

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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RECEIVED DEC 8 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 21 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Young Women's Christian Association

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1026 North Forest Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Bellingham VICINITY OF 2nd - Lloyd Meeds CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Washington CODE 53 COUNTY Whatcom CODE 073

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Young Women's Christian Association (206) 734-4820

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 669

CITY, TOWN Bellingham VICINITY OF STATE Washington 98225

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Whatcom County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Bellingham STATE Washington 98225

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Olympia STATE Washington 98504

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

GENERAL STATEMENT

As sophisticated street architecture, the YWCA ranks high among the public and commercial landmarks of Bellingham. It was based on plans in the Colonial Revival Style by rising Seattle architect Carl F. Gould, who, while in New York, had worked with McKim, Mead and White - progenitors of the Colonial Revival. Upon its completion in 1915, the YWCA was hailed as one of the best-equipped facilities of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. Sited on the hillside overlooking Bellingham Bay, in a residential zone adjacent to the central business district, the YWCA has continued its role as a residence and educational and social center for women of all ages to the present day.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The YWCA is located in the NW¼ Sec. 31, T.38N., R.3E., of the Willamette Meridian. It occupies Lots 1 and 2 in Block 80 of the New Whatcom Plat. The adjoining Lot 3, which is landscaped but otherwise vacant, is included as part of the site. Lots 4 and 5 in the same block, on the other hand, even though owned by the YWCA, are not included in the nomination. The latter, containing smaller dwellings, are maintained as rental properties.

THE SITE

The site is located on the lower hillside overlooking the port of Bellingham to the northwest. It occupies slightly under one half acre at the southeast corner of the intersection of North Forest and East Maple Streets. The building rises from a low terrace and is set back from Forest Street some 80 feet behind a sloping lawn outlined with box hedges which architect Carl F. Gould appears to have called for in his design. Access to the property is provided by a central concrete walk and terrace steps leading to the front porch. Plantings in the foreyard include mature holly and apple trees and assorted evergreen shrubbery. Two cedar trees flank the portico at the terrace level. These too were shown in the architect's presentation drawing. A stand of evergreen trees on the adjoining lot to the south (under YWCA ownership) screens development on the remainder of the block from view.

The immediate neighborhood, in a high-density residential zone on the periphery of the central business district, is undergoing a prolonged transition. Earlier in the 20th century single family residences here were complemented by a clustering of institutions - a number of substantial churches as well as the YWCA. Now, multiple-family housing units and single-story office buildings also are beginning to appear. Directly across Forest Street to the northwest is the Neo-Classical First Church of Christ Scientist, and directly behind the YWCA, on the uphill side of the alley, is the First Presbyterian Church. The stuccoed rear gable and curvilinear bell tower parapet of the latter loom over the YWCA roofline from every prospect. Directly across Maple Street to the northeast is a vacant lot, and, adding further to the disparity of the intersection, is a modern, single-story office structure occupying the cater-corner.

THE BUILDING

The YWCA is an eclectic, but nonetheless restrained design in which a few Queen Anne and several Neo-Colonial details have been gathered with some originality onto a bracketed Italian Renaissance palazzo complete with piano nobile. A photocopy of Gould's 1914

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rendering of the front elevation in the archives of the YWCA shows that the design was faithfully carried out.

The three and a half story brick masonry building on concrete basement measures 40 by 110 feet and has its major frontage on Forest Street. Exterior facing of the facade and the north end fronting Maple Street is red pressed brick laid up in a Flemish bond. Two courses of stretchers laid vertically form a belt atop a basement of rusticated ivory terra cotta. Terra cotta is used elsewhere for trim, notably at the third story where it forms a string course.

Organization of the facade is apparently formal, but the entrance bay is actually off center to the north, so that there are three bays to the north of it and five bays on the south. Superimposed over a "Free Classic" portico with architrave and deck supported by pairs of fluted Doric columns free-standing before shadow pilasters is a compound -- nearly Palladian -- opening of paired double-hung windows with fixed sidelights. A deep architrave originally intended to display a cartouche and carved swags completes the compound window framework. As executed, it was merely inscribed with the building title. Flanking the portico are narrow multi-paned windows with round-arched heads fitted with fanlights which are a hallmark of the Colonial Revival. These are now obscured by the mature cedars. Inside its white-painted classical surround, the front door has been replaced by a modern double-leaf plate glass door with aluminum frame.

Ground story windows are exceptionally tall and are actually French doors with transoms and white-painted classical framements. Second and third story bays are made up of paired double-hung windows with six lights over six in each sash. Each pair is trimmed with a common flat brick arch with ivory terra cotta keystone. Between third story bays is a frieze of herringbone patterned brick.

A low, hipped roof surfaced with composition shingles overhangs the outside walls. The eaves are braced by shaped struts interspersed in pairs between each bay of the third story. The attic is lighted by formally placed eyebrow dormers, four on each major elevation, and one on either end. Downspouts are brought from eave troughs straight down the facade between bays at three places. Tall, straight-sided brick chimney stacks at either end of the roof crown the basic symmetry of the building.

Within the shallow vestibule, the original inner entrance formed by a large French door with fanlight and sidelights is intact. Except for carpets, draperies and furnishings, which have been replaced over the years, the public spaces of the ground story are intact. They are lofty, with fourteen-foot ceiling heights throughout, and well lighted. Inside the main entrance, the core of the building is formed by a 22 by 16 foot reception hall and, at the east wall, a 10 by 10 foot staircase which has floor-to-ceiling windows at the first landing which light the entire foyer. The foyer has grandly architectonic trim in the Colonial Revival Style, including pilasters and a bold cornice composed of a dentil course and a reverse ogee molding. Two French doors opening into the dining hall on the south are surmounted by fanlights which echo round-arched openings on the opposite wall.

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At the far end of the long, 25 by 55 foot dining hall and ballroom is a large fireplace with classical chimneypiece with fluted pilasters and a brick surround, now painted white. Pilasters support four lateral boxed ceiling beams spanning the room between each of the French "doors" in the outside wall. The ceiling is finished with a classical cornice, and, below it, a picture mold encircles the room. On the east wall which separates the dining hall and a 13 by 55 foot kitchen are the long tray shelf and removable panels required for cafeteria-style serving.

The northerly end of the ground story is subdivided into a registration area adjacent to the foyer and a sitting room; and, on the opposite side of the hallway, an office and conference room. The sitting room in the extreme northwest corner is lighted by French "doors" in the outside walls, and its focal point is an intact fireplace with delicate mantelpiece, engaged Doric columns, unpainted brick surround, and a built-up tile-faced hearth.

The second and third floors each contain seventeen rooms which are devoted to offices, a nursery, recreational and residential use, and resident services. The topmost floor is completely open, with the lunettes in each of the eyebrow dormers opening into an alcove which is curtained off from the rest of the floor. Each of the nine attic alcoves is a semi-private room for YWCA residents. The basement contains a 20 by 45 foot swimming pool and boiler room; dressing rooms and a laundry.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- 1915	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1914-1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Carl F. Gould, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

GENERAL STATEMENT

The YWCA (1914-1915) is significant to the city of Bellingham as a well-preserved and sophisticated example of Colonial Revival architecture by Carl F. Gould, who centered his practice in Seattle and figured prominently in the architectural history of the state from the time of his arrival around 1909 to his demise thirty years later. Moreover, the YWCA was one of the widely-acclaimed civic betterment projects of its day. Among those on the Northwest Coast, it was noted that only Portland, Seattle and Bellingham YWCAs owned their own buildings. While construction was basically underwritten by influential local capitalist Charles X. Larrabee in the name of his wife and daughter, Bellingham's YWCA was furnished through the concerted effort of individual donors, businesses, and fraternal, church and social clubs throughout the city. The YWCAs community service role as a residence, educational and social center for women of all ages has continued without interruption at the same location to the present day.

BELLINGHAM YWCA FOUNDED 1906

By 1890, four rival townsites which had grown up side by side along Bellingham Bay on Puget Sound in Northwestern Washington over a period of thirty years were legally incorporated as the two separate towns of New Whatcom and Fairhaven. In a referendum of 1903, voters approved the ultimate consolidation, and when the resulting city charter was adopted in 1904 "Bellingham" numbered its population at 22,632 and ranked fourth among Washington municipalities. With its protected deep-water port facilities connected by rail to points north and south, and with its ready access to timber, coal, salmon, and other resources, Bellingham had emerged at the turn of the century as a vital manufacturing center. Public-spirited enterprises which formerly were accomplished on a sectional basis now were undertaken for the Bellingham Bay community as a whole. In such a climate, the need for providing physical education, outdoor recreation and opportunities for spiritual development for the girls and young women of Bellingham was identified.

Late in 1906, nearly fifty years after the Young Women's Christian Association had been organized on a national basis in the United States, a group of Bellingham women held their first meeting for the purpose of forming a local association. Mrs. Charles X. Larrabee was named to the board of directors. Several months later, a large upstairs room in a downtown building was rented, and classes in physical culture were started. The first general appeal for assistance in a capital improvement project, namely: construction of a summer camp at Ramona Park on Lake Whatcom, was a success. Local businessmen, members and friends donated furnishings and camp supplies, and the camp was opened in the summer of 1907.

The association "struggled along for years, trying with inadequate housing facilities, meeting places and financial support," to administer to the needs of the girls and young

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women of the community. The YWCA was active nonetheless and had a strong membership. Its matrons were found meeting incoming passenger trains to furnish information and give attention to requests. Finally, by 1914, the time had come for the YWCA to have a permanent home on a par with the three-story headquarters of brick and stone masonry which had been erected for the Young Men's Christian Association on East Holly Street some ten years earlier.

PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS OPENED 1915

Construction of a permanent home for the YWCA was made possible when wealthy and public-spirited Charles X. Larrabee made a gift of several lots at the corner of Forest and Maple Streets and underwrote design and construction of the building - all of which was done in the name of his wife, who was a leader in the association, and his only daughter, Mary Adele. In 1914 Larrabee engaged Carl F. Gould, a rising young architect from Seattle whose training and experience were exceptionally sound. Gould worked concurrently on plans for Larrabee's own "Lairmont" at 405 Fieldstone Road, which also was completed in 1915 after Larrabee's death. The latter has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1915 the association moved into its new quarters, which were acclaimed not only for their handsome appearance but for the "large airy rooms, commodious parlors and dining room." The new plant was valued at \$50,000, and it was noted that among YWCAs on the Northwest Coast, only Portland, Seattle and Bellingham associations owned their own buildings. While it was substantially the gift of C. X. Larrabee, the YWCA project nevertheless was achieved with the cooperation of the community-at-large. The rooms were furnished through the contributions of individuals, businesses, church, fraternal and social clubs throughout the city. In 1917 a local newspaper reported the association's membership at 500 women and girls of various nationalities. The association was considered "almost 80 percent self sustaining," and the balance of operating costs was met by interested members of the community. Among the regular services provided at the YWCA during the initial years were aid to travelers, cafeteria meals, and housing for longer-term residents.

CHARLES XAVIER LARRABEE: DONOR

Charles Xavier Larrabee (1843-1914), a native of New York, emigrated with his parents at the age of six to Wisconsin. Upon completing his public school education, he returned to New York and enrolled at a business college in Poughkeepsie. Thereafter, he taught school for a time and returned to work in his grandfather's lumber camps in Wisconsin. In 1875 he moved on to Montana and eventually made a fortune by the discovery of the Mountain View silver mine near Butte. Following the sale of his mining interests to the Boston and Montana Company, he pushed on to the West Coast, where he ultimately associated himself with capitalist Nelson Bennett in a venture to develop Bellingham Bay as the Northwest Coast terminus of the Great Northern railroad.

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In Tacoma, Bennett and others formed the Fairhaven Land Company, a subsidiary of the Fairhaven and Southern Railway. Charles X Larrabee backed the enterprise and was named president. Bennett and Larrabee were the guiding spirits of an immense real estate boom, which went bust when Seattle became the major railhead port on Puget Sound and an economic slump followed the Silver Panic of 1893. When Bennett and others of the railroad syndicate sold out, Larrabee acquired his partner's holdings and retained control of the corporation. He directed completion of a number of public improvement projects, donated land for park purposes and generally aided the emergence of the consolidated Bellingham Bay communities as a prosperous manufacturing center. Larrabee was a founder and first president of the Citizens Bank; he developed the Roslyn-Cascade Coal Company, one of the important coal-mining enterprises in the state; and he fostered the local salmon-fishing and bulb-growing industries.

C. X. Larrabee's philanthropies were numerous, and he naturally embraced the cause of a permanent home for the YWCA taken up by his wife and daughter. It was typical, also, that he sought top talent to accomplish projects in which he took a special interest. It was Larrabee who had been responsible for having the Olmsted Brothers firm of landscape architects of Brookline, Massachusetts draw plans for Fairhaven Park in 1910. While the plan was accepted by the City Park Board, it was never carried out in detail. Larrabee died in September 1914, before his own residence, "Lairmont", and the YWCA designed concurrently by leading young Seattle architect Carl F. Gould had been fully completed.

CARL F. GOULD: ARCHITECT

Carl F. Gould (1873-1939), a native of New York City, was graduated from the Harvard School of Architecture in 1898 and thereafter spent four years (1899-1903) at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. On his return to the United States, Gould was employed by the eminent New York architects McKim, Mead and White, whose work so greatly influenced the spread of the Colonial Revival Style. Later, Gould became a member of the New York firm of Carpenter, Blair and Gould. He arrived in Seattle around the time of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909, or shortly before. City planning was considered one of Gould's areas of expertise at this time. He had been involved in the preparation of plans for the City of San Francisco which were produced in the office of Daniel H. Burnham and Company of Chicago. Gould began working with Charles Herbert Bebb around 1914, after the work in Bellingham for Charles X Larrabee was nearing completion. The partners were active in the affairs of the Washington State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and both were organizers of Seattle's municipal planning commission.

Gould was one of the founders of the School of Architecture at the University of Washington and served as first chairman of the department. In 1915 Bebb and Gould were appointed architects of the University of Washington Campus Plan. Over many years the firm designed some twenty major structures on the University of Washington campus, including the Suzzall Library, a central landmark in the Late Gothic Revival Style. On the campus of Western Washington State College in Bellingham, the firm produced the final building which gave

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definition to the Old Main quadrangle, namely: The "Romanesque" Wilson Library. The Hoge Building, Athletic Club, the Modernistic Seattle Art Museum (1932), the Rainier Club Annex (1929), the U. S. Marine and Virginia Mason Hospitals - all in Seattle, are among the firm's noted works. The firm served as consulting architects for the State Capitol group in Olympia constructed between 1911 and 1935. Bebb and Gould also designed the government building at the Ballard Locks in Seattle and undertook various projects for the Pacific Telephone Company (an office building in Tacoma) and the Boeing Airplane Company. In cooperation with the George B. Post Company of New York, Bebb and Gould designed Seattle's premier hotel, The Olympic. The long and fruitful partnership ended with Gould's demise in 1939. Carl Gould had been elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1934.

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Pacific Builder and Engineer, Vol. 14, No. 2 (July 13, 1912), 41. Biographical note
on architect Carl F. Gould.