

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 18 1979 IN 27 1979  
DATE ENTERED

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

YMCA Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

628 First Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Pottawattamie

CODE

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: YMCA

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

YMCA-Metropolitan Area

STREET & NUMBER

628 First Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 51501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pottawattamie County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Council Bluffs

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Council Bluffs YMCA building is a rectangular structure, with dimensions of 95' x 42'. It is 3½ stories high on a raised basement. The roof is gabled, with a ridge deck, and the side walls feature shouldered parapet gable ends, inset with pairs of false chimneys. The building is of frame construction, with the exterior walls veneered in a rust-brown brick.

The principal facade (south) is of five bays with the end bays distinguished as pavilions. The windows are extremely large and vary in treatment from story to story.

The first story windows are treated as projecting bays composed of multi-light transoms and sidelights around a large single-pane center light. The window bays of the end pavilions actually project beyond the plane of the wall, while the three center bays (the middle bay functions as the front entrance) are recessed and united under a continuous cornice. The second story windows are multi-light double-hung windows (with a bottom sash which slides or pivots and a fixed top sash) and are framed with flat surrounds which also enclose panelled aprons. On the third floor are coupled windows with square frames set within shallow segmental arches. Those of the end pavilions are flush with the wall while those of the center three bays are recessed to form narrow balconies and are united under a blind arcade. The attic dormers are alternately double dormers with shed roofs and single dormers with triangular pediments.

The windows of each story are superimposed directly upon each other, with the head of the lower fused with the sill of the upper. The same window treatment is carried around both sides of the building. On the east side the building is extended out into a one-bay wing, which is three stories in height.

In the basement of this building are locker rooms, a workout room, bathrooms and a kitchen. The first and second floors are divided irregularly into meeting rooms of varying sizes. The third and attic floors contain many small bedrooms, arranged on either side of a center hall running parallel with the front facade.

On the rear of the building is a later addition (1931), 65' x 43' in dimension and two stories high, which houses a swimming pool on the main floor and a gymnasium above. The street (west) facade of the addition is divided into four bays by wide flat brick piers which extend slightly above the top of the parapet. Within each bay are groups of three windows -- small square windows on the main level and double-hung sliding sash windows on the gymnasium level -- divided by narrow piers. Each group on the upper level shares a continuous lintel. At the rear of the gymnasium is a tall brick chimney.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1908-9; 1931

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederic E. Cox (1908-9)  
Jocheis Jensen (1931)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Council Bluffs YMCA building is an extremely interesting and highly individualistic interpretation of the Georgian and Federal Revival styles current in the early decades of the 20th century. The character of the facade is largely established by the fenestration. The windows are overwhelmingly large and their treatment is bold and variegated, but nonetheless tightly organized into a system in which the dominant vertical axes of the end pavilions are poised against the strong horizontal grouping of the windows in the center. The treatment of the end bays as pavilions, which is uncharacteristic of the American Georgian and Federal Revival styles, and the multiplicity of window planes add further interest to an already lively facade.

It should also be noted that the street facade of the gymnasium addition, with its vertical divisions and horizontal groupings of elements, is very sympathetic in character to the original building.

The building was designed by Frederic E. Cox of the Council Bluffs firm of Cox and Schoentgen and erected in 1908-9. The pool/gymnasium addition was designed by Jocheis Jensen in 1931. Renovations to the building at that time also included the remodeling of the earlier attic into fourth-floor rooms (the shed dormers were possibly added at this time).

Construction of the building was partially funded by Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, who also left a substantial endowment for its upkeep. In 1929, the Union Pacific Railroad purchased the building, in order to keep its facilities open for railroad men during the Depression years. Since 1955 it has been owned by the city's YMCA organization.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Minutes of the YMCA Board, 1908-1978 (YMCA, Council Bluffs, IA)  
 Abstract and Blueprints for building, 1908-1931  
 Scrapbook of newspaper clippings about the Council Bluffs YMCA, at the Council Bluffs Public Library.  
 Council Bluffs Nonpareil, Oct 4-6, 1929; Nov. 2, 1931; Jan. 19, 1955; Oct. 4, 1959; March 14, 1971.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Council Bluffs North, Iowa; Neb.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 260940 4571380

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A block of land 120' x 120, located on the northeast corner of Seventh Street and First Avenue; Council Bluffs.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

S.J. Klingensmith, Architectural Historian; M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319/353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Alvin D. Anderson*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/9/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles Adams*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6.27.79

ATTEST: *William H. Brannan*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6.21.79