OMB No. 1 Inited States Department of the Interior Iational Park Service Vational Register of Historic Places Registration Fo	
his form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in N ulletin, <i>How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form</i> . If any item does not apply to the boumented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significa- tegories and subcategories from the instructions. 1. Name of Property Historic name: <u>Eastern Hills Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)</u> Other names/site number: W.J. Williams YMCA; Hilltop Y	ational Register
2. Location Street & number: 1228 E. McMillan St. City or town: Cincinnati State: OH County: Hamilton Not For Publication: N/A 3. State/Federal Agency Certification	

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \underline{X} nomination $\underline{}$ 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 \underline{X} meets $\underline{}$ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

<u>X_A _B X_C _D</u>

Barbara Pervers **DSHPO** (Inventory & Registration)

October 19, 2014

Signature of certifying official/Title:

State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Title :

1

Eastern Hills YMCA Name of Property

Hamilton County, OH County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register 1
- determined eligible for the National Register
- ____ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

2016 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxe Private:	x as apply.)
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)	X
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Eastern Hills YMCA Name of Property Hamilton County, OH County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing <u>1</u>	Noncontributing	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
<u>1</u>	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register ____0

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) <u>RECREATION AND CULTURE/Sports facility</u> SOCIAL/Civic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.) VACANT/not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.) Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Tudor Revival/Jacobethan Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)Brick, slate, limestone

Summary Paragraph

Planned in 1927 and constructed from 1928-1930, the Eastern Hills YMCA is located on the northwest corner of East McMillan Street and Ashland Avenue, in the East Walnut Hills neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio, with the primary façade facing McMillan Street. The threeand-a-half story red brick Tudor/Jacobethan Revival building was designed by Charles F. Cellarius as a branch recreation facility for the Young Men's Christian Association and was operated as such from its construction until its closure in 2011. Because of this continued use, the building has retained excellent historic integrity. The building is located on a busy street surrounded by a mixture of commercial, educational, and religious buildings in a larger residential neighborhood. The building has a fairly narrow setback on McMillan Street (about 8 feet) with landscaping including a small grassy lawn, evergreen bushes, and two trees, as well as two paved walks up to building. Setback along Ashland Avenue is much narrower, with grassy lawn and a few small trees. West and north elevations face asphalt, with a parking lot on the north part of the property.

Narrative Description

The Eastern Hills YMCA building is an irregular rectangle 51,804 square feet in size (photos 1-7). All exterior features are original with very minimal changes. The front half has a steeply pitched intersecting gable roof with slate tile and original copper flashing and gutters (photos 10-12). Gables form a U-shape, with the opening facing the rear, with three different levels of roof within this U. The lowest level was originally a small open courtyard, but has since been roofed over (photo 49). There are two gables on the south façade and one on each of the east and west elevations (photos 1-4). There are also several small dormers on each of these facades, and a few facing the interior of the building (photo 12). There is a small vertically projecting turret on the south façade near the eastern gable. This south section of the roof is surrounded on all three sides by crenellated parapets. The south section is four stories tall. The

Eastern Hills YMCA

Hamilton County, OH County and State uch taller as it

Name of Property County and State rear section (north) of the building is two stories tall, but the second story is much taller as it contains the gymnasiums. The rear of the building has a flat asphalt roof.

The exterior walls are primarily dark red unpainted brick. The foundation is stone and limestone is used for detailing, including belt courses, facing around main entrances, quoin-like window and door surrounds, moldings above windows, window sills and lintels, and capping the gables and crenellation at the top of the building. Casement windows of varying sizes are divided into small square leaded glass panes (photos 1-3, 6, 13). Double-hung windows are found in some of the dormers less visible from the right-of-way (photo 12). All windows in the building are original with the exception of glass block windows in the pool area and basement.

As the primary façade, the south elevation facing McMillan Street is the most ornate and serves as the original main entrance to the building, although there are several secondary entrances (photos 1-3). This elevation is asymmetrical, as is typical of the Tudor Revival style. The main entrance is located in the center of the elevation. Like the other exterior entrances, the main entrance has the characteristic Tudor arch shape with a square limestone decorative surround. Above the main entrance is a prominent limestone YMCA logo, a triangle (photo 8). Gables are at the east and west ends of the façade. Three narrow stone belt courses run along the elevation and continue back to the east and west elevations. The façade is topped by similar narrow limestone molding along the two gables on either side, with the crenellated parapets between them. A two-story oriel stretching from the second to the third floor and terminating in crenellated parapets is on the east side of this elevation.

The east elevation faces Ashland Avenue and is slightly plainer than the primary façade, but more ornate than the west and north elevations (photos 3-5). The south half of the building is more ornate in general and a full story taller than the north (rear) half of the building. The south section of the east elevation is very similar to the building's south elevation. The second to the southernmost bay features a two-story oriel stretching from the second to third story and terminating in crenellated parapets, similar to the oriel on the south elevation. The third bay from the south has a prominent entry door, similar to the main doorway with a Tudor arch shape and square limestone surround. Shields with the YMCA logo are carved at the two top corners of the surround and original stained glass transom is in place above original wood double doors (photo 9). Near the middle of the elevation is a pavilion set about 6 inches forward from the rest of the building and terminating in a gable. The rear section of the east elevation is much more regular, containing five bays of very large windows looking in on the main gymnasium alternating with narrow brick attached buttresses topped with limestone between the first and second stories, and at the top of the second story. This rear half of the building contains glass block windows in the pool area, the only replacement windows in the building, put in at an unknown date sometime in the 1970s or 1980s (photo 4).

The west elevation is more modestly decorated than the east elevation (photo 7). Three southernmost bays are on a pavilion set about six inches forward from the rest of the elevation and terminating in a gable topped by a chimney. The section just north of that pavilion is much plainer than the rest of the building, with five bays of plain double-hung windows. The northernmost (rear) section is similar to the rear section of the east elevation with three bays of

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This pattern of bays and buttresses continues to the rear elevation, which currently faces a parking lot (photos 5-7). That elevation is six bays wide with a two-bay wide projection built away from the building with a doorway on each side. These doorways maintain the Tudor arch shape, but are much less ornate than front and side entrances. These doors may have been replaced in the original doorways.

Interior

The main entrance leads into a vestibule with original stained glass doors (photo 14). The vestibule opens into a main lobby hallway with wood paneling three quarters of the way up the wall on either side of the entry as well as multiple arched entrances to other rooms (photo 15). Ceiling has dark wood timbers and original hanging Tudor style hammered metal and glass light fixtures. At the end of this hallway is the original check-in counter of dark wood with stained glass YMCA logo above it (photo 16). Original terra cotta floors line the entryway and continue through many spaces in the building.

The front part of the first floor is arranged asymmetrically around this central hallway. To the left is a large senior social room with a massive, solid original limestone Jacobean-Tudor fireplace on the wall opposite the entrance (photos 17-19). The fireplace is characterized by a large flat chimney breast protruding into the room and mostly plain limestone surround. Small YMCA logos are carved into the limestone just above the fireplace opening on either side (photo 19). The senior social room also retains original terra cotta floors, ceiling timbering, and **cross** casement windows (photo 13). Behind the large senior social room in the hallway is an original ornate ceramic water fountain set into the wall, possibly made by local ceramic company Rookwood Pottery (photo 25).

To the right was originally a small reading room, which has been opened up into the junior social room area, which has been converted into a women's locker room (photo 20). The reading room was originally covered by floor-to-ceiling dark wood paneling, one wall of which is intact with two built-in spaces for shelves (photo 21). The original interior doors from the main hallway to the reading room have stained glass panes with references to religious-themed literature such as Dante's *Divine Comedy* and Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* (photo 22). The junior social room has a brick and limestone and Tudor half timber, wattle & daub style fireplace damaged and altered at unknown date (photo 23). The room is currently filled with lockers but retains original ceiling timbering (photo 20).

The front hallway also opens into the original main stairway through a Tudor arched opening just behind the entrance to the junior social room. This stairway is the most ornate, although there are several others in the building, with original terra cotta tiling on the risers, wood paneling halfway up the wall and wood banisters (photo 24).

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Behind the front hallway are several offices and small rooms of various use. A meeting room which was originally a billiard room has lost its wood paneling but retains original timbered ceilings and Tudor arched entryway (photo 26). In this space was originally a ground floor courtyard which was converted into an office at an unknown date (photo 27). Some functional features have been added later in this area including a glass barrier with door. There are locker rooms in their original locations, although the men's locker room has been expanded and both locker rooms updated and altered at an unknown date, probably 1970s or 1980s (photos 28, 29). There is also a small sauna, steam room, showers, and several small areas to support use of the pool.

At the back of the first floor is the original pool area (photos 30-35). Interior of pool and floor in pool area are tiled with original small (1-inch) tiles of white, black, red in the pool and neutral yellows, mauves and browns on the floor. Tiles in pool are patterned to mark depths, lane lines, and ladder steps set into sides of pool (photos 30-32). Tiles also create ribbed border on floor around edge of pool (photo 33). The walls are tiled 3-4 feet up the walls on all sides of the room with larger standard tiles (4 inches) (photo 30). Wall tiling terminates in a border of blue tiles embellished by larger, ornate decorative tiles – a tile depicting a boat and a tile depicting a sea creature alternating around the room (photos 34, 35).

The basement level of the building houses the mechanicals and was used as a maintenance shop.

Upper Floors

The front of second floor is identified on the original plans as two large spaces – the ladies club room, ladies social room, classrooms and a banquet hall, which have been combined and altered into large exercise room at unknown date in the second half of the twentieth century (photos 36, 37). This space is accessed from the main stairwell with original wood banister, spindles, and newel posts, painted at unknown date (photo 38). Small meeting rooms have been altered into locker room at unknown date, probably in 1970s or 1980s (photo 39). The second floor also has locker rooms with bathrooms, added at unknown date to support exercise rooms.

At the back of the second floor were originally two gymnasiums and a handball court. The larger gym is still intact, the smaller gym has been converted into racquetball courts and a cycle room (photos 40, 41). The intact main gym is two stories tall and characterized by its expanse of space. Two walls of the gym have original oversized casement windows (photos 6, 42-46). This gym also has an original wood elevated running track around the room overlooking the gym and looking in on upper windows of the racquetball courts (photos 44, 46). Gym has original brick walls and original wood floors, although they have been refinished and repainted (photos 45, 46).

The front section of the third floor originally held dormitory rooms very similar to fourth floor but was remodeled into dance studio and weight room at unknown date in late 20th century (photos 47, 48). The back section of the third floor is open to upper part of racquetball courts and main gymnasium where running track is located (photo 46).

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The fourth floor housed dormitory facilities for residents are nearly completely intact and all features are historic (photos 50-53). These small dormitory rooms run the length of three long narrow hallways connecting in a u-shape under the three gable ridges of the roof (photo 50). The rooms vary in size and layout slightly, with either one or two casement or double-hung windows in each and original radiators remaining in a few (photos 51, 52). Many of these rooms have pitched ceilings and dormers above the windows (photos 52, 53). Original architectural details like trim, ledges, some doors, and some closets are intact (photo 51). The dormitories share communal hall bathrooms and other facilities like hall storage closets.

The building retains a great deal of historic integrity, with the primary features of both the style and function intact. The exterior has been altered very little. The key elements of the interior, including the main lobby entrance and check-in desk, main gymnasium with running track, swimming pool, and fourth floor dormitories are all intact and in very good condition.

Stylistic details characteristic of Tudor Revival style such as arched entry and original entry door, wood paneled interior entry, large stone fireplace, terra cotta tiled entry floor, timbered ceilings on the first floor, and original stained glass are intact. With the exception of the original reading room paneling, no major historic features have been removed, altered, or covered. This combination of intact architectural features and the original functional spaces gives a very clear sense of the building during the period of significance.

The building incorporates elements of the Tudor Revival/Jacobethan Revival architectural style to present an imposing presence to members and visitors with its crenellated parapets outside and rich wood paneling and imposing fireplaces in meeting rooms. Combined with these touches of grandeur are the finely detailed but primarily functional spaces of the pool, gymnasium, and dormitories which serve as evidence of exactly the kind of work the Eastern Hills YMCA carried out in the first half of the twentieth century – providing recreation and social services to young men and women.

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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.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

X

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- 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.)

- 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.)

Architecture

Social History

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Period of Significance 1928-1966

Significant Dates 1928-1929

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Cellarius, Charles F.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Eastern Hills YMCA building is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of social history for its representation of the rapid expansion of the community services provided by the YMCA early in the twentieth century and under Criterion C for its architecture as an outstanding and intact example of early twentieth-century Tudor Revival architecture expressed in an institutional building. The period of significance begins with the construction of the facility and ends in 1966, as the facility continued to have importance and serve the community until it was permanently closed in 2011.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Eastern Hills YMCA was opened in 1929 and renamed the W. J. Williams YMCA in 1940 at the request of Mrs. William J. Williams when she donated \$20,000 to the branch, enabling it to clear all its remaining debts. The branch was constructed as part of the expansion of the YMCA in the early decades of the twentieth century in Cincinnati and in the United States. Its placement in the East Walnut Hills neighborhood of Cincinnati is a result of this expansion coinciding with the rapid expansion of the boundaries of the city of Cincinnati in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The YMCA in the United States transformed its mission and programming between the late nineteenth century and the Second World War. This transformation, from an evangelistic religious organization out to save young men from the perils and vices of the city during urbanization, to a more secular community institution providing development and recreation for the spirit, mind, and especially body, as well as the expansion of services to include first a variety of races and classes of young men, and later women, girls, and families, is part of why the organization was able to maintain its strength and stability into the twenty-first century.

In Cincinnati, the YMCA's early years (from about 1853 to 1880) have been characterized by their own historians as "a period of general evangelist zeal and services to young men – 'strangers in our midst'" (Senger, 7). The first iterations of the Y in Cincinnati provided reading rooms, refreshments, and Bible classes to young men coming to the city for work. They also tried to exercise their civilizing influence by bringing these young men to salvation or helping them sign "temperance pledges."

By the late 1920s, the Cincinnati YMCA, as well as the YMCA Movement nationally, had moved on to more generally support the development of the "mind, body, and spirit" of young men – their physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual development – through recreation leagues, the formation of organized clubs, a variety of physical education classes and activities, and camping in addition to their more traditional activities like Bible study. The Eastern Hills YMCA is physical evidence of this transformation as one of the early branches in Cincinnati to build cutting-edge recreation facilities (a pool and two gymnasiums, among other assorted rooms to support them) as the major and vital components of the branch building.

One crucial element of this transformation was a huge increase in the construction of YMCA buildings both in Cincinnati and nationally in the years leading up to US involvement in WWI as well as the decade following the war. Around the country, nearly 200 YMCA buildings were constructed between 1900 and 1917. By the time the cornerstone of the Eastern Hills YMCA was laid in 1928,

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building had sped up so much that the Vice President of the Cincinnati chapter could claim "a new building has been dedicated in some city on an average of every twelve days in the past year."

Two factors contributed to the Cincinnati YMCA's property growth in the 1910s and late 1920s. First, in 1916, the Cincinnati YMCA adopted the "Metropolitan Basis of Organization," an organizational structure which was growing in popularity nationally at that point. The Metropolitan Basis called for an urban area to institute a single YMCA administrative chapter with branches in different neighborhoods under that umbrella. The Metropolitan Basis itself, and the need for it, is evidence of the growing primacy of branch facilities to YMCA work in the early 20th century. Second, the organization received two large philanthropic gifts in 1926: the Dolph bequest of \$300,000, \$100,000 of which went toward the construction of the Eastern Hills branch, and the Gamble Family gift of \$400,000, all of which went toward the construction of the University branch. Between 1915 and 1930, the Cincinnati YMCA either built or purchased at least five branch buildings and two campgrounds.

YMCA buildings built or acquired during that time represent a range of architectural styles. Both the Ninth Street branch, (built 1915-1916 and razed in 1961), and the Central Parkway branch, (built 1916-1918 and renovated 2014-2016) were the Renaissance Revival style commonly found in YMCA buildings between 1890 and the First World War. Several buildings were repurposed for YMCA branches, including church buildings and a bungalow-style building for the "industrial branch." The two major construction projects of the late 1920s were the Tudor-revival style Eastern Hills branch (built 1928-1929) and the Gothic-revival University branch (built 1929-1930).

In Cincinnati, the trend of urban expansion was exacerbated by the topography of the city. Cincinnati is a "basin" city, first founded in a low-lying area of just over three square miles bounded on three sides by very steep hills and to the south by the Ohio River. Due to the steepness of the hills, nearly all city residents and businesses (with the exception of the very wealthy) were confined to the basin area until the 1870s. In the 1870s and 1880s, advances in transportation technology allowed middle-class residents to move out of the basin to the surrounding hills, with industry and neighborhood shopping districts following shortly after.

The Eastern Hills area is made up of the separate but abutting neighborhoods of Walnut Hills and East Walnut Hills, both of which were served by the Eastern Hills YMCA. This was one of the early areas to be incorporated into the city following the "scaling of the hills," annexed to Cincinnati in stages between 1850 and 1873. Between that time and the 1920s, the area went from being a village with several estates of Cincinnati's wealthiest families, to a lower-middle-class area much more densely populated by a multicultural community of workers. In the early decades of the twentieth century, the area included enclaves of African Americans, German Americans, Italian Americans and immigrants, and Jewish Cincinnatians. It was this diverse neighborhood population that the Eastern Hills YMCA was built to serve with a middle-class Progressive Era philosophy of providing recreation opportunities geared toward self-improvement and away from temptations of urban vice, using exercise, organized teams and clubs, camping expeditions and classes.

Another element of the organization's transformation was a drastic change in the kind of services offered, with a particular new emphasis on physical activity. Local newspaper articles announcing the construction of the branch emphasize the state-of-the-art physical recreation resources featured in the building, including the swimming pool and gymnasiums. The Eastern Hills Y was one of only four

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Greater Cincinnati branch YMCAs out of nine branches by 1953 to include a swimming pool which held swimming and life-saving classes, teams and leagues.

The final aspect of the YMCA transformation was the expansion of services to new groups of people. In Cincinnati, the Eastern Hills Y represents a particularly crucial turning point in this area because it was the first YMCA branch to offer programming for women and girls. Several prominent women philanthropists were active in fundraising for the building, and used their influence to ensure that the building would be open for the use of women and girls. Plans called for the facilities like the pool and gyms to be reserved for women and girls one day a week, but it seems likely that interest was even higher than anticipated. Initially, women's and girls programming at the branch was run by the local YWCA, but after the first year, they did not have the funds or staff to continue doing so and the YMCA hired women coaches and teachers for the Eastern Hills women's and girls programming, and eventually a Director of Women's Activities.

The branch's women's and girl's programming was very popular and the branch remained the local frontrunner in women's inclusion through early 1950s. In 1933, it became the first Cincinnati branch to include women on its Committee of Management. In 1934, women held 5.9% of Y memberships nationally, but about 25% of memberships at the Eastern Hills branch. Between 1934 and 1951, women and girls accounted for 20- 30% of the branch's membership, and the branch led the city in women and girls' membership by both number of members and percentage of total membership. According to a 1950 newspaper profile, although there were several toastmasters' clubs at Cincinnati Y branches to help young men develop their public speaking skills, Eastern Hills was the only branch with a toastmistresses' club to do the same for young business women.

In addition, the Eastern Hills branch served a diverse group of working class and middle class immigrants and workers in the Walnut Hills and East Walnut Hills neighborhoods. It was one of two branches out of nine to establish an International Club to promote understanding between immigrant and American-born community members, even though work with immigrants began to lose popularity with the Cincinnati YMCA around 1914. The branch also had a robust program of reaching out to underprivileged boys by providing sponsored memberships for boys from Walnut Hills who would not otherwise be able to afford them. This was part of the Y's Depression-era mandate nationally and in Cincinnati to engage working-class boys in wholesome group recreational activities and steer them away from the perils of gangsterism.

The Eastern Hills Y was both a product and driver of the creation of a distinct neighborhood community in the area, and its significance to the community shows in its membership numbers. In 1927, before the construction of the building, the Eastern Hills branch listed a total of 67 members in the national YMCA yearbook and roster. By 1934, five years after the building opened its doors, that number had jumped to 1055 the second largest branch by membership in the city. Eastern Hills remained second-largest as their memberships steadily grew to nearly 4,000 in 1943. In the 1940s, the branch took a hit when the Walnut Hills branch opened less than a mile away, but maintained significant membership numbers between 1600 and 2400 well into the 1960s.

The Eastern Hills YMCA building is also significant under Criterion C as a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of the early twentieth-century Tudor Revival/Jacobethan Revival architecture used for imposing institutional buildings. Construction, shape, materials, and ornamental detailing are all consistent with this distinctive architectural style.

The building was designed by Charles F. Cellarius with engineering consultation of the national YMCA Architectural Bureau. The Architectural Bureau was established in 1915 in response to the national YMCA building boom and need of local chapters for advice that exceeded the capacity of the Y's International Committee. The bureau aimed to help local chapters build branches that fit their neighborhood-specific needs as well YMCA-specific needs like recreation and swimming facilities. For a fee of 2% of the total cost of a project, the Bureau would assist a chapter with selecting a site, finding an architect, and structuring their fundraising campaign. The Bureau did not draw plans for branches, but did review and advise, especially on features like pool drainage systems. In the 1920s, the Bureau's services were widely popular, used by nearly 90% of new building projects nationally.

Charles Cellarius was a prominent local architect who designed residential and institutional buildings in a variety of traditional revival styles, from Mediterranean revivals to Colonial revival. His Tudor revival interest is best seen early in his career. His 1916 B.S. thesis was the design of "A Tudor Country House". By the time he was selected as the architect for the Eastern Hills Y in 1927, he was serving as the resident architect for the village of Mariemont. Mariemont, a Cincinnati suburb listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a National Landmark (reference numbers 79001862 and 74001517) as a significant example of Garden City design, is characterized by its wide use of Tudor revival style. Cellarius supervised the architecture of the village from 1924 to 1941 (and advised for years afterward). Among the buildings he designed for the village were Tudor revival residential and institutional buildings, including the English-cottage style boathouse, the brick and half-timber or "fachwerk" Dale Park Fire-Police station.

Later in his career, he was influential in regional university design, and worked with the University of Cincinnati, Miami University, Berea College, and Western College for Women, drafting plans for buildings on their campuses.

Cellarius incorporated the distinctive features of Tudor Revival style in both the interior and exterior of the Eastern Hills YMCA, including asymmetrical plan, intersecting gable roof design, grand Tudor arches in entries and doorways, oriels, crenellated parapets, limestone faux-quoin window surrounds, grand interior fireplace, and exposed wooden ceiling timbers.

Major historic materials that the property retains include: original brick exterior, original windows, slate roof, arched entry and original entry door, wood paneled interior entry, interior large stone fireplace, tiled entry floor, interior beamed entry ceilings, original stained glass in entry, original check-in desk area. No major historic architectural details, with the exception of the reading room, have been removed or covered with modern material. These key elements of the style have maintained excellent integrity, with the exterior of the building being in extremely good condition with very few alterations made and the interior retaining the key identifying features of Tudor Revival style.

Overall, the building's combination of style and function is representative of the crucial role of YMCA buildings in the late 1920s as the primary resource provided by an organization in the middle of a transition from a protestant evangelizing and civilizing mission to a secularized moral recreational and service organization. In addition, the Tudor revival style fits well with the neighborhood. There are several other Tudor inspired buildings in the surrounding area, both multi-family residential and commercial. The old-world, tradition of the Tudor style also lends the building a warm, welcoming, and

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cosmopolitan feel, appropriate for an ethnically diverse 1920s neighborhood with significant immigrant communities.

In the context of the greater Cincinnati area, only three YMCA buildings from this earlytwentieth century period of expansion still stand. The Central Parkway branch, a Renaissance Revival style building which served as the main headquarters of the local chapter, is still used as a YMCA and has been undergoing renovation since 2014. The closest in style to the Eastern Hills YMCA is the University of Cincinnati YMCA, constructed nearly concurrently in a Gothic Revival style, but for the specifications of a University YMCA club rather than a neighborhood branch.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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"New Branch YMCA on Walnut Hills," Cincinnati Times Star, July 2, 1927, Cincinnati, Ohio.

"New Home of YMCA Assured," Cincinnati Enquirer, March 1, 1928, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Senger, Harry (1953). The Story of the Young Men's Christian Association of Cincinnati and Hamilton County 1853-1953, The Parthenon Press.

The Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration, and the Cincinnati Historical Society (1987). *The WPA Guide to Cincinnati*, Cincinnati Historical Society, Cincinnati, Ohio.

"To Complete Y Building in September," Cincinnati Times Star, August 9, 1929, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rogers, Millard F. (2007). "Village of Mariemont National Historic Landmark Nomination," National Park Service. Web. Accessed July 8, 2016. <u>https://www.nps.gov/nhl/find/statelists/oh/Mariemont.pdf</u>

County and State

"Y Officials Lay Cornerstone of New Clubhouse," Cincinnati Commercial, November 19, 1928, Cincinnati, Ohio.

YMCA of the USA, (1927; 1934; 1936; 1943; 1951; 1957; 1965; 1966). YMCA Year Book and Official Roster, International Committee of Young Men's Christian Association, Association Press, New York.

Eastern Hills YMCA	Hamilton County, OH	
Name of Property		County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

 X 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 Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #
Primary location of additional data:
State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
Federal agency Local government University Other
Other
Name of repository:
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): <u>HAM0439931</u>
10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property0.592
Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)		
1. Latitude: 39.12582	Longitude:	-84.48341
2. Latitude:	Longitude:	
3. Latitude:	Longitude:	
4. Latitude:	Longitude:	

Or UTM References Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or х

NAD 1983

Eastern Hills YMCA Name of Property	Hamilton County, OH	County and State
1. Zone: 16	Easting: 717545	Northing: 4333540
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Hamilton County auditor parcel number 066-0001-0030-90 represents the NR boundary. Please see the Hamilton County Auditor's Cagis map which illustrates the boundary. At the parcel of land situated at the Northwest corner of East McMillan Street and Ashland Avenue, beginning at a point in said corner and running north on the west side of Ashland Avenue 244.41 feet, then west at right angles to a point lying 105.96 feet west of the west line of Ashland Avenue, then south parallel to Ashland Avenue for a distance of 244.41 feet then east along the northern line of East McMillan Street for a distance of 105.96 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) This property represents the extent of the property historically associated with the YMCA.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: <u>Zand Walters, consultant and Nancy Yerian, consultant</u> organization: <u>Zand Walters, Z Partners LLC and Nancy Yerian, Public Historian</u> street & number: <u>Walters – 1116 Belvedere St./Yerian – 2384 Park Ave., #3</u> city or town: <u>Cincinnati</u> state: <u>OH</u> zip code: <u>45202/45206</u> e-mail_<u>zwalters@me.com/nancy.a.yerian@gmail.com</u> telephone: <u>Walters – 513-407-0134/Yerian - 513-543-1452</u> date: <u>4/26/16</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

County and State

Photographs

Photo Log Name of Property: Eastern Hills YMCA City: Cincinnati County: Hamilton; State: Ohio Photographer: Chris Frutkin Photo Date: April 26, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 54 Camera facing north south (front) elevation: façade with steeply pitched intersecting gable roof with slate tile surrounded on all three sides by crenellated parapets, two gables, windows, two-story oriel
- 2 of 54 Camera facing northeast south and west (front/side) elevations: multiple gables
- 3 of 54 Camera facing northwest south and east (front/side) elevations: multiple gables, front and side entrances, two two-story oriels
- 4 of 54 Camera facing west east (side) elevation: gable, two-story oriel stretching from second to third floor terminating in crenellated parapets, original extra large casement windows that look into the gym in the rear half of the building, glass block replacement windows in the pool area, attached buttresses at rear of building
- 5 of 54 Camera facing southwest east and north (side/rear) elevations: quoin-like windows, label moldings above windows, windowsills and lintels; casement windows
- 6 of 54 Camera facing south north (rear) elevation: exterior walls are primarily unpainted red brick, stone foundation
- 7 of 54 Camera facing east west (side) elevation: steeply pitched intersecting gable roof with slate tile, crenellated parapets, dormer windows (church spire in background behind chimney)
- 8 of 54 Camera facing north south (front) elevation: original main entry door, original limestone detailing including belt courses facing around main entrance, quoin-like door surround, original prominent limestone YMCA logo above main entrance, original light fixture, awning added, unknown date
- 9 of 54 Camera facing west east (side) elevation: side entrance with original Tudor arch shape, original YMCA logos carved at the two top corners of the limestone surround, original stained glass transom, original wood door
- 10 of 54 Camera facing southeast from asphalt roof: back gables, slate roof, chimneys
- 11 of 54 Camera facing south from asphalt roof: slate roof, chimney, original limestone molding, original brick
- 12 of 54 Camera facing south original dormer double hung two over two windows, original copper gutters
- 13 of 54 Camera facing south original casement window with wood cross shape, original radiators behind original grate
- 14 of 54 Camera facing north original interior doors from entry vestibule, 1st floor
- 15 of 54 Camera facing north main lobby hallway with original reception desk with original stained glass transom, original wood paneling, original Tudor arches, original ceiling timbering, original light fixture, original terra cotta tiles, 1st floor
- 16 of 54 Camera facing north original stained glass above reception with YMCA logo, 1st floor

Eastern Hills Name of Pro		Hamilton County, OH	County and State
17 of 54		cing southwest – senior soc original terra cotta floor, or	ial room with original windows, original ceiling iginal fireplace, 1 st floor
18 of 54	Camera fac the hallway	•	al room with original Tudor wood arches opening into
19 of 54			ial room with original fireplace, 1 st floor
20 of 54			om into junior social room – original ceiling timbering,
21 of 54	Camera fac 1 st floor	ing west – reading room –	original dark wood paneling and two built-in shelves,
22 of 54	Camera fac	cing east - reading room - c	original stained glass panes with Tudor arch, 1st floor
23 of 54			om - altered fireplace, 1 st floor
24 of 54	stair risers,	original wood paneling up	irwell with Tudor wood arch and original terra cotta the stairwell and original wood banisters, 1 st floor
25 of 54			fountain (possibly Rookwood), 1 st floor
26 of 54	wood pane	ling (removed), 1st floor	ling timbering, original Tudor wood arches, original
27 of 54	1 st floor	•	dded unknown date in location of original courtyard,
28 of 54		0	ocker room updated, unknown date, 1 st floor
29 of 54			ker room updated/expanded, unknown date, 1st floor
30 of 54	Camera fac floor	ing southwest – pool area	with original pool and tile on both floors and walls, 1 st
31 of 54	original gla	ass block windows, 1st floor	
32 of 54	Camera fac 1 st floor	ing northeast – detail of til	ing in interior of original pool. Original built-in ladder,
33 of 54			l tiling around edge of pool, 1 st floor
34 of 54	Camera fac floor	ing north – detail of origin	al decorative wall tile with boat design in pool area, 1 st
35 of 54	area, 1 st flo	or	al decorative wall tile with sea creature design in pool
36 of 54	floor	-	altered, unknown date, original casement windows, 2 nd
37 of 54	Camera fac floor	ing west – exercise room a	ltered, unknown date, original casement windows, 2 nd
38 of 54	original spi	indles, original newel post,	
39 of 54	Camera fac	ing north - locker room al	tered, unknown date, 2 nd floor
40 of 54	Camera fac	ing east - cycle room alter	ed, unknown date, 2 nd floor
41 of 54	track, origin	nal wood gym floor refinis	t facing doorway into main gym and window onto hed for racquetball court, 2 nd floor
42 of 54		riginal running track, origi	with original wood floor, original oversized casement nal brick walls, 2 nd floor
43 of 54			with original wood floor, original oversized casement iew into racquetball courts, 2 nd floor
44 of 54			side of running track with original beadboard, 2 nd floor

Name of Pro	YMCA Hamilton County, OH perty County and State
45 of 54	Camera facing southeast – main gym with original windows, underside of running track and original brick wall, 2 nd floor
46 of 54	Camera facing southeast – main gym view from original running track, original wood floors, original windows, replacement basketball hoop, 3 rd floor
47 of 54	Camera facing northwest – weight room, altered, unknown date, original casement windows, 3^{rd} floor
48 of 54	Camera facing south – dance studio, altered, unknown date, original casement windows, replacement floor, 3 rd floor
49 of 54	Camera facing south - courtyard - interior closed off in middle (floors 2-3), 4 th floor
50 of 54	Camera facing west – original dormitory room hallway, 4 th floor front hallway
51 of 54	Camera facing east – original dormitory room, original casement window, original radiator, 4 th floor
52 of 54	Camera facing west – original dormitory room, original two over two double hung windows, original radiators, 4 th floor
53 of 54	Camera facing south – original dormitory room, original casement windows, original wood ledge, 4 th floor
54 of 54	Camera facing south - Attic with original wood rafters underside of roof, 4th floor

- Appendix I Appendix II
- Architectural floor plan (first floor) Architectural floor plan (second floor)

Eastern Hills YMCA Name of Property Hamilton County, OH

Property Report

7/8/16, 10:16 AM

Dusty Rhodes, Hamilton County Auditor Property Report

generated on 2/8/2016 toni5:38 AM ED1

County and State



Boundary Description Eastern Hills ymca 1228 E. Mª Millan Panel # 066-0001-0030-90 (in blue) Eastern Hills YMCA Name of Property Hamilton County, OH

County and State

Exterior Elevations

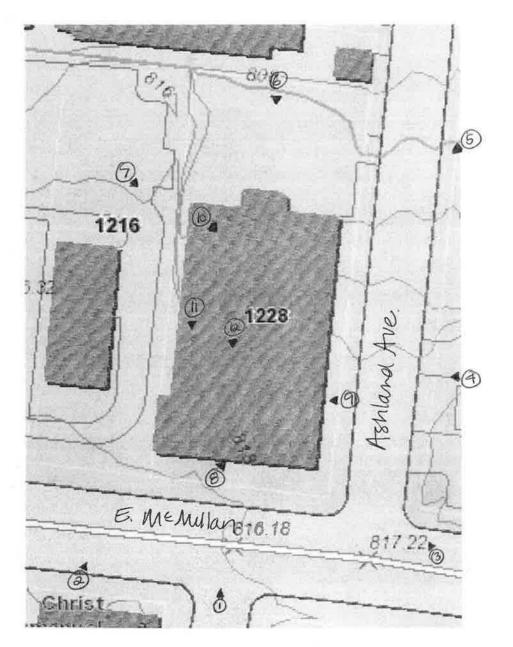
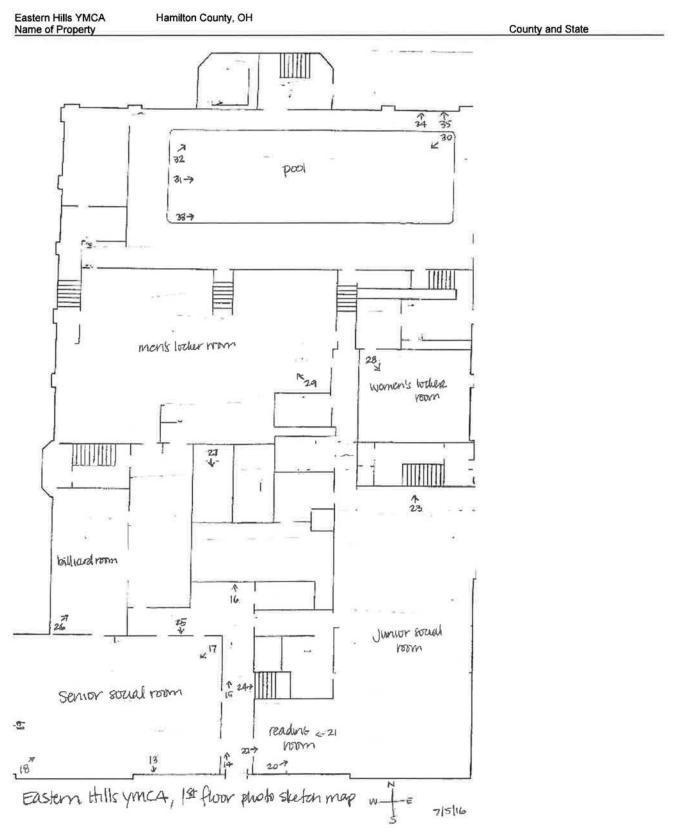
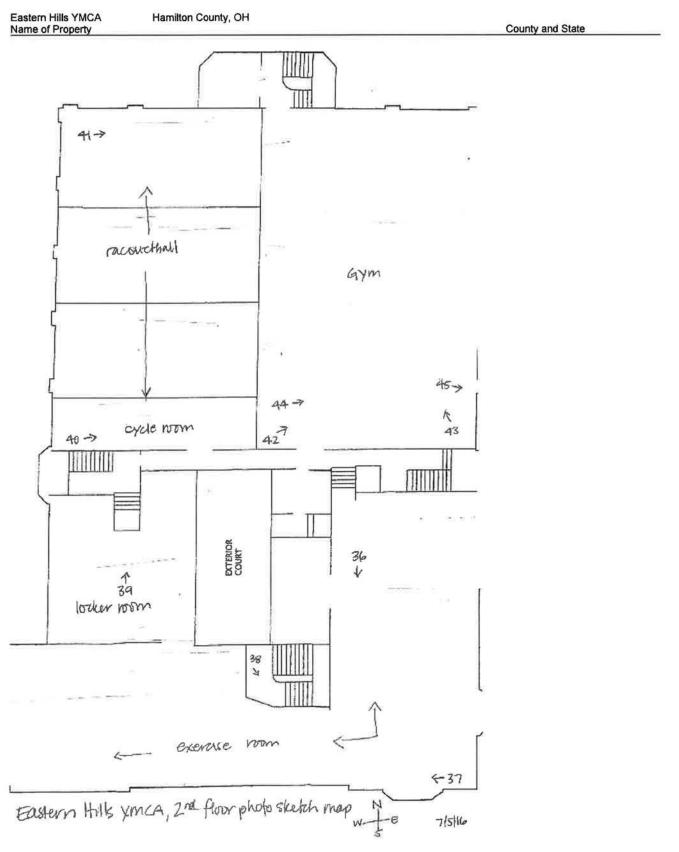
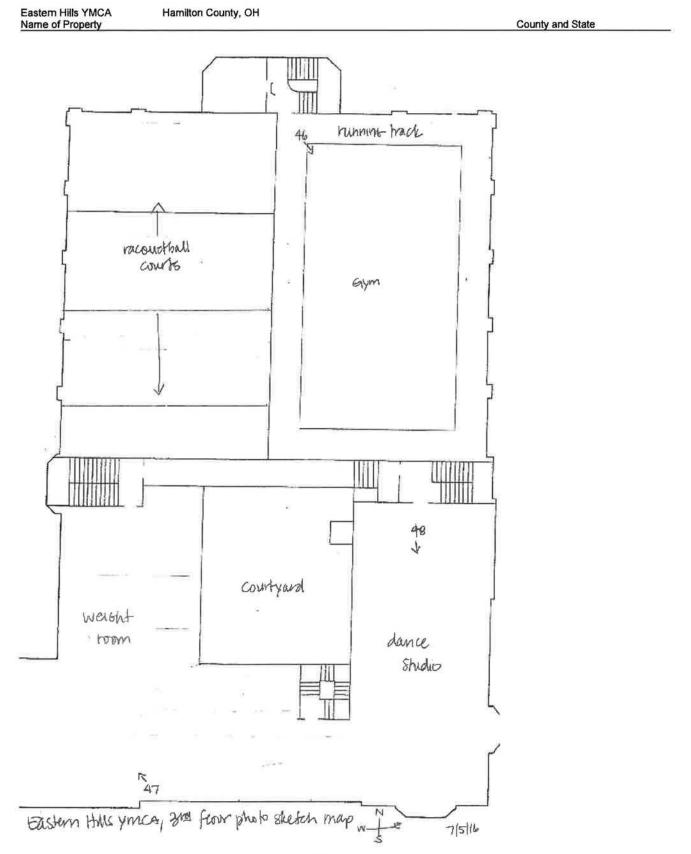
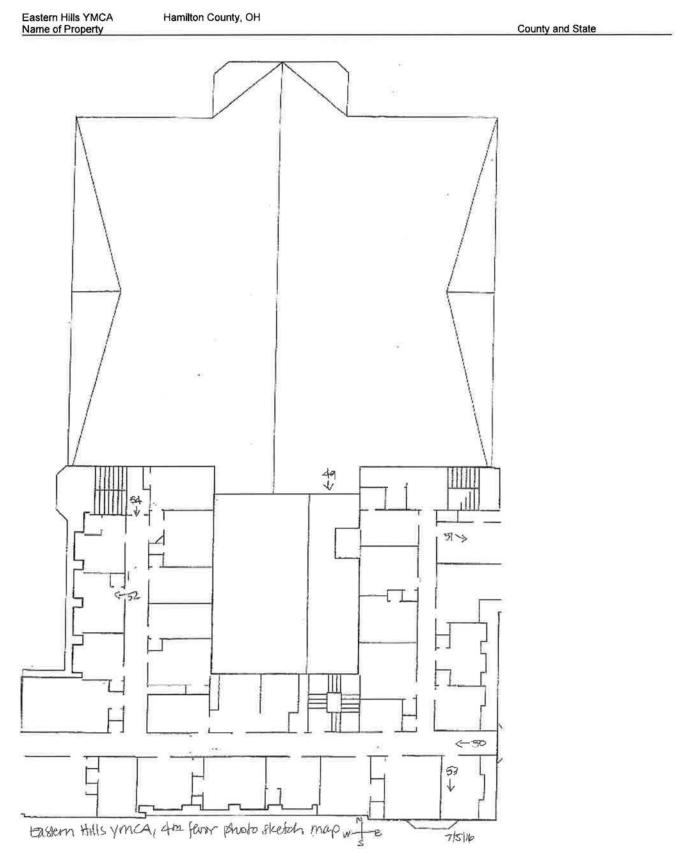


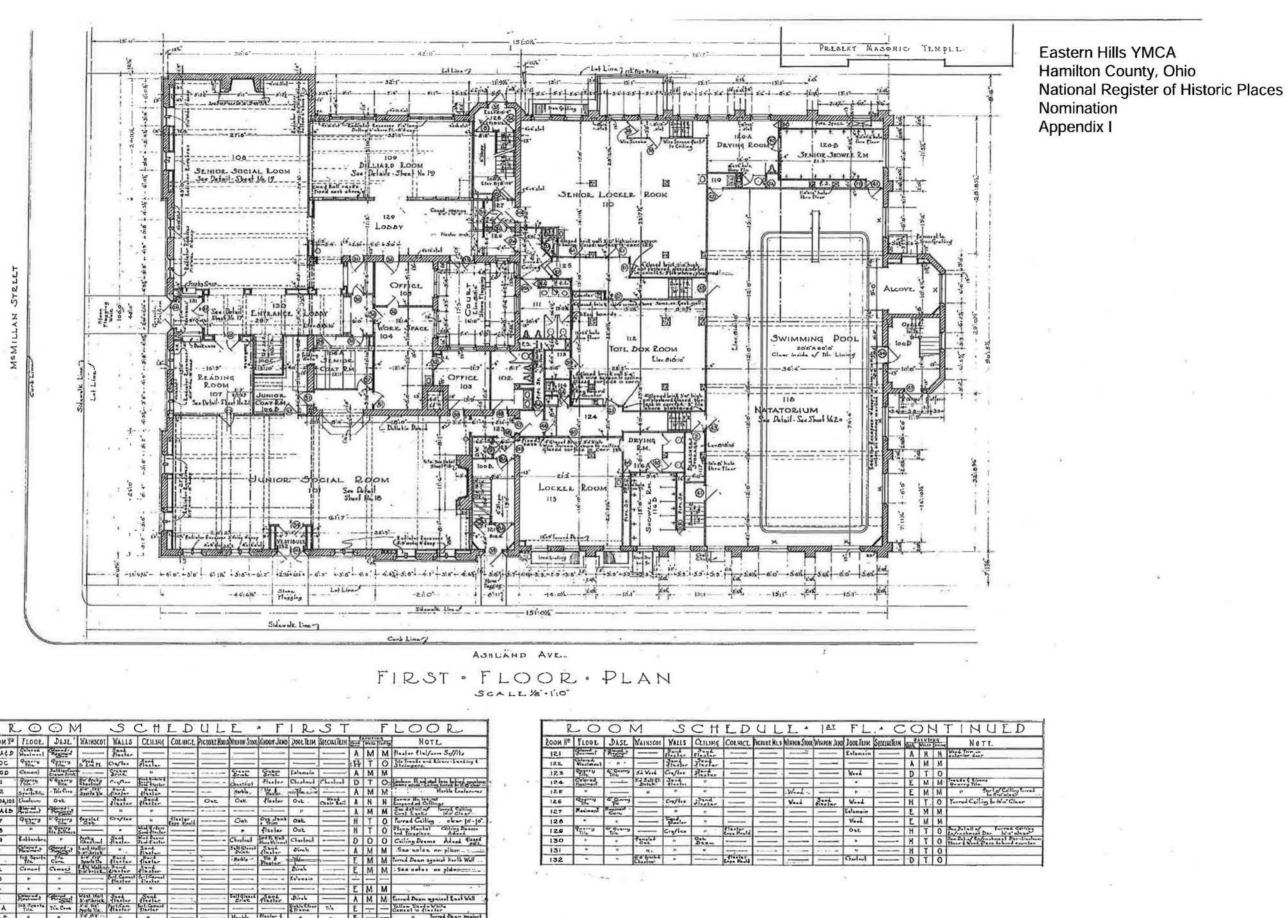
Photo View Map: Exterior













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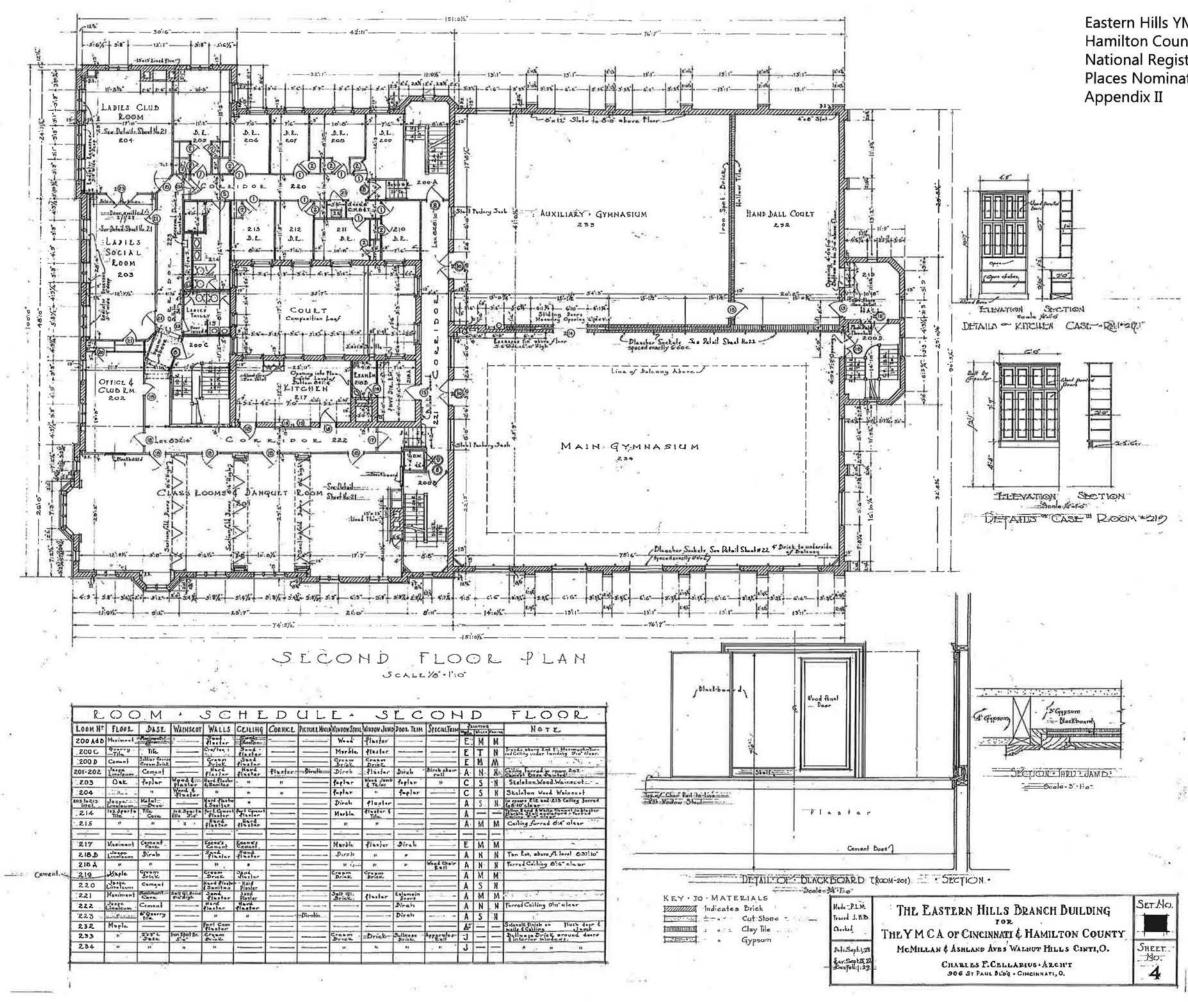
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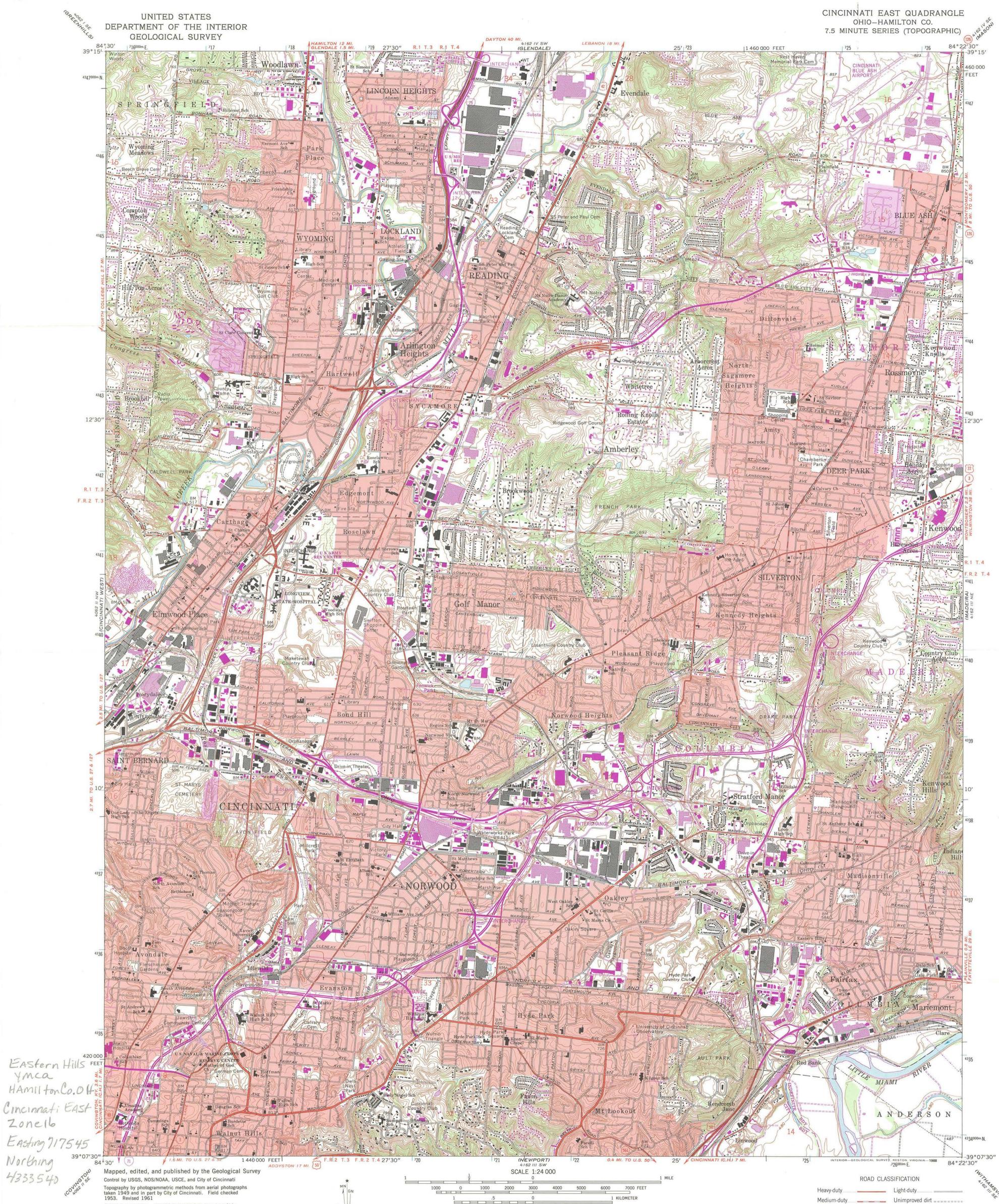


THE EASTERN HILLS BRANCH BUILDING THE Y.M.C.A. OF CINCINNATI & HAMILTON COUNTY MCMILLAN & ASHLAND AVES. WALNUT HILLS, CINTI, O. CHARLES F.CELLARIUS, ARCHT. 906 ST JAUL DLSG- CINCINNATI,0.





Eastern Hills YMCA Hamilton County, Ohio National Register of Historic **Places Nomination**



Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 3 meters south and 6 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown Area east of the Little Miami River lies within the Virginia Military District. Area west of the Little Miami River lies within the Between the Miamis. Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines established by private subdivision of the Symmes Purchase There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

 3*
 1*37'

 53 MILS
 1*37'

 CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

 UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

 THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

OHIO

CINCINNATI EAST, OHIO 39084-B4-TF-024 1961 PHOTOREVISED 1981 DMA 4162 III NW-SERIES V852 128N 0-607-42206-8

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination						
Property Name:	Eastern Hills Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)						
Multiple Name:							
State & County:	OHIO, Hamilton						
Date Recei	ved:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day: [12/13/2016	Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List: 12/13/2016			
Reference number:	1600084	47					
Nominator:	State						
Reason For Review:							
Submiss	ion Type	Pro	perty Type	Problem Type			
Appeal		PD	IL	Text/Data Issue			
SHPO	Request	Lar	ndscape	Photo			
Waiver		Nat	lional	Map/Boundary			
Resubmission		Mo	bile Resource	Period			
Other				Less than 50 years			
X_Accept		ReturnRe	eject12/1:	3/2016 Date			
Abstract/Summary Comments:							
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept	Criteria A and C					
Reviewer Patrick	Andrus	Patrick Andres	Discipline	Historian			
Telephone (202)354-2218			Date	12/13/2016			
DOCUMENTATION	: see	attached comments Y/N	see attached s	SLR Y/N			

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

September 19, 2016



Ms. Susan Tietz National Register and Inventory Manager State Historic Preservation Office Ohio History Connection 800 E. 17th Ave. Columbus, OH 43211

Dear Ms. Tietz:

I am writing in support of the Eastern Hills YMCA (later renamed the W.J. Williams YMCA) submitting a National Historic Register application for the following reasons:

- On May 2, the Historic Conservation Board recommended Local Historic Landmark designation of the Eastern Hills YMCA (later renamed the W.J. Williams YMCA) to the City Planning Commission (CPC). On May 20, 2016, the CPC recommended landmark designation to Cincinnati City Council. City Council approved the designation on June 29, 2016. The designation went into effect July 29, 2016.
- City Center Properties (CCP) is planning to retain the historic nature of the exterior with virtually no changes outside and minimal changes inside. The building will be converted to 26 apartments thus protecting the historic character of the building and making a positive impact on the redevelopment efforts currently underway in both Walnut Hills and East Walnut Hills.
- CCP has a track record of excellence in historic conservation. Specifically, the Hale Justis apartments on Central Parkway and The Crawford Lofts on Main Street as well as the Parkside Condominiums on Jefferson Avenue in Clifton.
- Granting the National Register designation will make this re-development project financially viable for CCP since they have applied for federal and state tax credits.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Charles C. Graves III, Director Department of City Planning

Attachments

2	
OHIO HISTORY	



October 21, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl. (2280) Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find four (4) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nominations submission.

<u>NEW NOMINATION</u> Edward Wren Company Building Fenway Hall Del Monte Apartments Eastern Hills Young Men's Christian Association <u>COUNTY</u> Clark Cuyahoga Franklin Hamilton

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the following: <u>Del Monte Apartments, Franklin County,</u> <u>OH.</u>

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely, anac

Lox A. Logan, Jr. Executive Director and CEO State Historic Preservation Officer Ohio History Connection

Enclosures



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE 800 E. 17th Avenue Columbus, OH 43211 (614)-298-2000

The following material	ls are submitted on _	Oct.	21	2011	P
For nomination of the	Easton Hills 4	MCA	_to	the Nat	ional Register of
	Hamilton Cc Oil				

~	Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
	Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document Paper PDF
	Multiple Property Nomination form
\checkmark	Paper PDF Photographs PrintsTIFFs CD with electronic images
\checkmark	Original USGS map(s) Paper Digital
	Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)
\checkmark	Piece(s) of correspondence Paper PDF
	Other

COMMENTS:

 Please provide a substantive review of this nomination				
 This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67				
 The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not Constitute a majority of property owners				
 Other:				