unhealthy conditions. These women often had no place to go to relax or to pursue recreational opportunities. The Seattle YWCA was established to provide women in the downtown area with healthy alternatives. Initial efforts centered on providing inexpensive meals to Seattle's workingwomen. The YWCA initially established "a noon rest hour for young women" (YWCA 1976, p. 1), and opened a lounge and cafeteria to provide lunches for women working and/or living in downtown Seattle.

Right from the beginning the Seattle YWCA adapted its social services and facilities to meet emerging community needs. In 1906, the Seattle YWCA took an active role in assisting the refugees from the San Francisco earthquake. They provided food, shelter and clothing to over 2000 refugees, and out of that experience developed an emergency housing program. The YWCA acquired several houses throughout Seattle and converted them into low-income housing.

Early on social services provided by the Seattle YWCA expanded to include employment counseling, job training and housing placement. The YWCA's motto became "service through social action" (Clack 1985, p. 3). During the early years the Association provided counseling services for single women to assist them in choosing the appropriate training/education classes and employment.

From the outset the Seattle YWCA encouraged women to participate in classes and activities through a variety of clubs. Clubs were a very important part of the Association's program, and generally met weekly for dinner and other social activities. The YWCA organized clubs to keep young women and girls interested in the "best things", and away from the "corrupting" temptations of urban America. The early 20th century was a period of energetic political reform, women's suffrage and social action. It was the height of the Progressive era, a time when alcohol, gambling and other "moral transgressions" were being challenged by women's organizations like the YWCA. "Membership to the YWCA was open to any moral girl or woman without regard to race or religion" (History Link 2004, p. 1).

The YWCA provided recreational opportunities that previously did not exist for women living and/or working in downtown Seattle. The Association's swimming pool and gymnasium as well as a rooftop tennis court, provided recreational outlets that ultimately served dual purposes for many women. Historian Mildred Andrews noted that:

"Health and fitness programs at the YWCA were originally designed for the working girl, who need strength to operate . . . office or industrial equipment, but within a short time women were enjoying physical exercise for both health and recreational purposes . . ." (Andrews 1984, p. 28)

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While the Seattle YWCA advocated progressive social change, women's suffrage, and increased educational and recreational opportunities for women, they also adhered to the traditional value system of the day. "Perhaps these values were stressed to keep young women 'safe' in the unscrupulous men's world of business affairs" (Clack 1985, p. 7). So while the YWCA was encouraging young women to be self-sufficient and successful in the business world, they were also channeling women into conventional domestic roles. The YWCA's vocational training school offered classes in sewing, millinery, tailoring, dressmaking, cooking, housework, budget making and "how to make the best out of marriage". The YWCA also provided training for potential housekeepers, since there was a significant demand for domestic household help in Seattle.

These were the class of women that the YWCA wanted to provide services for, to protect and provide a place to stay and training for means of fruitful employment. In 1914 when the state legislature enacted the landmark \$10 per week minimum wage for women, the YWCA declared its chief aim to be the training and fitting of girls to enable them to earn at least minimum wage. The vocational training department held classes in millinery, dressmaking, cafeteria work, manicuring, and salesmanship. A home economics program prepared girls for marriage or for domestic work. The YWCA developed strong relations with the business community, arranging job placements and promoting better conditions for women in the workplace (History Link 2004, p. 2).

By the end of World War I the face of downtown Seattle had changed considerably since the fire of 1889. Distinctive brick buildings had replaced the wood frame buildings in Pioneer Square. As the city rebuilt after the 1889 fire the commercial core began to slowly move north from its original location in Pioneer Square. This surge in population contributed to the city's heightened prosperity during the first decade of the 20th century, which was reflected in the handsome and imposing brick and terra cotta commercial buildings that arose in the new business district.

Seattle's "coming of age" coincided with its staging of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in 1909, which promoted Seattle as the gateway to the Orient. The construction of distinctive classical buildings at the exposition reflected the National City Beautiful movement that idealistically sought to bring about political and social reform through physical order (Kreisman 1985). The buildings constructed in downtown Seattle during this period, like the Seattle YWCA building with its classical Italian Renaissance features and repetitive fenestration, were influenced by the exposition's symmetrical designs and composition.

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A Building of Their Own

As their membership grew and their community responsibilities and programs proliferated, the Seattle YWCA had to often move to larger quarters to accommodate the changes. By the beginning of the 20th century, however, it became apparent that the YWCA needed their own facility. Located in a small store at 1104½ Second Avenue during the 1890s, the Seattle YWCA moved to the Curtis Building at Second and Union in 1901. In 1906, with a membership close to 1400 women, the YWCA opened a boarding house for girls on Queen Anne Hill and acquired 18 acres on Bainbridge Island for a summer camp, called Camp Yeomalt (which was sold later) (Greater YWCA 1908; Andrews 1984). In 1904, the YWCA moved to the former quarters of the Rainier Club in the Seattle Theater building on Third Avenue. In 1909, the YWCA relocated to a cottage near Fifth and Seneca.

It was under the leadership of Association President Mrs. Emma Wood that the YWCA board devised a fund-raising campaign for construction of a new building in downtown Seattle. The YWCA established a restaurant and hostess house at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle during the summer of 1909 to raise funds for the new building. The enterprise netted a profit of \$12,000 that enabled the YWCA to make a down payment for the lots at Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street. The total costs of the lots were \$60,000, while the entire building, when completely furnished, cost between \$325,000-\$350,000. The whirlwind fundraising drive including the canvassing of downtown businesses and working women for contributions (History Link 2004). The Seattle YWCA also promoted a "Buy-a-Brick" campaign (at one dollar a brick) to raise funds for the new building. The "Brick Brigade" was able to sell all the 93,000 bricks that were to be used in construction of the new building. Friendly benefactors and YWCA clubs provided most of the interior furnishings. The building at Fifth and Seneca was completed and dedicated on May 24, 1914.

Over the years the revenue obtained from the new building's tearoom, cafeteria, Turkish baths, swimming pool, gymnasium, hotel, classrooms, and vocational school (History Link 2004) helped pay for the operation of the building.

Building Architects

Edouard F. Champney

In May 1913, Edouard Champney was awarded the contract to design the YWCA building in downtown Seattle. Champney was one of the few Pacific Northwest architects who possessed formal French academic architectural training. From his experience with major East Coast firms and the Office of the Supervising Architect for the federal government in Washington, D.C, he "brought to this region an unusual background in large-scale urban and landscape planning and a knowledge of elaborate beaux-arts eclectic styles" (Ochsner

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1994, p. 132). Champney was born to American parents in France in 1874. He was educated in the United States and received his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard in 1896. Several years later he attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris (Ochsner 1994).

Champney's knowledge of Beaux-Arts eclectic styles enabled him to participate on several of the lavishly planned, turn-of-the-century expositions. These included his work as designer on the U. S. government pavilion at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon, the Pan Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, one of the last West Coast expositions in the Beaux-Arts style, and as chief designer for the San Francisco firm of Howard & Galloway to supervise projects for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle. This was a significant position since Howard & Galloway was responsible for the design supervision for the entire Exposition. Champney was to remain in Seattle for nearly twenty years, a member of the local AIA chapter, the Architectural League of the Pacific Coast, and the Society of Beaux-arts Architects (Ochsner 1994, p. 134).

In 1909, Champney formed a partnership with Augustus Warren Gould. Champney's reported fondness for large-scale opulent designs was reflected in a number of the firm's building designs. This was evident in their design of the Italian Renaissance Revival-inspired Edward Finch building (demolished) in Aberdeen, Washington. In both the Finch and Seattle YWCA buildings Champney employed Renaissance Revival features such as arches, pilasters, columns and repetitive fenestration. Arched windows were generously employed on the lower and top floors of both buildings.

During this same period Champney was involved in the planning and design of the extant Elks Temple in Tacoma, Washington, which was constructed in 1914-15. Champney's fondness for Beaux-Arts composition and classical decorations are evident in the temple's exterior. The Italian Renaissance influences exhibited in the temple found their way into Champney's design of the Seattle YWCA building.

Begun under the Gould and Champney partnership in 1912, the Seattle YWCA building was designed mostly by Champney as the partnership with Gould was dissolved that same year. The original design intended to include an elaborate roof garden, penthouse, and tower (see attached sketch).

Champney chose the Grant Smith Company to be general contractor. The company constructed the building on a 120-foot x 120-foot lot at Fifth and Seneca, and, including the value of the land and interior furnishings, cost approximately \$400,000 when completed in 1914.

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Robert L. Durham

By the early 1950s the YWCA had begun to outgrow its 40+ years old building and hired Robert Durham to complete an interior remodel of the building. Born in Seattle in 1912, Robert L. Durham was raised in Tacoma. He was educated at the College of Puget Sound, and graduated cum laude from the University of Washington School of Architecture in 1936. Upon graduation he joined Seattle architect B. Dudley Stuart as a draftsman. He then went on to work with the Federal Housing Administration as a cost analyst for the next five years.

In 1941, Durham rejoined Stuart to form the architectural firm of Stuart & Durham. The partnership survived ten years until Stuart's retirement in 1951. After a brief period as principal of his own firm, Robert L. Durham & Associates, Durham partnered with fellow architects David R. Anderson and Aaron Freed, to form Durham, Anderson, and Freed.

Beginning in the early 1950s through the 1970s, the firm received considerable local and national attention for their designs for over 200 churches. Among them was their design for the Fauntleroy Congregational Church, which received a national AIA Honor Award for Institutional Buildings in 1952, the First Methodist Church in Mount Vernon which won in 1961, the Highland Covenant Church of Bellevue placed first in the 1964 Church Awards Competition of the National Association of Evangelicals.

Although most widely recognized for their church-related design, Durham, Anderson and Freed also designed a variety of schools, banks, residences, and other civic structures. Among their best-known work is Seattle Fire Station No. 5 (1963), an all-concrete structure with a 60-foot tower, which received a citation in 1964 from the Prestressed Concrete Institute. Other projects include the Association of General Contractors' (AGC) Seattle Headquarters Building (1965), SW Branch Seattle Library (1961), Atmospheric Sciences Building on the University of Washington campus (1970), master plans for the Evergreen State College and its library (1971), Horizon Retirement Home, Seattle (1971), and the Main Library (1970) in Richland, Washington.

No stranger to civic involvement, Durham was very active within the architectural community both locally and nationally. A former president of the Seattle Chapter AIA, Durham went on to head the Washington State Chapter in 1954. As chairperson for Seattle's Municipal Arts Commission, he was selected in 1961 to lead the Cultural Arts Advisory Board for the World's Fair. The AIA College of Fellows inducted him in 1959, and in 1961 the AIA NW Region elected him to the national AIA Board of Directors. At the 1966 Convention in Denver, the national membership elected him First Vice President/President-elect, and in 1967-68 he served as the AIA 44th President - only the fourth West Coast

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architect to hold the highest elected office in the AIA's. To date he is the only Northwesterner to have served as the National AIA President. In 1985, he received the AIA Seattle Medal, the highest local honor to an architect, recognizing outstanding lifetime achievement.

World War I through the Depression

During World War I, the Seattle YWCA building was a focal point for war workers, their families, service men and women, adolescents, and other members of the community experiencing difficulties and seeking assistance.

During this period the YWCA was one of the few social service agencies that provided assistance and programs to all persons regardless of race. In 1919, the Association established the Phyllis Wheatley (East Cherry) branch, the first meeting place for the black community in Seattle's central district. Despite the YWCA's inclusive policy, social mores of the day prevailed in the downtown building, where black women could not rent a hotel room and could only swim at the pool on Saturday afternoons. Nevertheless, by the end of the 1920s the Seattle YWCA became the first racially integrated YWCA board in the nation.

The YWCA, like most nonprofit institutions, was hurt considerably by the severe economic downturn during the Depression. Funding for YWCA was curtailed significantly. In spite of a drastically reduced budget, the YWCA offered free typing and business classes for untrained girls and shelter for homeless young women. During these hard economic times the Seattle YWCA also served as a soup kitchen, providing free meals to the city's unemployed.

World War II

During World War II, the YWCA created a 24-hour-a-day activity schedule in response to the large numbers of single women who came to Puget Sound to work in war industries, filling jobs traditionally held by men who were in the armed forces. The Seattle YWCA provided recreational opportunities at all hours of the day and night, which benefited women who worked night or graveyard shifts. In 1940, the Seattle YWCA was one of the six agencies that organized United Service Organizations (USO) programs, providing numerous USO events throughout the war.

1950s - 1960s

The YWCA expanded its educational services to women and their families by developing a comprehensive series of childbirth and family life education classes. During this decade, the YWCA also expanded many of its recreational facilities and camp programs.

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By mid-century, the Seattle YWCA felt that their downtown facility needed "updating" to fit their current needs and changing missions. In the early 1950s, the YWCA contracted with the Seattle architectural firm of Robert Durham & Associates to design the interior renovations of their building at Fifth & Seneca. The YWCA felt that

"..it was impossible for the YWCA to do a 1951 job with a 1914 building. The basic structure is sound, but the interior arrangement, the antiquated plumbing and lighting equipment, the basic heating and filtration plants, the uneconomical use of space, the lack sufficient resident rooms for low-income girls, the lack of club rooms . . . for the many youth groups." (Seattle YWCA 1951, p. 1)

The building was officially rededicated in 1954.

The YWCA has had a lengthy history of community service and social activism. During the post-World War II period the YWCA provided a vehicle for women to channel their social activism into obtaining full civil rights for women. Historically this included the fight for women's suffrage, which led to the YWCA playing an active role in the promotion of racial tolerance and justice during the 1950s and 60s, and more recently gender and racial equality in the work place. During this period the YWCA co-sponsored forums on equal rights for women, civil liberties, and housing and health programs for low-income groups in downtown Seattle.

Conclusion

For over the past century the Seattle YWCA has consistently provided community services, residential opportunities, social welfare and educational/recreational programs for all residents of Seattle and King County, with a historic focus on women who work and/or live in downtown Seattle. The Association, through its facility at Fifth and Seneca, has historically promoted the social and economic advancement of all women in the greater Seattle area since its construction in 1914. While the interior of the facility has been significantly modified to accommodate the YWCA's changing priorities and programs, the exterior has retained its historic Italian Renaissance features and fabric.

As described in a newspaper article (Bechdolt 1914) at the time of its opening in 1914, the Seattle YWCA building is a testament to the Association's dedication and struggle for the social, economic and political advancement of all women, through the offering of educational, recreational, employment counseling, and suitable housing opportunities previously not available to women in the City of Seattle.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Seattle YWCA Building is located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 40, Township 25 North, Range 4 East of the Willamette Meridian. The nominated property is situated in Lots 1 and 4, Block 17, Addition to the Town of Seattle as laid out on the claims of C.D. Boren, A.A. Denny and H.L. Yesler according to the plat recorded in column 1 of plats, page 25, in King County, Washington. The parcel size is 120 feet x 120 feet, and the tax numbers are 230195-0020-04, 230195-0010-06, 230195-0010-97. The UTM coordinates are given above.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax Lots 1 and 4, in Block 17, at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street.

YWCA BUILDING SEATTLE

ZONE 10 550600 E 5272150 N

22'30"

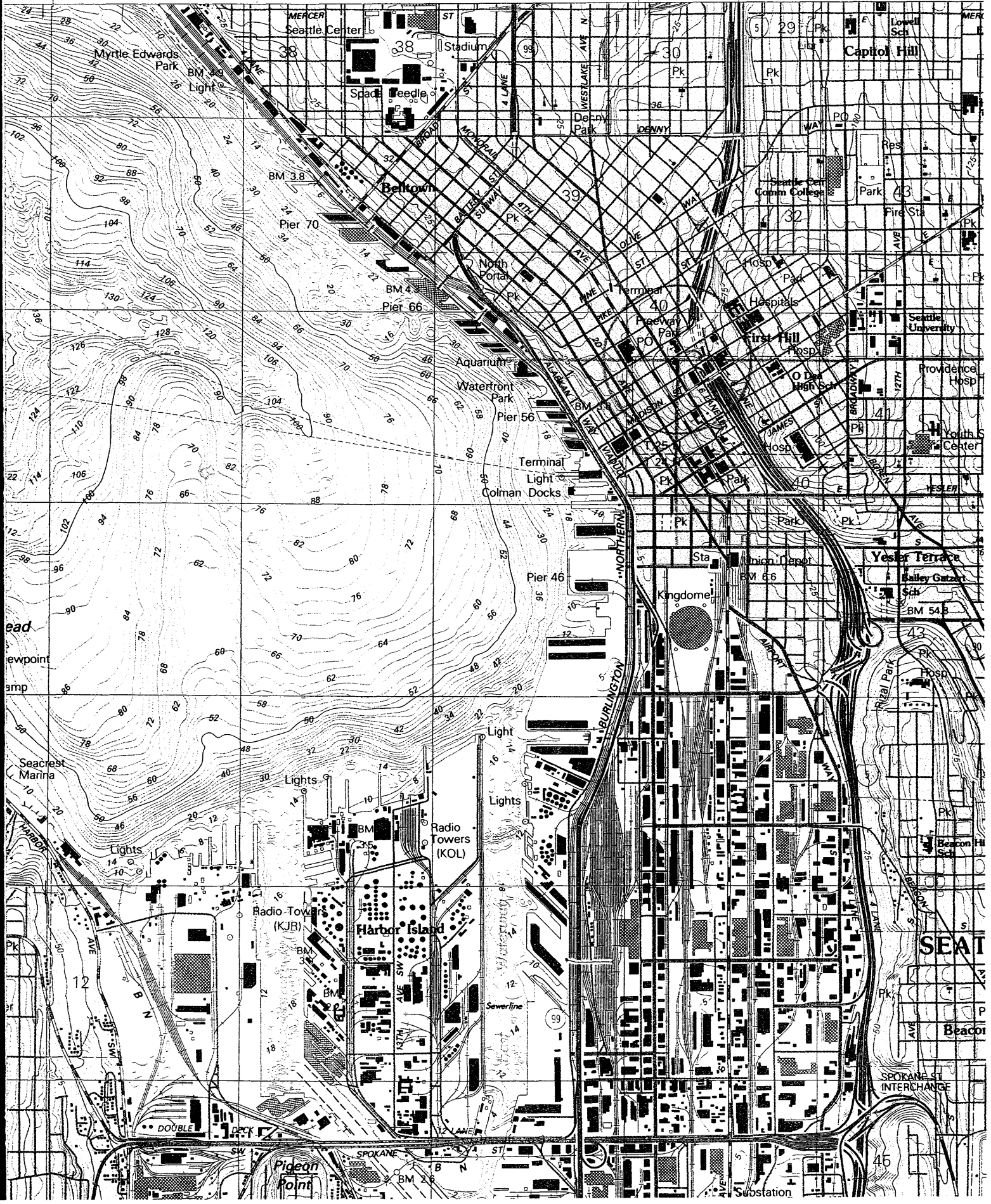
'48

R 3 E R 4 E

'49

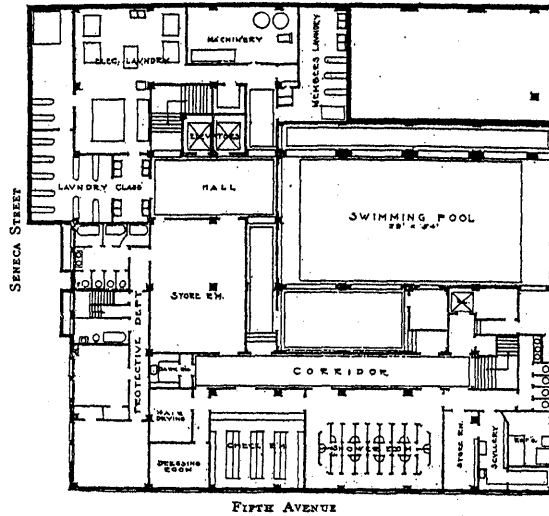
20'

26 KM TO INTERSTATE 405
2 KM TO WASH 520



BASEMENT

PLAN

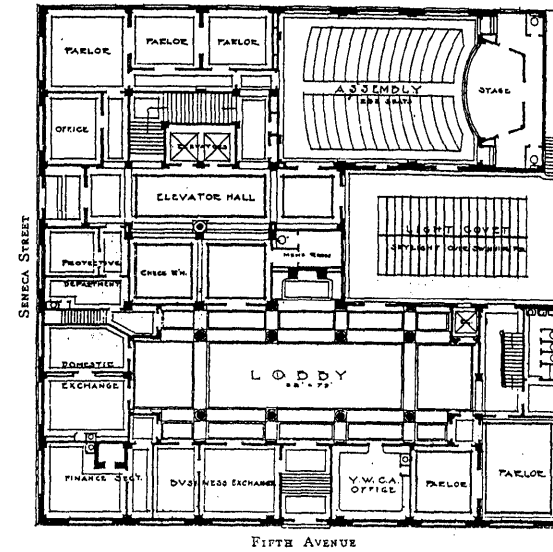


MAIN FEATURES

+
Swimming Pool
Dressing Rooms
Showers and Instructor's Room
Two Emergency Rooms
Members' Laundry
Model Laundry
Dark Room
Trunk and Storage Rooms

FIRST FLOOR

PLAN

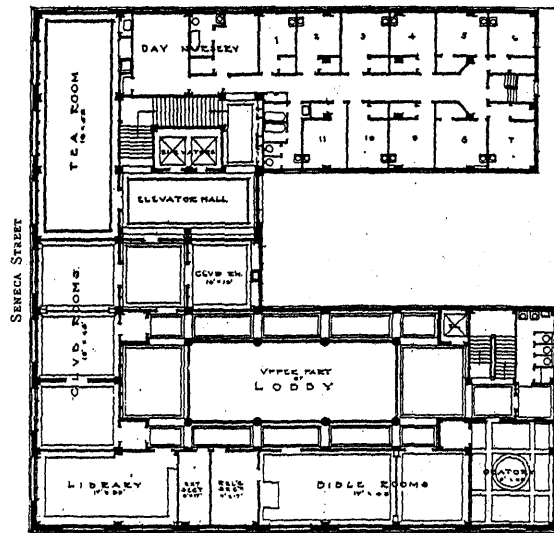


MAIN FEATURES

+
Four Private Parlors
One General Parlor
Lobby
Assembly Hall
Y. W. C. A. Office
Business Exchange
Domestic Exchange
Finance Office
Protective Office
Hotel Office

SECOND FLOOR

PLAN

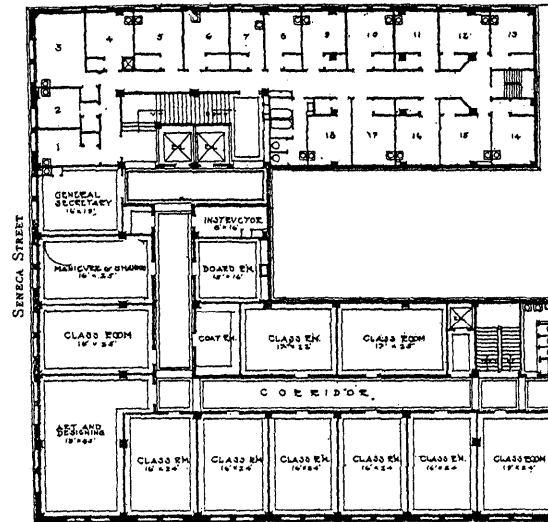


MAIN FEATURES

+
Chapel
Bible Class Rooms
Library
Offices
Club Rooms
Tea Room
Junior Room
Twelve Bedrooms

THIRD FLOOR

PLAN

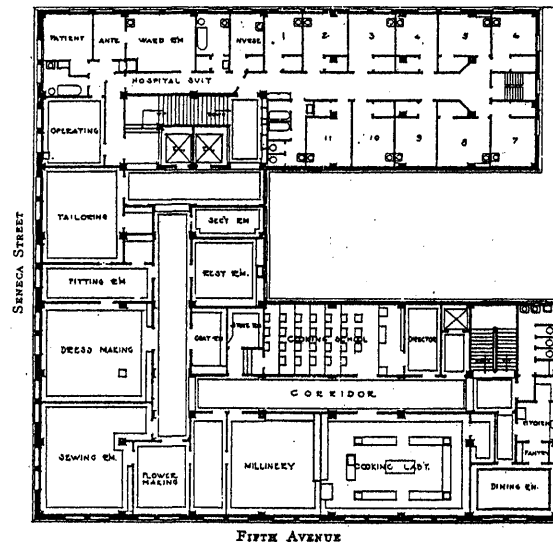


MAIN FEATURES

+
Board Room
General Secretary's Office
Drawing, Designing and Decorating
Pottery and Other Class Rooms
for Vocational Training
Manicuring and Shampooing
Eighteen Bedrooms

FOURTH FLOOR

PLAN



MAIN FEATURES

Domestic Science Department

(Includes plain, fancy and dietary cooking, correct service, housework, laundry work, practical nursing for children and invalids.)

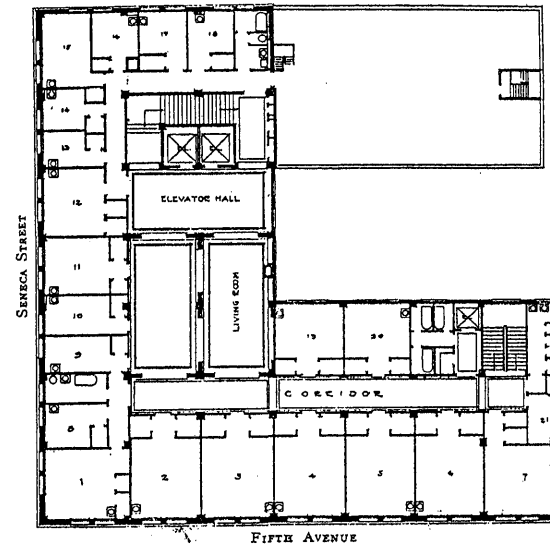
Domestic Arts Department

(Includes sewing, dressmaking, tailoring, embroidery, fancy work, flower making and millinery.)

Lecture Room
Instructors' Offices
Rest Room
Hospital Suite
Twelve Bedrooms

FIFTH FLOOR

PLAN



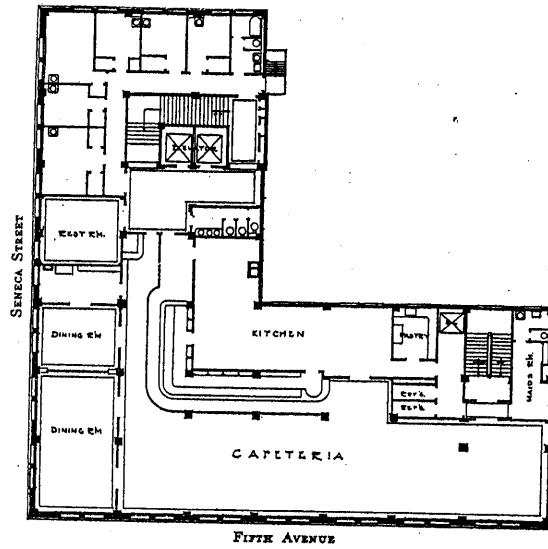
MAIN FEATURES

Floor For Permanent Residents

(Includes Living Room, Secretary's Suite, Nineteen Bedrooms)

SIXTH FLOOR

PLAN

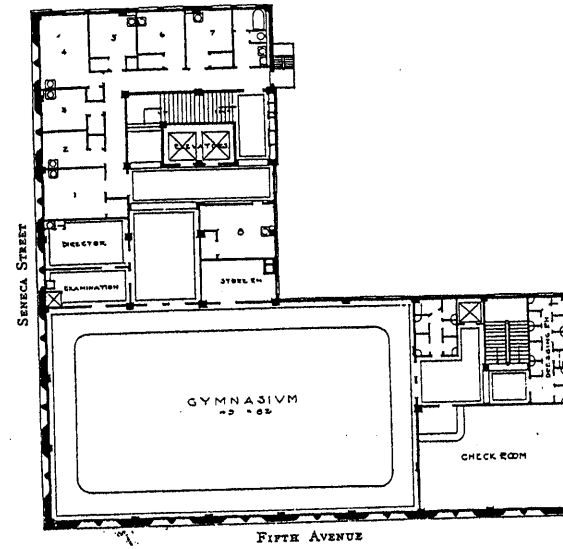


MAIN FEATURES

•
Cafeteria
Dining Room
Private Dining Room
Rest Room
Six Bedrooms

SEVENTH FLOOR

PLAN

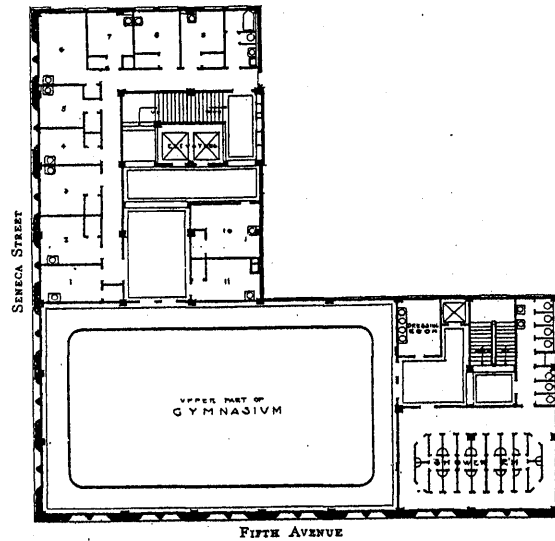


MAIN FEATURES

•
Gymnasium
Dressing and Check Rooms
Showers
Director's Office
Examination Room
Eight Bedrooms

EIGHTH FLOOR

PLAN



MAIN FEATURES

*
Gymnasium Balcony
Dressing and Check Rooms
Eleven Bedrooms

A Playground for out-of-door games will be on the roof occupying the entire Fifth Avenue front.
 The Janitor's Suite will be back of the Playground.

SUGGESTED MEMORIAL GIFTS

CHAPEL	\$1,500
LIBRARY	1,500
LOBBY	1,000
TEA ROOM	900
LIVING ROOM	500
BIBLE ROOMS	400
REST ROOM	400
BOARD ROOM	300
PARLOKS, EACH	250
CLUB ROOMS, EACH	250

(A brass tablet with the memorial name will be placed in each memorial room and the room will be called by the name.)

*Young Women's
Christian Association
of Seattle, Inc.*



Y.W.C.A. Lobby



This handsome building of fireproof steel and concrete construction was financed by the people of Seattle, in a movement inaugurated by public spirited women. At the time of construction it was the finest Y.W.C.A. building in America, excepting only the national headquarters, in New York City. It houses all activities for women and girls, including transient hotel accommodations, cafes, swimming pool and gymnasium. Social and educational features and extensive free welfare work make these spacious quarters an important feature of Seattle's civic life.



E. FRERE CHAMPNEY, Architect.

Home of Seattle Young Women's Christian Association

We print on this page of the Bulletin a half page picture of the Y. W. C. A. Building now in the course of erection on the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Seneca Street. The building is directly across the street from the property of our company on Seneca Street, consequently we feel that an improvement of this character improves our property. The balance of the money required to make the subscriptions binding has been raised and will be collected in at an early date.

THE METROPOLITAN BULLETIN



ELEVATION OF THE NEW Y. W. C. A. BUILDING IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The Y. W.

Work on the new Christian Association building of the city and plot the actual and trading gain of this remedy upon the situation.

The status of the Y. W. C. A. building upon the return of and to the extent and conditions remain to be determined. It is hard to go ahead with any building. As long as everything is practical.

There is no doubt between a city that is turned benefits to the Y. W. C. A. building and its location is a necessary and economic force without. There is no good that comes from that has been done except it is a great thing to do.

Of course, there is a Seattle and public to think about and at the time of our same reason for our days and living in life. A general result in a building is a result in a small expenditure of this for the better in the field and we should be able to do it.

YOUNG WOMEN

VOLUME TWO

APRIL, NINETEEN-FIFTEEN

NUMBER ONE



THE YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

For Every Girl

1118 FIFTH AVENUE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

HOTEL Y. W. C. A.



TRANSIENT RATES

- Single Rooms:**
 With Single Beds:
 \$1.00-\$1.25
 With Double Beds:
 \$1.25-\$1.50-\$1.75 for one
 1.50-1.75-2.00 for two
- Rooms with Twin Beds:**
 \$0.75 per person, or
 1.00 per person

PERMANENT RATES

- Single Rooms:**
 With Single Beds:
 \$20.00 or \$25.00 per month
 With Double Beds:
 \$30.00 or \$35.00 per month
- Double Rooms:**
 \$15.00 or \$20.00 per month, each
- Share Rooms: (Three or More)**
 \$10.00, \$12.50 or \$15.00 per month, each

DE LUXE APARTMENT

- Single Rooms:**
 \$2.00, \$2.25 or \$2.50

Deposit for one night's lodging required with all reservations.

IN THE HEART OF SEATTLE, across from the Olympic Hotel, 5th Avenue and Seneca. It is within walking distance of the business, shopping and theatre districts and the public library, and is easily accessible to railroad stations, docks and bus terminals.

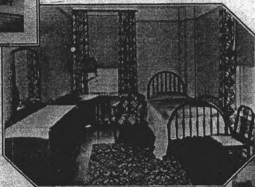
All rooms have running water and telephones and, while there are no private baths, lavatory facilities are more than adequate.

There are rooms on seven floors—from the 2nd to the 8th; rooms with north, south, east or west exposure; rooms overlooking the Sound or the coast; rooms of very moderate price or more expensive ones with all the color and luxury of milady's boudoir.

Transient guests have the use of a guest's laundry and of sewing machines, besides the privileges of the Association building, lounge, writing room and library.

A beauty shop and Turkish Bath department are located conveniently on the 4th floor.

A delightful rendezvous for those who enjoy excellent food served in attractive surroundings is The Coffee Urn, a moderately priced restaurant serving from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. The Tea Room serves as an attractive setting for private parties of ten or more.



The splendidly equipped swimming pool is an attractive feature available to guests at moderate rates. Examination by our physician required.



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Collection Name
Collection no. 377

YUCA

Box no. —

Negative no. —



TENNIS COURT WAY UP IN CLOUDS



—Photograph by Webster & Stevens, Times Staff Photographer.

ON TOP OF Y. W. C. A. BUILDING.

The above picture shows the tennis court on top of the Young Women's Christian Association Building, nine stories above the street. To the extreme left may be seen the spires of St. James' Cathedral and further to the right the towers of the Central School.

ONE of the most attractive—surely one of the coolest—tennis courts in Seattle, is the one nine stories up in the air on the top of the Young Women's Christian Association Building. With breezes fresh from Puget Sound on the west or sweeping south across Lake Union, no matter how warm the day may be, there is always a bracing wind to cool the air and invigorate the player in his final drive.

It has been said, and apparently with truth, say the girls who play tennis on the courts, that Fifth and Seneca is one of the windiest corners in the city. There is always a wind up there, they say, and it adds a delightful uncertainty to the game. A can-

not be found on the courts of more conservative players.

The ball that travels lazily across the net often darts widely to one side, as though suddenly pulled there by an invisible hand, or carries just off the lip of the racket before a delicate stroke. A puff of wind will carry a low ball just over the top of the net to win the game at times, and at others it will sail gracefully just out of reach over the player's head.

Perfect View of City.

From the courts, however, is one of the most perfect views to be seen in the city. To the south extends all of Harbor Island with its shipbuilding plants spritzing up in crude outlines. To the west is the business section of the city with Puget Sound, West Seattle and the Olympics in the distance. With ocean-bound ships entering and leaving the port at all times and the haze that hovers over the harbor the

panorama is an ever-changing one.

To the north is Queen Anne Hill, Lake Union and farther away, Ballard and Fremont. Around in the east is all of Capitol Hill, and the First Hill, rising in tiers of beautiful homes and public buildings. The court itself has been beautified with a surrounding roof garden, which almost makes one think they have been transported to another plane of the earth, higher than that used by ordinary mortals.

There are drawbacks, however, as well as advantages to this nine-story-high tennis court. Every once in a while an erratic player sends a ball high over the wire netting and it drops close to some unsuspecting pedestrian going up Seneca Street or along Fifth Avenue.

It is hard to get a start in the right direction—well, the girls never try running down the nine flight of stairs to find their ball again. Before they

could suddenly signal the elevator, it has probably bounced its way into the bay after racing the length of Seneca Street (unless it surprised the more inconspicuous end of being run over and "popped" by a street car or automobile) or else is rolling into a delighted youngster's hand somewhere along Westlake Avenue.

The tennis courts are occupied every day during the summer by girls from all walks of life. Many desks in downtown stores find a minute to run up to them during the noon hour and play a game either before or after a hurriedly snatched lunch. Others drop in during the afternoons for a set and the mornings, too, are usually well filled.

Any girl who is a member of the Y. W. C. A. or who comes to play on the court, if it is open at all times of the day and evening, and there are even clothes lights around the side-line, that if necessary one can finish a set after dark.

1908 - 1912

Inadequate Facilities for Our Girls

Larger
Responsibilities
Demanded

Larger
Undertakings



"Lest we forget"

The
Seattle
Spirit
Responded
to the Call

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION SEATTLE, WASH.

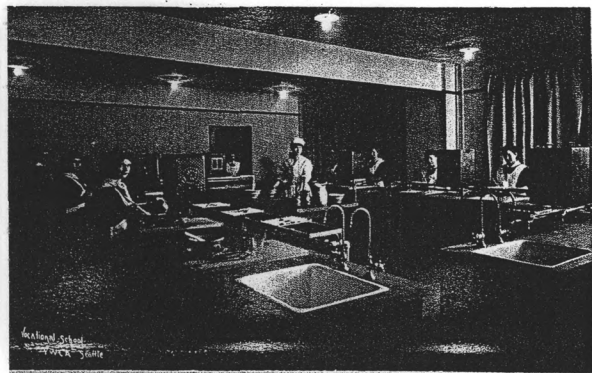
The Pride of Greater Seattle

March 6
1913

May 26
1914



Our Home
for
Every Girl
For all
Time
to Come

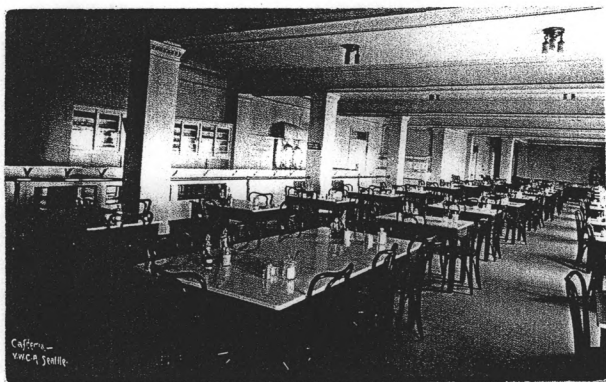


Home Nursing
 Correct Serving
 Cookery
 Housework

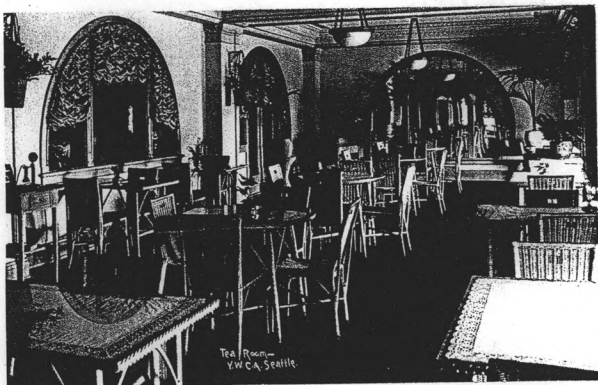
6653 Sewing and
 Cooking lessons
 given free

Y.W.C.A. COOKING SCHOOL

5681 meals
 given free

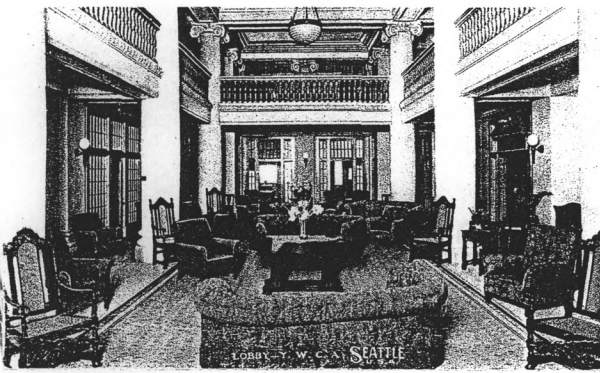


Y.W.C.A. CAFETERIA



Small banquets
 Private parties

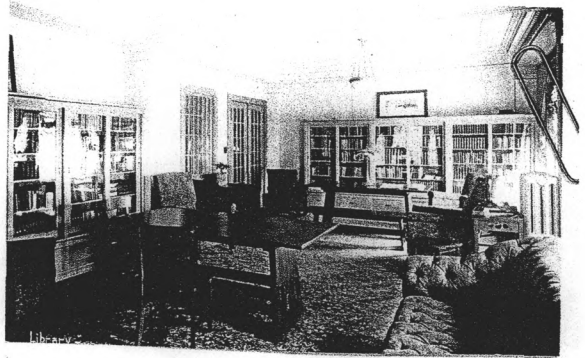
Y.W.C.A. TEA ROOM



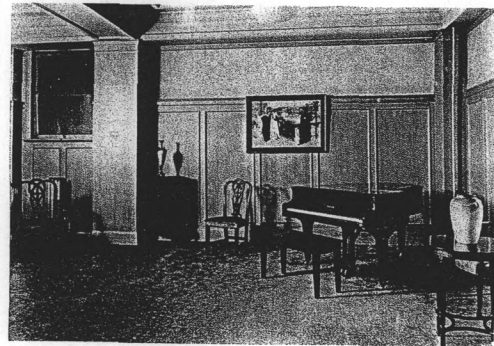
Holiday
Festivals
Receptions

Y.W.C.A. LOBBY

1500 Volumes
170 Books
issued
monthly



Y.W.C.A. LIBRARY



For use of
Club and
Home Girls

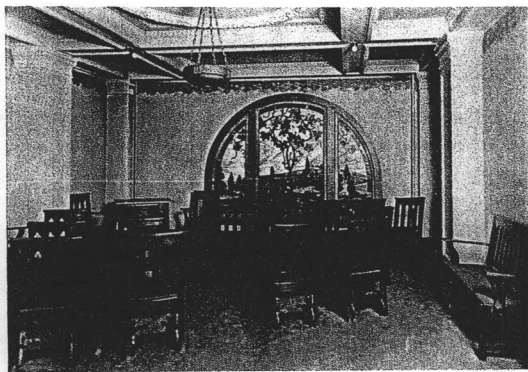
Y.W.C.A. BLUE PARLORS

Sunday
Fellowship
Meetings
Open House



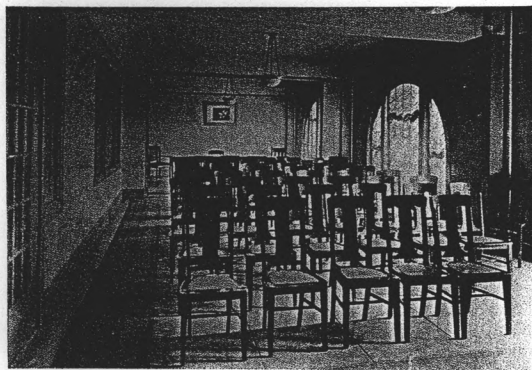
Y.W.C.A. MEMBERS HALL

Weddings
Quiet
Hours



Praise
Services

Y.W.C.A. CHAPEL



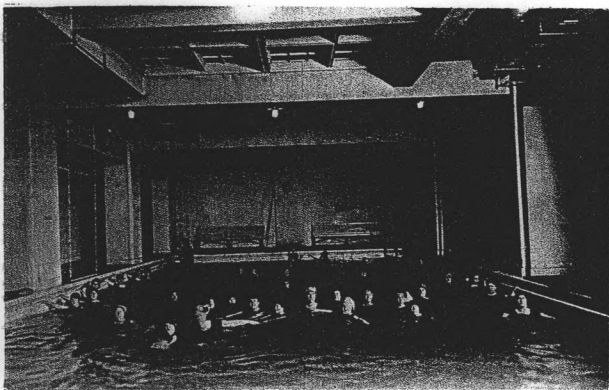
Bible Study
Social Service
Conferences

Y.W.C.A. BIBLE ROOMS

Gymnasium
Instruction
given free
2491



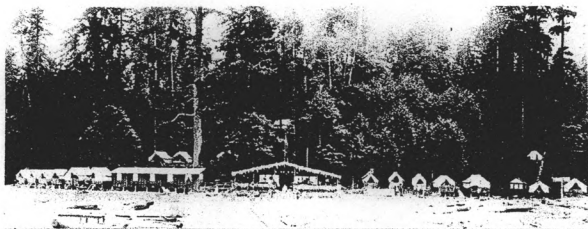
Y.W.C.A. GYMNASIUM



Real
Recreation
—
Free Swims
3162

Y.W.C.A. SWIMMING POOL

Total attendance
of 1420
last summer



Y.W.C.A. CAMP - BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
18 acres - salt water front

Colored Branch-Phyllis Wheatley Residence
102 21st Ave. N.
East 6220



LOUNGES--FACILITIES FOR ENTERTAINING--
SEWING ROOM--GUESTS' LAUNDRY--COFFEE URN--
GYM--SWIMMING POOL--LIBRARY--WRITING AND
RADIO ROOM.



YWCA RESIDENCE

Share Rooms \$10 to \$12.50 per month
Double Rooms \$15 to \$22.50 per month
Single Rooms \$18 to \$30.00 per month

PERMANENT RATES

Young women and girls who plan to live in Seattle and want a "home away from home" are offered permanent residence. The Personal Counsel Secretary lives in the Residence and directs the social activities.



PERMANENT GUESTS

Breakfast 7 to 11 10¢ to 45¢
Luncheon 11 to 5 25¢ to 50¢
Dinner 5 to 7:30 40¢ to 60¢
Also orders a la carte
Resident guests may purchase meal tickets at 10% discount.

The Y.W.C.A. Coffee Urn specializes in the serving of well-balanced meals prepared from high quality food materials at a reasonable price.



COFFEE URN

TRANSIENT RATES
Single Rooms--Single Beds \$1.00 \$2.00
Single Rooms--Double Beds \$1.25 \$2.00
(25¢ extra for 2)
Room with Twin Beds \$.75-\$1.50 a person
Weekly rates at price of six days' transient rates; if paid in advance. Deposit required with all reservations. Reservations placed as nearly as possible the accommodations desired.

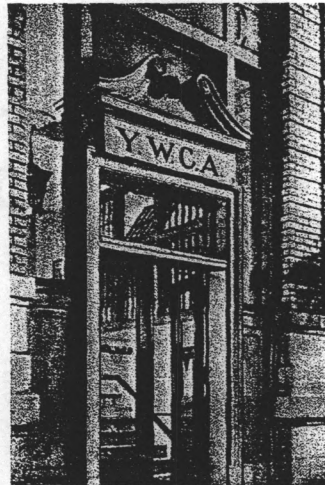
All rooms have running water and telephone. While there are no private baths, lavatory and shower facilities are more than adequate.

TRANSIENT GUESTS

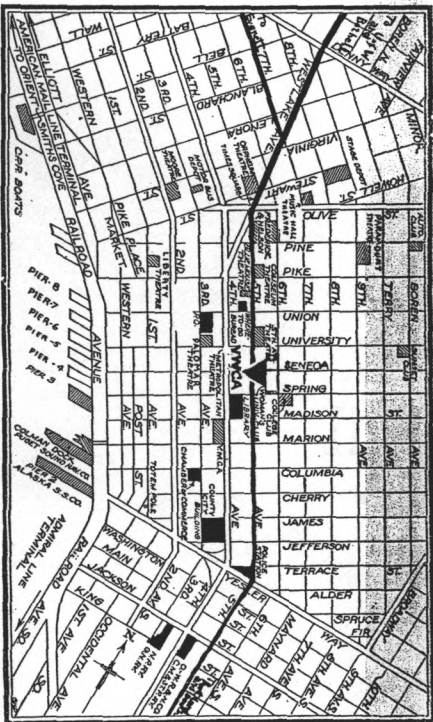
Women and girls passing through Seattle or staying for limited period on business or pleasure find enjoyable living accommodations at the Y.W.C.A. Residence.



The open door of the
Y.W.C.A.



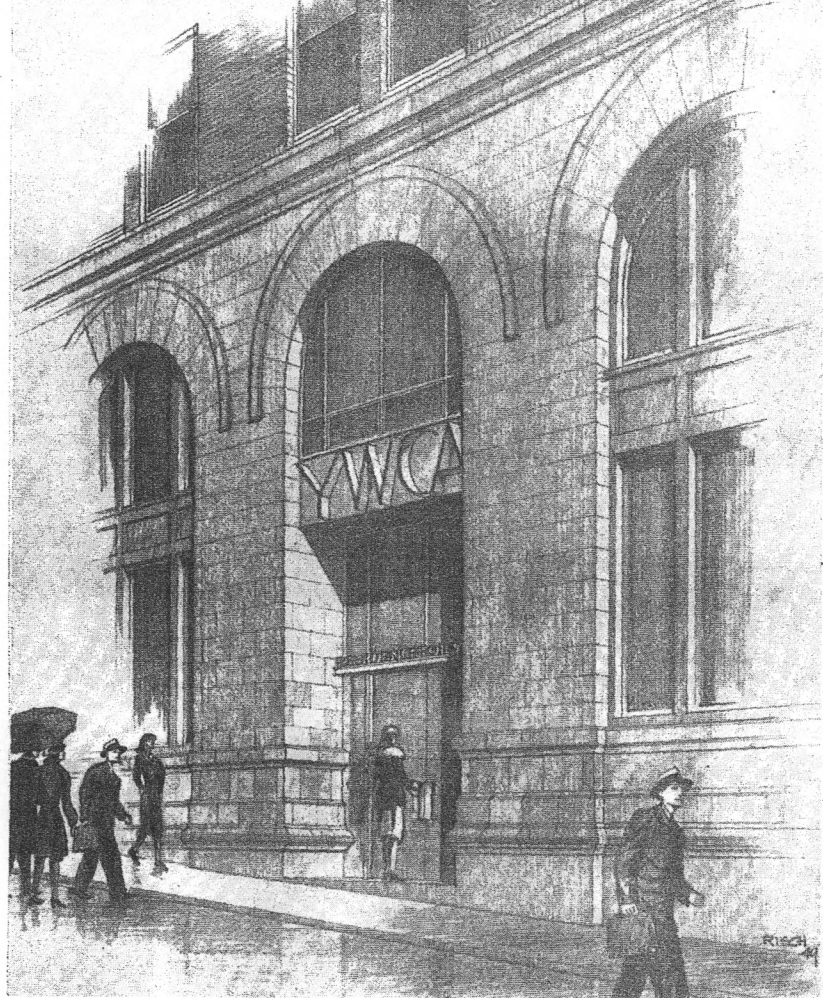
**FIFTH AT SENECA • SEATTLE
ELLIOT 4800**

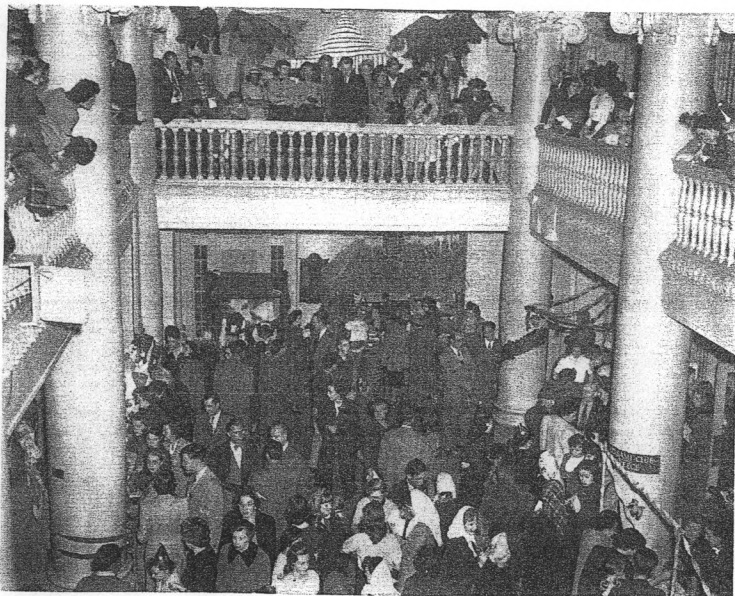


Y.W.C.A. BUILDING, SEATTLE. ADDITION AND ALTERATION.

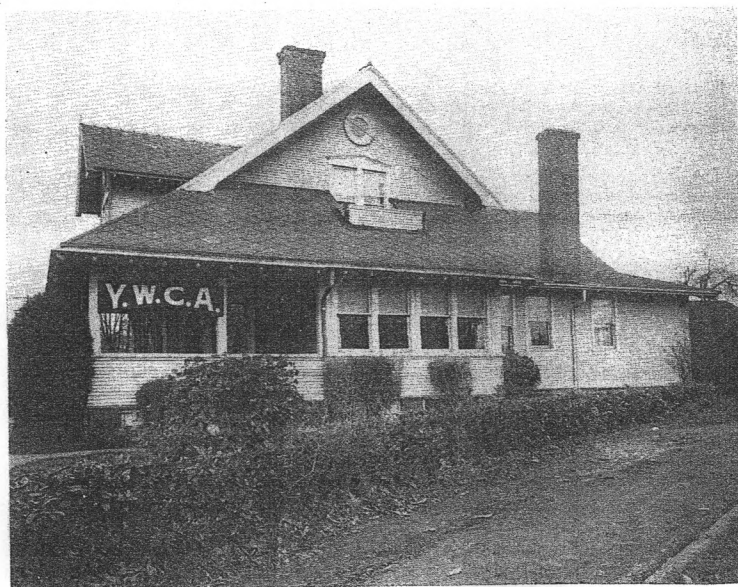
SENECA STR. ENTRANCE

STUART & DURHAM
A.I.A. ARCHITECTS





OVERCROWDED FACILITIES AT CENTRAL YW—LOST FLOOR SPACE, HEAT AND LIGHT BY OPEN BALCONY



MADE OVER RESIDENCE IN POOR LOCATION POORLY SERVES EAST SIDE YW

THE FOLLOWING PAGES GIVE PICTURES AND PLANS FOR
REMODELING, MAJOR REPAIRS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

A selection of four floors has been made from the floor plans which illustrate both the present arrangement and the proposed alterations and new construction. The other floors of the building are identical or comparable.

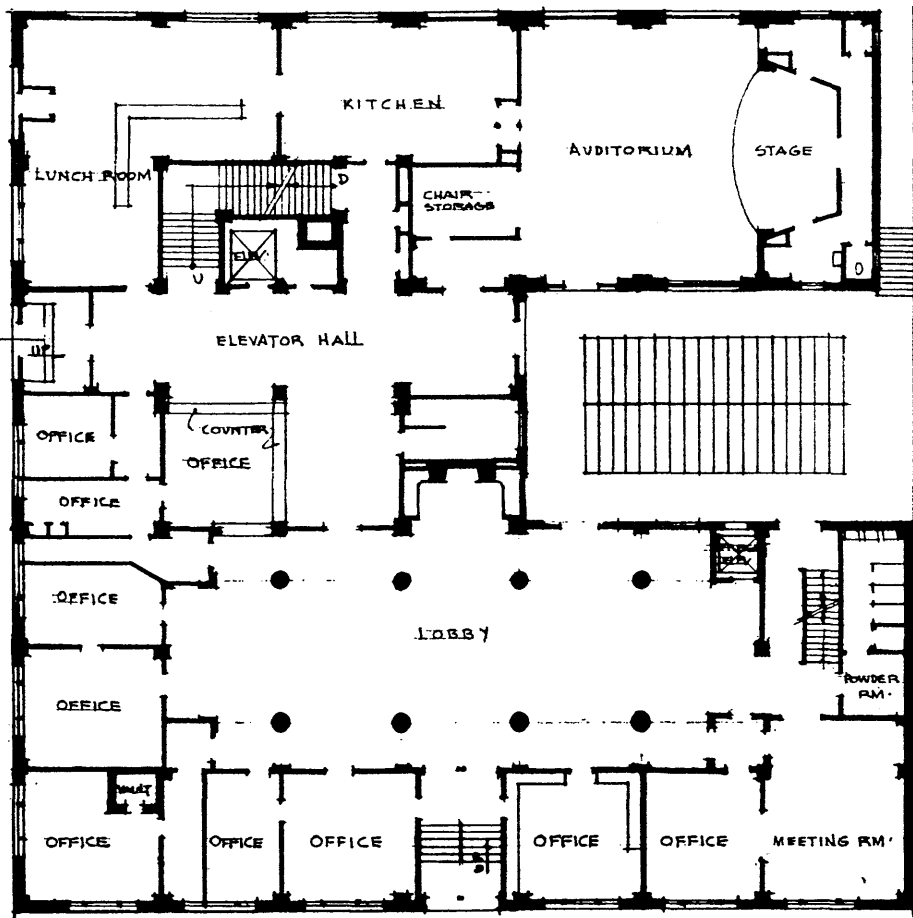
Note the following proposals:

- 4 floors of brand new construction furnishing residence rooms for low-income girls.
- Alterations of present poorly arranged and antiquated residence rooms.
- Alteration and economical use of present lost space.
- Present lost space on residence floors utilized for self-service cooking and dining facilities and self-service laundry for low-income girls.
- Installation and modernization of new lighting and wiring system, plumbing and engineering system.
- Provision of badly needed additional elevator.
- Addition of club rooms, craft rooms and other facilities for the many groups of women and girls in the wide variety of Y.W.C.A. program.
- The flooring-over of lost space in the upper portion of the present two-story lobby, thus doubling space for offices, club rooms and other facilities.
- Provision of adequate public lobby, and semi-private living room and date rooms for resident girls and members.
- Economical conversion of lost space back of present lobby into an outdoor patio.
- Necessary redecoration and refurnishing throughout the building.
- Provision of adequate building and equipment in proper location for the East Side Y.W.C.A. (Details not yet determined.)

FLOOR PLANS

Old and New

1ST FLOOR



PRESENT

- 930 Sq. Ft. Lunch Room
- 1520 Sq. Ft. Auditorium
- 1220 Sq. Ft. Offices
- 220 Sq. Ft. Meeting Room
- 3960 Sq. Ft. Total

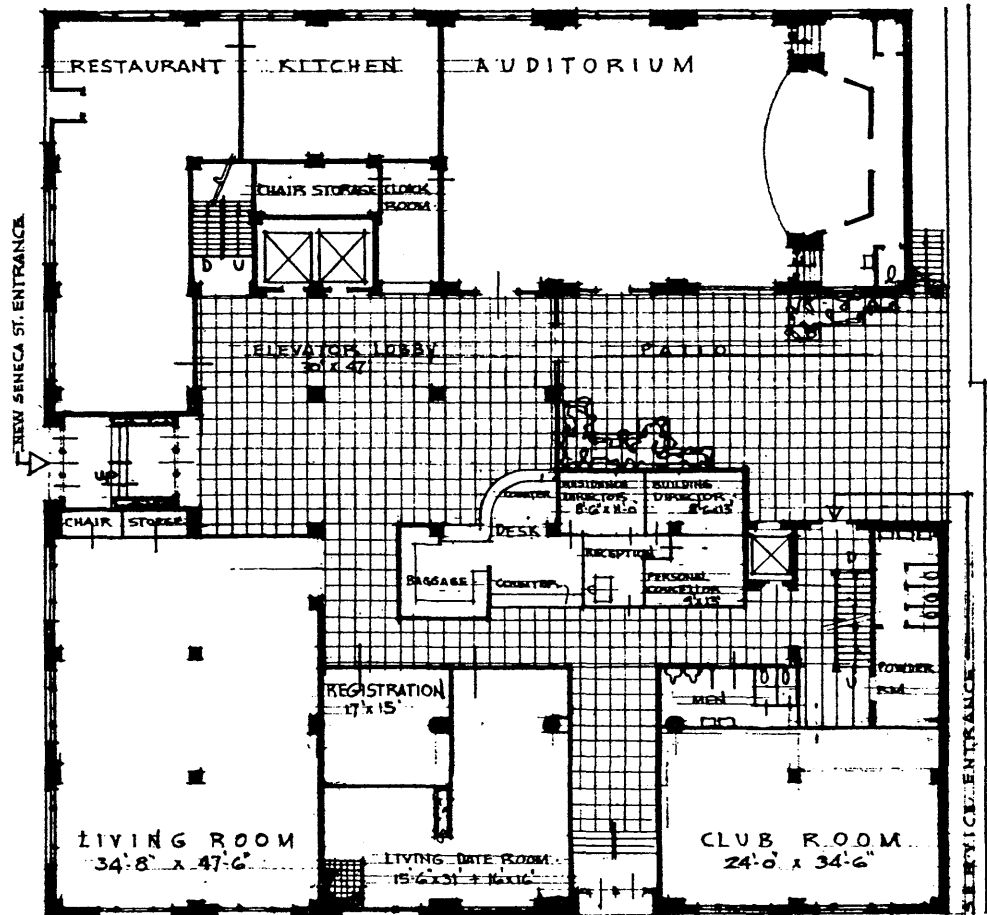
NOTE: Present lobby lost space, too-public passage way, Fifth Avenue to office.

OLD

ALTERATION

- 1040 Sq. Ft. Lunch Room
- 1560 Sq. Ft. Auditorium
- 530 Sq. Ft. Offices
- 2790 Sq. Ft. Living, Date Rooms
- 840 Sq. Ft. Club Rooms
- 6760 Sq. Ft. Total
- Patio
- Additional Elevator

NOTE: Semi-private living rooms and date rooms.



NEW.

FLOOR PLANS

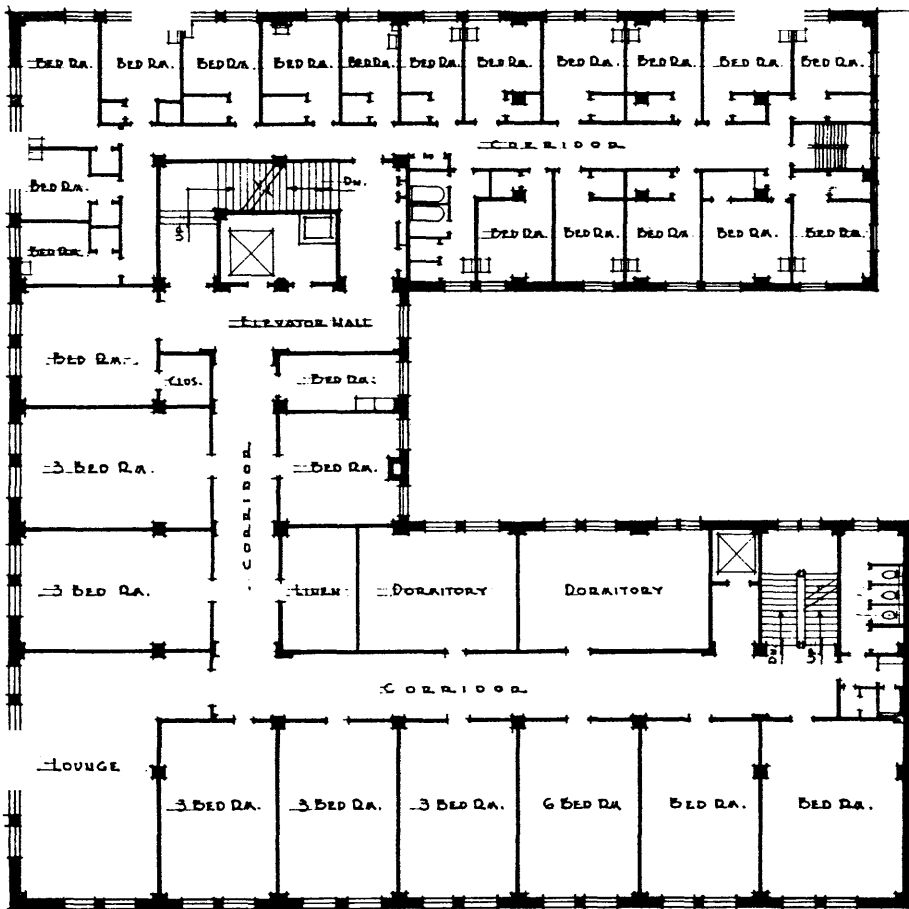
Old and New

3RD FLOOR

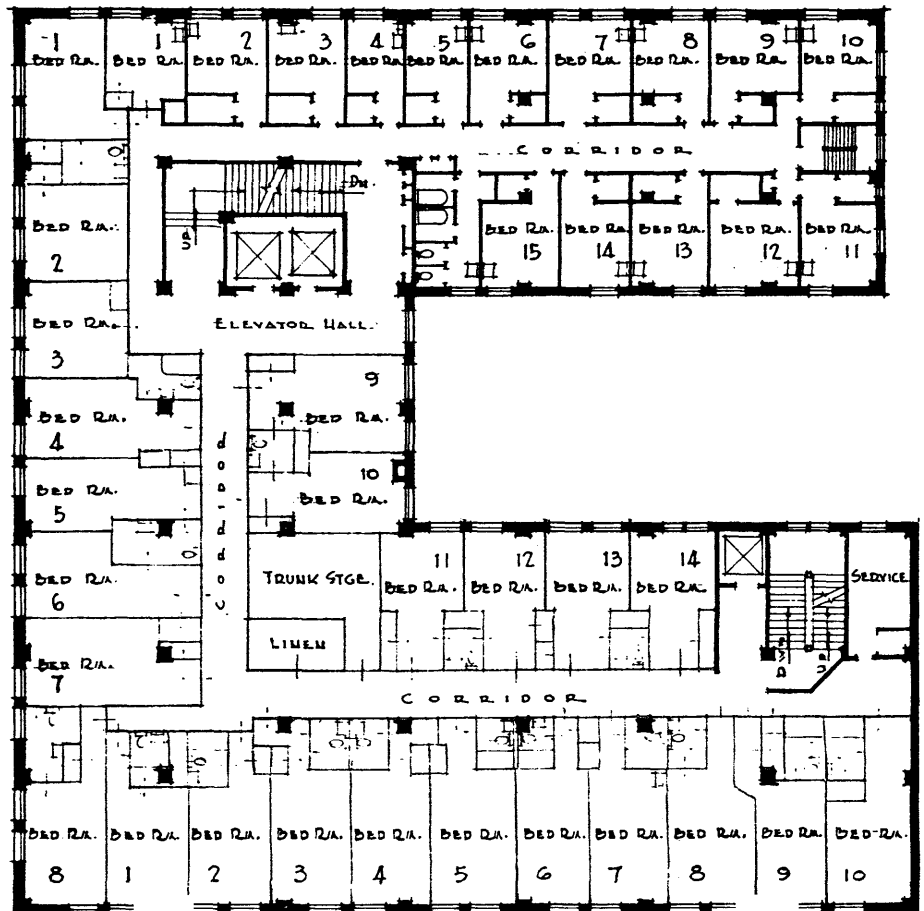
PRESENT

- 18 Single Bed Rooms
- 3 Double Bed Rooms
- 11 Dormitories

NOTE: Large waste space in rooms.



OLD



ADDITION AND ALTERATION

- 15 Single Bed Rooms
- 10 Rooms with Private Bath
- 14 Rooms with Combination Baths
- Double Room
- Triple Room

ALTERATION ONLY

- 15 Single Bed Rooms
- 10 Bed Rooms with Private Bath
- 14 Rooms with Combination Baths
- Double Room
- Triple Room

NOTE: Nine additional rooms, accommodating 25 additional girls.

NEW.

FLOOR PLANS

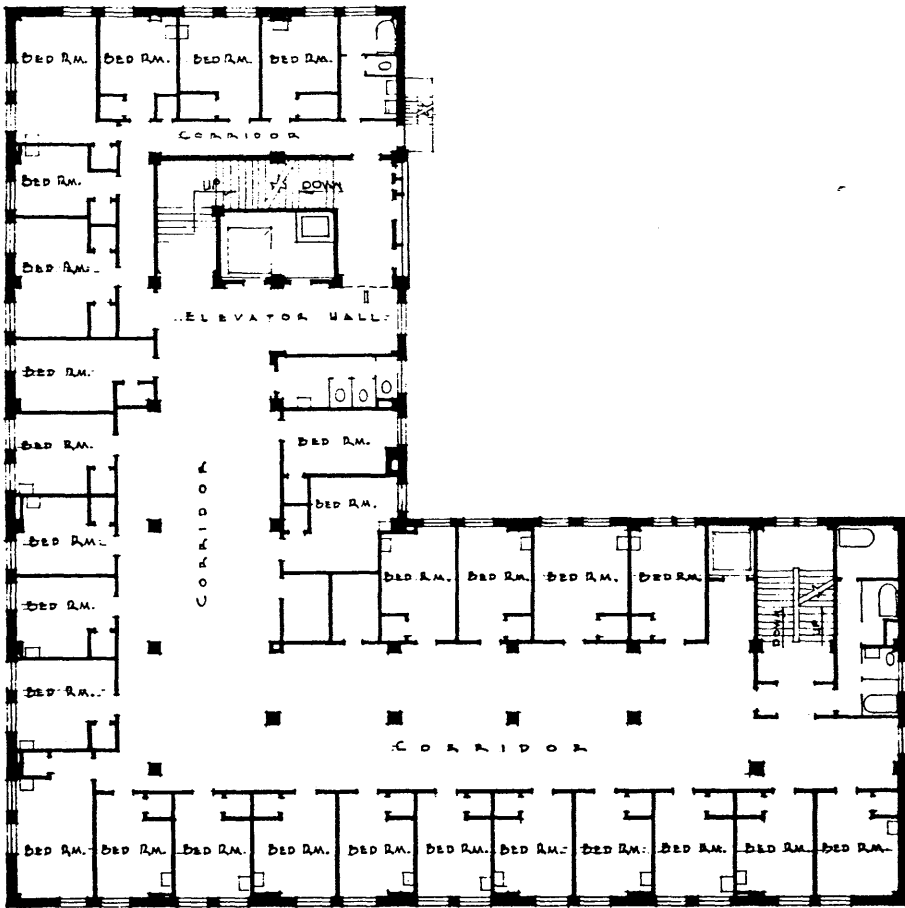
Old and New

6TH FLOOR

PRESENT

- 24 Single Bed Rooms
- 4 Double Bed Rooms
- Dormitories

NOTE: Large useless corridors—
loss of space, heat, light.



OLD

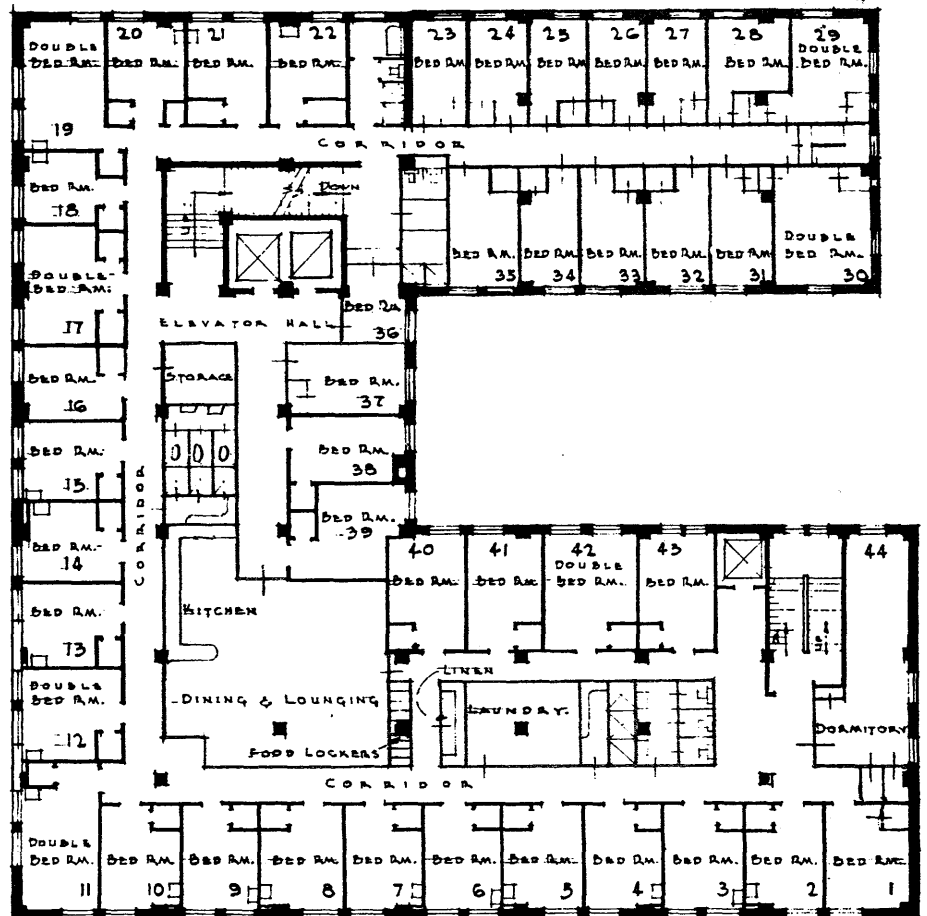
ADDITION AND ALTERATION

- 36 Single Bed Rooms
- 7 Double Bed Rooms
- 1 Triple Bed Room
- Community Kitchen and Dining Room
- Community Laundry

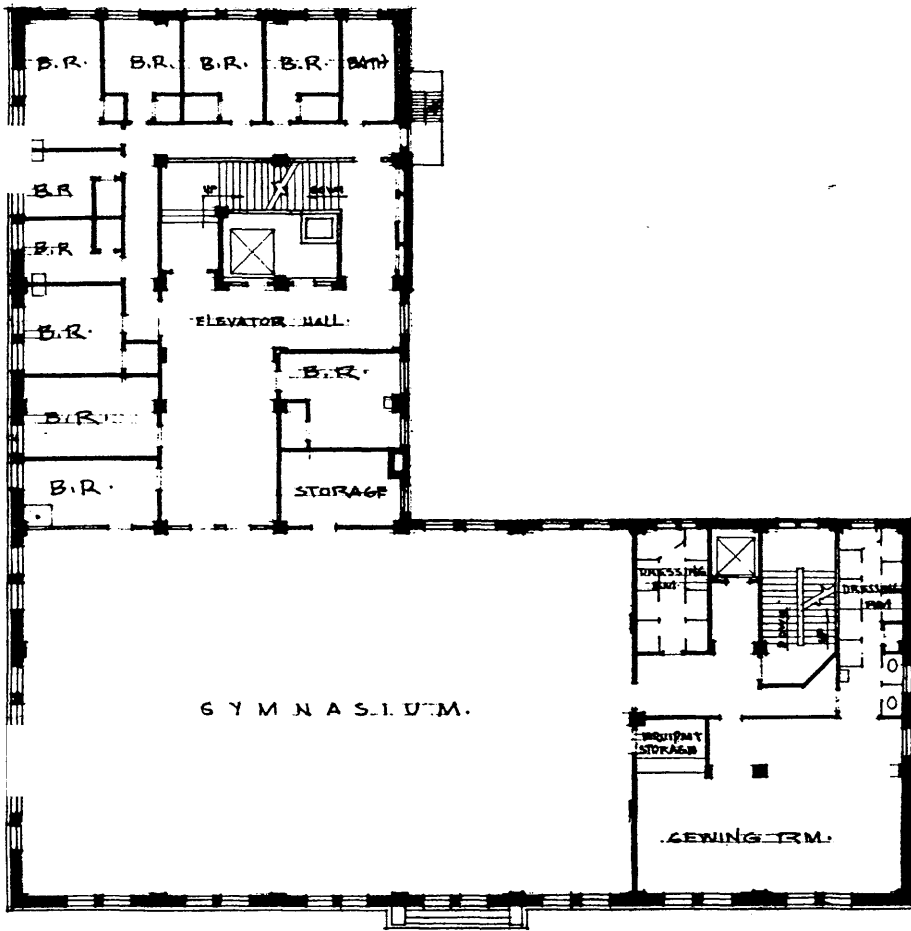
ALTERATION ONLY

- 25 Single Bed Rooms
- 5 Double Bed Rooms
- 1 Triple Bed Room
- Rooms with Private Bath
- Rooms with Combination Baths

NOTE: Community kitchen, laundry and storage. Sixteen additional rooms, accommodating 23 additional girls.



NEW



FLOOR PLANS

Old and New

7TH FLOOR

PRESENT

6 Single Bed Rooms
4 Double Bed Rooms

OLD

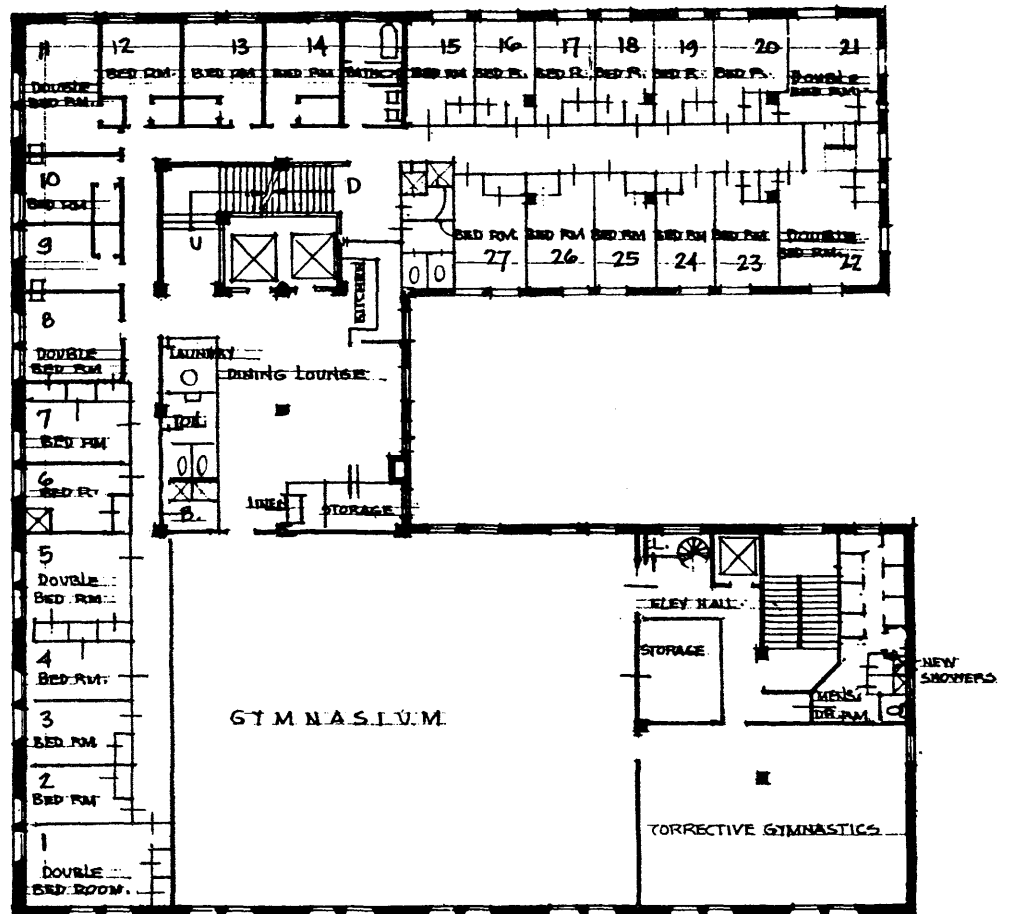
ADDITION AND ALTERATION

21 Single Bed Rooms
6 Double Bed Rooms

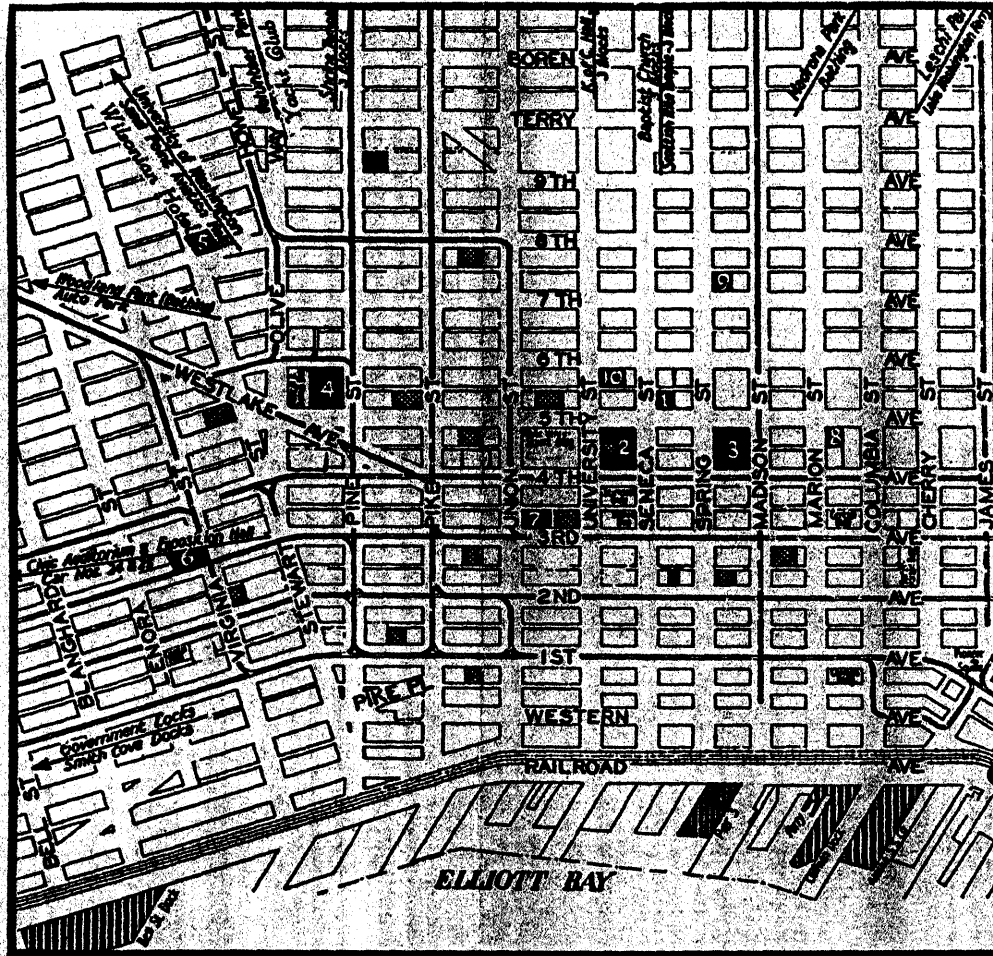
ALTERATION ONLY

10 Single Bed Rooms
4 Double Bed Rooms
Community Dining Room
Community Laundry

NOTE: 17 additional rooms, accommodating 23 additional girls.



NEW



- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Young Women's Christian Association | 6. Third and Virginia Bus Terminal |
| 2. Olympic Hotel | 7. Post Office |
| 3. Public Library | 8. First M. E. Church |
| 4. Frederick & Nelson | 9. First Presbyterian Church |
| 5. Central Terminal and Everett Interurban | 10. Plymouth Congregational Church |

The OPEN DOOR
of the
Y.W.C.A.
SEATTLE



FIFTH at SENECA

PHOTOGRAPHS OF YWCA BUILDING - SEATTLE

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Front (West) Elevation
1 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Front (West) Elevation
2 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Front (West) and Side (North) Elevations
3 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Secondary (East and South) Elevations
4 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Front (West) Elevation Entrance
5 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey

June 2006
Front (West) Elevation Windows
6 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Side (North) Elevation Windows and Terra Cotta Medallions
7 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Front (West) and Side (North) Elevations, corner YWCA plaques
8 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Main Lobby, First Floor, looking towards side (north) entrance
9 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Main Lobby, First Floor, looking towards auditorium entrance
10 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, King County, Washington
David Harvey
June 2006
Original cornice and Corinthian column, second floor, former Club Room
11 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle
1118 Fifth Avenue

Seattle, King County, Washington

David Harvey

June 2006

Original cornice and pivot window, second floor, former Club Room, looking north

12 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle

1118 Fifth Avenue

Seattle, King County, Washington

David Harvey

June 2006

Original hallway, residential floor

13 of 14

YWCA Building - Seattle

1118 Fifth Avenue

Seattle, King County, Washington

David Harvey

June 2006

Original rear concrete stairwell and wood railing

14 of 14

David Harvey

September 27, 2006