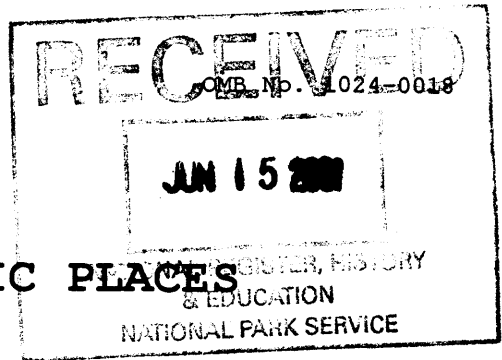


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United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 North East Neighborhood House
other names/site number East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc.

2. Location

street & number 1929 Second Street Northeast
not for publication N/A
city or town Minneapolis vicinity N/A
state Minnesota code MN county Hennepin code 053 zip code 55418

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ian R. Stewart
Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart Date 6/6/01
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ 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):

Edson H. Beal 7.19.01

Signature of
Keeper

Date
of Action

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: civic

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: civic

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 LATE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY
 REVIVALS/Georgian Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
roof ASPHALT (main building)
walls BRICK

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.
- 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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance 1919-1951

Significant Dates 1919, 1927

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder 1919 Building: Kenyon and Maine, Architects

1927 Addition: Pike and Cook Company, Engineers
and Builders

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Minnesota Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) Minneapolis North, Minn., 1967, Revised 1993

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	479060	4983670	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Denis P. Gardner
organization Hess, Roise and Company
street & number 100 North First Street
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55401
telephone (612) 338-1987
date March 2001

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 East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc.
street & number 1929 Second Street Northeast telephone 612-781-6011
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55418

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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North East Neighborhood House
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Description

Situated near the intersection of Second Street Northeast and Twentieth Avenue Northeast in Northeast Minneapolis, the North East Neighborhood House (NENH) is a large Georgian Revival style building comprised of four sections. The main part fronts Second Street Northeast, as does the west front of the north wing and the west side of the south wing. The north front of the north wing parallels Twentieth Avenue Northeast, and the south front of the south wing edges the NENH's parking lot. The gymnasium is located toward the rear of the site and is perpendicular to the south wing. The main section and north wing were constructed in 1919, and the south wing and the gymnasium were built in 1927. The four sections of the building create a nearly square-shaped facility, forming a small courtyard at its rear. The material used in the construction of all four sections of the building is virtually identical, with each section faced with the same type of brown brick. Moreover, all sections have similar rectangular plans, with each exhibiting the same concrete stringcourse near the bottom of the walls. Lintel and sill patterns for each section of the building are also consistent. The cornice design is the same for all sections except the main building. The cornice for the main building is more distinctive than that of the other building sections, although its pigmentation remains the same.¹

The three-story main building measures seventy feet in length and forty-one feet in width. It is the only part of the facility with a hipped roof. The basement level at the front is punctuated with both glass-block and one-over-one windows. A few large, single-pane windows also exist. Basement access is gained through a metal

¹ This description is based on a site survey conducted by the author on January 19, 2001, as well as on engineering drawings of the North East Neighborhood House that are available in the Cook Construction Company Papers, 1906-1945, at Northwest Architectural Archives, Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Additional engineering drawings of the building are presently in possession of Sjoquist Architects, Minneapolis. An interview with William Laden, executive director of East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc., that was conducted by the author on January 19, 2001, was also helpful, as was a telephone interview with Terry Andrew, one of the facility's maintenance personnel, that was conducted by the author on March 15, 2001.

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entrance door near the center of the building. Concrete steps descend to the door. The door is not original to the building and was probably installed around the 1970s when the facility was modified to meet modern building code standards. The remaining facade windows reflect a six-over-six, double-hung design. The windows are wood sash and are covered with aluminum-frame combination windows that are mounted inside the wood frames of the window opening. The first floor contains eight of these windows, four on either side of the main glass entrance door. The windows are slightly recessed and edged by header bricks. The second floor has nine windows with sills formed of header bricks and lintels comprised of vertical stretchers. The center window is topped with a semicircular arch formed of two rows of headers enclosing a herringbone bond. Concrete blocks accentuate the springing point on either side of the arch and serve as a keystone. A non-historic lamp is positioned within the arch and just above the window. Like the first level, the third floor is marked with eight windows. The windows are bordered top and bottom by a stringcourse of vertical stretchers. The space between the two centermost windows is accented with a diamond-pattern bond.

A three-centered, compound arch crowns the main entrance. Originally, the main entrance contained a paneled wood door edged by narrow sidelights formed of small plates. Short pilasters embraced both the door and the windows. Today, the space inside the arch contains a panel with the name of the current facility. When first constructed, however, this area was filled with a fanlight. Concrete blocks accent the springing point at either side of the arch. Nine concrete steps bordered by metal railings lead to a small landing in front of the door. Brick railings capped with concrete edge the landing. A concrete stringcourse stretches the length of the facade, interrupted only by the steps leading to the entrance. A similar concrete stringcourse edges the base of the wall, just beneath basement windows.

The rear wall of the main building holds a number of window openings. Some of the window openings have been filled with brick. The window openings at the southernmost part of the wall were bricked over when an elevator shaft was built into this corner of the building in the 1970s. As with the front facade, windows at the rear have primarily six-over-six wood sashes in wood frames. The

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first-level windows are covered with metal screens, presumably to prevent vandalism. The southernmost window at this level is formed of glass blocks. Window sills are comprised of headers, and lintels of vertical stretchers. This holds true for second-floor windows as well. Unlike many of the other windows, the second-floor stairwell window that is positioned just above a wood, double-door exit is nine-over-nine. Windows at the third floor are six-over-six and are edged top and bottom with a stringcourse of vertical stretchers. Except for one window opening that has been boarded over, the few openings at the basement level contain glass-block windows. A brick smokestack extending from the boiler room in the basement to well above the roofline dominates the center of the wall. The concrete stringcourses highlighting the front of the building are absent at the rear.

A decorative wood cornice with modillions and a frieze surrounds the main building. The rust color of the building's gutter provides a pleasing contrast to the light yellow cornice. The building's asphalt-shingled roof is also a rust color. The roof is punctuated with five hip-roofed dormers, two in the front, one at the rear, and one at either end. All of the dormers hold vents. It is uncertain if this was always the case. The rear dormer embraces the smokestack. This dormer holds two vents, one on its north side and another on its south side. The roof's most curious feature is a large structural protrusion at the southeast corner. This brick, wood, and concrete-block structure is the top section of the elevator shaft.

The two-story north wing was constructed at the same time as the main section. Like the main section, it is rectangular in shape, measuring forty-three feet along its west front and eighty-two feet along its north side. Unlike the main section, its roof is flat. The first floor of the front facade is marked with three six-over-six wood sash windows set in wood frames. Combination windows cover the sash. Sills are comprised of headers and the lintels of vertical stretchers. The northernmost window is separated from the remaining windows by a modern, glass entrance door. A semicircular arch of header bricks surmounts the entrance. Again, concrete blocks mark the springing point on either side of the arch. A panel advertising childcare occupies the area inside the arch. Second-floor windows are the same construction as those on the first

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floor. The window over the main entrance, however, is edged on either side by a long, narrow window. Three rectangular vents, just below a stringcourse of vertical stretchers, punctuate the top of the wall near the wood, boxed cornice. The bottom of the cornice is light yellow and the top is rust colored. A shallow parapet is fixed above the cornice. As with the main section, a concrete stringcourse spans the width of the facade near the bottom of the wall. A similar stringcourse marks the base of the wall. The wall section immediately north of the entrance between these two stringcourses is painted white.

The stringcourse detailing, cornice, and parapet on the north side of the north wing match its front facade. Window, sill, and lintel construction is also similar. The lower-level window at the east end of the wall, however, is smaller than the rest, with four-over-four sash. Two large windows also mark the lower level. The metal-framed windows are each comprised of two large lights over two small lights. Although the windows are modern, the large openings are part of the original architecture. The first floor also has two large, arched, openings. Arch construction is the same as that at the front of the wing. The opening at the west end of the wall contains a glass door edged by a large glass window. Fixed glass transoms surmount the door. The uppermost transom fills the area inside the arch. The second arched opening looks very much like the first, except that it is entirely a window formed from several lights. At one time both of these openings contained double doors. Each door held a single glass panel. Historically, glass transoms also filled the area above the doors and inside the arch. Four rectangular vents mark the top of the wall.

Glass-block windows dominate the rear of the north wing. Two large windows at the center of the second floor, though, are made of louvers. Cornice, parapet, sill, lintel, and stringcourse detailing is similar to other parts of the wing. Two vents are positioned at the top of the wall.

The wing's south side encloses the north side of the facility's courtyard. A stairwell marks the east corner of the south wall. The protruding stairwell looks like an addition, although it was part of the building's original construction. The stairwell holds one window at the landing between the first and second floor. It also

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contains double doors at ground level. Traditionally, the doors opened into the courtyard. Presently, however, they are enclosed by a chain-link fence and are covered with an overhang. Again, cornice and parapet matches the other parts of the wing. The upper-story windows also generally mirror those at other parts of the wing. A large opening at the first floor level near the center of the wall has been bricked in. The pigmentation of the brick does not match the original. Another opening at the ground floor adjacent the stairwell has been covered with a panel, and the third opening at this level is filled with glass blocks. Concrete stringcourses are absent from this side, although one of vertical stretchers spans the wall near the first floor level.

Constructed in 1927, the two-story south wing is roughly thirty-two feet wide and seventy-two feet long. Concrete steps lead to a modern, glass double-door entrance at the south front. Historically, the doors for this entrance were the same as those used on the north wing in the early 1900s. The entrance is topped with the same type of semicircular arch found at other entrances to the NENH. A brown panel fills the space inside the arch and provides the facility's moniker. A glass transom once filled the arch. A "U"-shaped concrete ramp that extends the length of the building provides wheelchair access to the entrance. Railings for the stairs and the ramp are comprised of two lines of pipes held by pipe posts. While the concrete steps are possibly original to the building, the ramp is not. It was installed when the facility was made handicap accessible in the 1970s.

Although an addition, the south wing has architectural detail including parapet, stringcourses, sill, and lintel design that is consistent with the original facility. The cornice mirrors that of the north wing. Also like the north wing, rectangular vents mark the top of the wall. Most windows also exhibit six-over-six, wood sash set in wood frames. Again, combination sash covers most of the windows. The two main floor windows just west of the entrance have been altered. The lower half of each window has been covered with a rust-colored panel. A window opening immediately east of the entrance has been filled with brick, surrounding a small, single-pane window. The color of the brick does not match that of the rest of the wall. This window opening, as well as the one just above it, which holds a six-over-six window sash. These windows light the

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stairwell landings.

The south wing's west side fronting Second Street Northeast is symmetrical. There is no door opening on this wall, only evenly spaced windows; four on the second floor, four on the first floor, and four at the basement level. First- and second-floor windows copy the NENH's traditional six-over-six design. Basement windows are formed of glass block. Sills, lintels, stringcourses, parapet, and cornice are the same as the wing's south front. Rectangular vents top the wall.

The north rear of the south wing encloses the south side of the facility's courtyard at the rear of the main building. Several windows of varying sizes mark the wall. One first-floor window has six-over-six, double-hung wood sash in a wood frame. This window is covered with a metal screen. A small, single-pane window is located immediately to the east. The window is positioned near the center of a larger window opening that has been filled with brick that does not match the rest of the wall. Two small sliding windows are located just east of this opening, above a modestly sized garage that was constructed at the same time as the south wing and gymnasium. The rear of the garage is contiguous with the north wall of the south wing. Its east wall abuts the west wall of the gymnasium. A wood-paneled garage door at the structure's north front provides access into the garage. Two small windows punctuate the top of the garage door. The second-floor windows at the rear of the south wing have six-over-six, double-hung wood sash in wood frames. Metal combination sash cover them. The two windows at the west part of the wall are slightly larger than the two at the east section of the wall. All sills and lintels are formed of either headers or stretchers. The stringcourse at the top of the wall is the same as other sections of the building, although the top of the wall is not highlighted with a cornice.

Finally, a small, rust-colored frame structure is located atop the south wing's flat roof. It encloses a stairwell and storage area. The stairwell connects the third floor of the main building to the south wing. This modification was probably required to meet modern building code standards.

The roughly fifty-five-foot by ninety-four-foot gymnasium is

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contiguous with the east wall of the south wing. A relatively high parapet surrounds three-quarters of the building's roof. The gymnasium's south side, however, has no parapet. A boxed cornice like that found on the north and south wings spans the south end of the building and part of its west side. Stringcourses are consistent with the rest of the facility. Glass-block windows remain in the upper part of the wall on the west side near the south wing's entrance. A glass-block window is also located in that part of the west wall that encloses a section of the courtyard immediately behind the main building. All other glass-block windows have been removed and the openings have been covered in brick. Three large recessed panels accent the wall at either end of the gym. The building's east side is dominated by two metal fire escapes, one at either end of the wall, as well as metal, double exit doors and metal stairs near the wall's center. The basement-level window openings along this side have been filled in with concrete blocks.

The interior of the NENH has changed considerably over time. Offices on the first floor of the main building have been partitioned, to create additional offices. More offices have been added to the reception area, reducing its size. A stairwell in the southeast corner of the building was replaced with the present elevator. A stairwell in the northeast corner remains, however, and serves all four levels of the main building. Fluorescent lighting and a paneled ceiling have been installed. The reception area's original fireplace still remains, however. The building's second and third floors have undergone some alteration as well. The large social room on the west side of the second floor has been divided into two rooms. This level has also been modified with a hanging ceiling and fluorescent lighting. Much of the rest of the floor reflects its historic design, including parallel hallways down the center. Staff bedrooms, which were located on the east side of the floor, were separated from the main hallway and community area by a wall, thus each bedroom opened into a private hallway adjacent the main hallway. The third floor contained no such feature, although some bedrooms were located here. Today, offices have replaced the bedrooms on the this floor. While only some of the rooms at the east side of the floor are used for their historic purpose, the square footage of the rooms is similar to the building's original plan. The third floor hallway is lit by hanging

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fluorescent lights. Finally, the main building's basement layout has also changed some. Some partition walls on the west side were removed to create a larger area. The space now serves as a classroom. An entrance door and hallway were also created on the west side to provide access to the school that uses the classroom. The plan for the rest of the floor generally resembles its historic configuration.

The interior plan at the first-floor level of the north wing is quite similar to its historic design. The floor was originally used as a kindergarten and continues to be utilized for childcare. The main area is a large, open space. It is edged by a stage to its east. The west side of this open space is bordered by a vestibule, coat storage, and toilets. Hanging panels, fluorescent lighting and a large-diameter, round air duct dominate the ceiling. Access to the second floor is by a stairwell at the southeast corner of the wing. Like the first level, the second level is utilized for childcare, which was its historic purpose. Again, the floor plan generally reflects its original design. A few partition walls have been removed, however, enlarging some of the rooms.

The first floor of the south wing has been considerably altered from its initial plan. At one time it was divided into a library, game room, scout room, and clubroom. Today, a senior dining area occupies most of the floor. A kitchen was also added immediately east of the dining area. Bathrooms were constructed in the east section of the wing at a later time as well. The building's stairwell is positioned in the southeast corner. The layout of rooms on the second level almost matches the floor's original construction, although the spaces are no longer used for their initial purpose. Bedrooms are now offices and the original craft room is now utilized as a boardroom. The major alteration on this floor was the addition of a stairwell in the area once filled by a thrift shop room. The stairs are located near the west end of the floor. The stairs lead to the third floor of the main building, as is evident from the outside by the box-like structure atop the south wing. A large open workshop area occupies most of the south wing's basement. A laundry, electrical room, and a few storage areas also comprise this level. Historically, this space housed a print room, carpentry shop, and janitor's storage. A bowling alley filled much of the space near the north wall.

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The gymnasium has a main level and a basement level. The main level holds a basketball court. Basketball backboards are positioned at either end of the court, as well as on the side walls. The distance between the court and the steel roof trusses is twenty feet. The roof trusses measure six feet at their deepest point. Wood planks cover the tops of the trusses. A mezzanine surrounds three sides of the court and at first glance appears to resemble an unfinished running track. In fact, the mezzanine was constructed to allow spectator seating at either its north or south end. Bleachers were installed at these points and provided room for several hundred people. The bleachers no longer exist. The narrow mezzanine section along the west wall is used as a walkway. The walkway leads to doors near the center of the mezzanine and allows access to the south wing and its stairwell. The mezzanine is supported upon back-to-back channels. Its flooring is made of wood and the railings are formed of three lines of pipes in pipe posts.

Menlo School currently uses the gymnasium's basement. Some years ago the basement was excavated about three feet in order to provide more headroom. The space bears little resemblance to its original construction. It initially housed several sports-related rooms, including a wrestling room and billiard room. Locker rooms occupied areas at either end of the floor, and at least one office was built near the basement's north wall. Presently, most of the level is open space. A few walls perpendicular to the gymnasium's east wall divide some sections of space at the east side. Portable partitions are also used in some places. A wall separates a section at the north end of the floor from the remaining space. This area is currently used as an art room. A mechanical room edges the art room to the east. The school's main entrance door is located in the west wall. Just inside the door and to the north is the school administrator's office. A wheelchair ramp descends from the door to the south, along the basement's west wall.

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Statement of Significance

I. Introduction

The North East Neighborhood House (NENH) in Northeast Minneapolis is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of social history. The property reflects the historical patterns identified by the Minnesota historic context "Urban Centers, 1870-1940." Constructed in 1919, the NENH served both as a portal into American society for newly arriving immigrants from Eastern Europe and as advocate for the neighborhood's underprivileged. It is a notable example of a social institution created solely for the betterment of the disadvantaged.

II. Settlement Houses Defined

Settlement houses were managed and staffed by socially minded individuals dedicated to the betterment of the less fortunate. The institutions were often funded by philanthropists who wished to give back to society some part of their success. Sometimes religious organizations also sponsored settlement houses. The houses were established in socially troubled neighborhoods in urban centers across the country. The mission for the staff of the settlement houses was simple: improve the lives of the people living in the neighborhood. The houses did this in a variety of ways. Tutoring immigrants in the English language and American culture was common to all of them. Providing advice, financial aid, or just an obliging ear were also trademarks of the staff at the settlement houses. The institutions often served as daycare centers for busy parents, and offered activities for restless teens. Neighborhood meetings, voter registrations, draft registrations, and much more took place in the settlement houses. Adaptability was extremely important. Management at any settlement house needed to be able to change with an evolving neighborhood.²

² Judith Ann Trolander, *Professionalism and Social Change: From the Settlement House Movement to Neighborhood Centers, 1886 to the Present* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1987), 1-5.

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Although some settlement houses were funded by religious organizations, a secular philosophy was at the core of the movement. In the late 1800s and early 1900s this was a novel approach to social welfare. Traditionally, religious groups cared for the disadvantaged while also providing a helping of moral instruction. The settlement aim, however, was to offer a needed hand without any pious obligations. Certainly, promoters of this creed did not always succeed. In fact, moralistic principles frequently influenced the judgement of settlement house benefactors and staff. Even so, it was never a base policy of the settlement movement to advocate morality in return for services. Another trait common to the movement was a belief that the house should be located within the neighborhood that it served. This seems commonsensical today, but was not so apparent around the turn of the century, well before Franklin Roosevelt and his "New Deal." A more unique characteristic of the movement was the profound belief that those dedicating their lives in service to the less fortunate should be required to "settle" within the confines of the house. The staff thus found themselves living among the people they had pledged to help.³

III. The Origins of the Settlement House Movement

To understand the history of the NENH it is useful to briefly review the beginnings of the settlement house movement in America. The movement started in this country in 1886. That was the year philosopher Stanton Coit opened Neighborhood Guild on New York's Lower East Side. The facility was established in a neighborhood chiefly comprised of Jewish immigrant families. In the late 1800s, Coit was probably as qualified as anyone in America to open and manage a facility dedicated to the social betterment of the lower classes. While a graduate student at Columbia University he made his residence in New York's slums. He then moved to Europe for a time, earning his Ph.D. from the University of Berlin and, more importantly, spending three months as a resident at London's Toynbee Hall, the world's first settlement house. Coit and other like-minded college educated individuals set up residence in Neighborhood Guild and invited the neighbors to visit and

³ Ibid., 8-21.

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experience some of the social services the organization offered. Realizing that the Protestant background of the settlement house's workers could be a barrier to helping the local people, Coit chose to emphasize the secular nature of Neighborhood Guild. This approach proved popular. Coit, however, wanted to do more than simply provide social services. He also wanted to empower the underclass to agitate for social reform. His plan was not as successful as he had hoped. Disenchanted, he left the country and became a minister in England. With the loss of its founder Neighborhood Guild was on the verge of collapse. Two of Coit's associates, Charles B. Stover and Edward King, stepped in and rescued the settlement house, reorganizing it as University Settlement. University Settlement would become one of the more prominent settlement houses in the country. Although Coit eventually abandoned his settlement house to minister overseas, his foresight triggered a social movement in this country that would continue throughout the next century.⁴

IV. The Roots of a Settlement House in Northeast

The origin of the NENH is found in Immanuel Sunday School. Plymouth Church, a congregational church that still exists in Minneapolis today, opened the mission about 1881 at the intersection of Second Street Northeast and Broadway Street. The services offered at the mission were widely used by neighborhood citizens and it eventually became apparent to management that they would require a larger facility. The church replaced the original building with a more spacious structure in the late 1890s. The new frame building, christened Drummond Hall, cost \$4,500 to construct. It was located at the corner of Second Street Northeast and Fifteenth Avenue. Although occupied by October 15, 1899, the building was not officially dedicated until two weeks later. Now with more available space for community activities the church expanded its curriculum, including industrial education, gymnastics, and clubs for boys and mothers.⁵

⁴ Ibid., 8-9.

⁵ Winifred Wandersee Bolin, "Heating up the Melting Pot," *Minnesota History* 45 (Summer 1976): 58-59; "Drummond Hall," n.d., as well as another typescript history that is untitled and dated 1927, are available in Box 1 of North East Neighborhood House Records, 1889-1961, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul;

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V. The North East Neighborhood House

By 1910, the demographics in Northeast had significantly changed. Children of the earlier French, German, and Scandinavian immigrant population were moving out of the neighborhood. They were replaced with newcomers from Eastern Europe. The community's new citizens still required social services, but their religious doctrine was rooted in Catholicism. Unwilling to accept the Protestant ministrations of Drummond Hall, attendance at the facility faltered. Drummond Hall closed its doors in 1913. That same year the directors of Plymouth Church initiated a survey of Northeast that was designed to aid them in formulating a plan for serving the evolving ethnicity of the community. The study concluded that Northeast required a large social facility to help acquaint newly arrived immigrants with American cultural norms. Educational, health care, and recreational services were also viewed as extremely important. The principal point of the study, however, was neighborhood unity. Antipathies between the various ethnic groups impeded the development of the community as a whole.⁶

In 1915, the directors of Plymouth Church reopened Drummond Hall as the NENH. Its mission was to provide nonsectarian social services, and to strive to unite a neighborhood divided by nationality and religion. The directors tapped Robbins Gilman to lead the charge. Robbins and Catheryne Cooke Gilman would guide the NENH for the next thirty-four years.⁷

Catheryne Cooke Gilman, wife and partner to NENH Head Worker Robbins Gilman, later wrote:

The situation demanded neutral leadership by a group entirely disassociated with any nationality dominant in the area. The finger of destiny pointed to the North East

untitled donor pledge sheet, September 22, 1899, typescript available in Box 1 of Northeast Neighborhood House Records, 1889-1961, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

⁶ Bolin, 59-60; Ethel Jacobson, "A Study of the Northeast Neighborhood House of Minneapolis, Minnesota," *Hamline Piper* 19 (May 1939): 4.

⁷ Ibid.

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Neighborhood House which functioned on a non-partisan basis, with but one purpose, that of helping all of the people to help themselves to the social, civic and economic opportunities available to them on an equal basis.⁸

Robbins Gilman had made a name for himself in the East as a social reformer. He was the head worker of New York's University Settlement. He upset his benefactor's at the institution by publicly defending the International Workers of the World (IWW) and was discharged. By the mid-1910s, the directors of Plymouth Church were seeking an experienced settlement house head worker and Gilman was available.⁹

Gilman was born in the city of New York in 1878. He came from a New England middle-class family that traced its American heritage to 1638. His father was an investment banker, which probably influenced his initial career choice. His mother was a Pennsylvania Quaker, which probably influenced his ultimate career path. As a youth he attended Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, a prestigious preparatory school for boys. He later graduated with a B.A. degree from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. He then attended New York University where he received a B.S.C. degree. He did not immediately choose social work as his vocation, opting instead to follow a business career as a banker. Gilman did, however, pursue social work as an avocation, eventually becoming president of the Westchester Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. His passion for social work finally overcame his business ambitions and he decided to dedicate his career to the improvement of others. On Labor Day 1914, he found himself in Northeast Minneapolis overseeing the remodeling of Drummond Hall, a building that would soon reopen as the NENH.¹⁰

When NENH began operation on January 20, 1915, it was one of four settlement houses in the city. It served the northeast section of

⁸ Bolin, 60.

⁹ Trolander, 20.

¹⁰ Bolin, 61; "Who's Who in East Minneapolis," *North East Argus*, June 17, 1927.

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Minneapolis, while the Pillsbury House provided charitable help to the city's southern area. Wells Memorial served the needy in central Minneapolis and Unity House did likewise for the people of North Minneapolis. The NENH had an auspicious beginning. It offered several classes for children and teens, including, sewing, cooking, carpentry, and dancing. By 5:30 in the evening of the first day of operation the staff had registered 246 neighborhood children for settlement house activities. One of the first acts of the settlement house management was the creation of "young people's rooms." Providing an area where the neighborhood's young people could come together to socialize in a secure and properly supervised setting was a new concept to the settlement movement. It was the brainchild of Catheryne Cooke Gilman who believed that such a program would help alleviate juvenile delinquency.¹¹

Like Robbins Gilman, Catheryne Cooke Gilman was from a middle-class family. She was college educated and had a strong desire to help the lower classes. She met Robbins Gilman when he was the head of University Settlement and she was the facility's supervisor of girls. They married on December 1914, and together became a formidable team of reformers. While Robbins would become well known as the face of the North East Neighborhood House, Catheryne appears to have gained notoriety for her work outside the neighborhood house. She served as executive secretary of the Women's Co-operative Alliance, and would remain with the organization for the seventeen years of its existence. According to Elizabeth Gilman, granddaughter of Catheryne and Robbins, "the Co-operative Committee provided Catheryne with a more satisfactory vehicle through which to work than did classes and clubs at the Neighborhood House." And while Catheryne garnered much of her social philosophy from the settlement movement, the Women's Alliance "was in no sense a settlement."¹²

¹¹ "Northeast Neighborhood House Reviews 25-Year Service; To Hold Four-Day Jubilee," *Minneapolis Tribune*, January 14, 1940; "New Settlement House, Northeast, Fills Need in the Life of Residents," *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, April 25, 1915; Bolin, 61.

¹² Elizabeth Gilman, "Catheryne Cooke Gilman: Social Worker," in *Women of Minnesota: Selected Biographical Essays*, edited by Barbara Stuhler and Gretchen Kreuter (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1977), 190-207; Bolin, 61.

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Initially, Northeast's new settlement house served mainly as a recreational center for younger people. The house's auditorium, for example, was in great demand, since it was one of the few spots in the community where teens could dance. Robbins Gilman had grander plans, though, but he needed help. He petitioned the directors for two staffers and was granted permission to hire a supervisor for boys and a supervisor for girls. With this added assistance Gilman could concentrate on broadening the services of the settlement house. He began by creating a department dedicated to finding employment for women. Naturally, mothers who wanted to work, and in many instances needed to work, had to find someone to care for their children. A Day Nursery was thus created in the settlement house. Both programs proved extremely popular. Within three years of beginning the employment program, the settlement house had found approximately 7,100 jobs for local women.¹³ Gilman also realized that many of the children at the nursery needed dental care but their parents could not afford the expense. In June 1918, he created a dental clinic at the settlement house.¹⁴

As services continued to increase at the settlement house so did the demands on the facility and its staff. Gilman sometimes implied in his monthly reports to the board of the need for further help and more room. In his January 1917 report he noted that "each of the staff is working from 12 to 16 hours a day, under the most trying conditions, due to the small number of workers and the lack of space." The board was not entirely unresponsive to Gilman's desire for more staff. The crew at the nursery, for example, grew from one to six in only nine weeks. But, as with any social charity, money for services is frequently difficult to appropriate, and oftentimes desires must be checked. This reality sometimes led to a battle of wills between the head worker and the directors. The tension between the two seemed to peak over the subject of a new

¹³ This exceptionally high number probably reflects the total of temporary or day jobs found for local women. In 1919, for example, the settlement house gave 1,815 days of work to 168 mothers. See "25-Year Service," and "Northeast Settlement Made Progress in 1919," untitled newspaper, ca. 1920, scrapbook available in Box 38 of North East Neighborhood House Records, 1889-1961, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

¹⁴ "25-Year Service."

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building for the NENH.¹⁵

For some time both Gilman and the board of directors realized that the popularity of the programs at the settlement house placed a significant strain on Drummond Hall. A larger structure was definitely required. In fact, plans for a new building were initiated not long after Drummond Hall reopened, and \$25,000 was raised for its construction. For some reason, though, the undertaking stalled. In June 1918, the head worker decided to force the issue of a new building in his monthly report:

Looking at the North East Neighborhood House over a period of 3½ years, since its organization, and especially over the last two years, I feel that an impartial observer would say that those who have been paid to do the work have made good. As the one whom you placed in supreme charge of the work, I feel more than satisfied with the results accomplished. If I should leave at this time to take up work elsewhere, I could do so with a clear conscience and with the feeling that during the 3½ years of its life it had proved without fear of being disproved that a social settlement had not only been started in North East Minneapolis but that the need for one had been abundantly substantiated. I am very strongly of the opinion that the board does not fully appreciate either the amount of work accomplished in the last 3½ years or the amount of work actually being done at the present. A full appreciation of both those points it seems to me would never have permitted the starting of the new building to lag so piteously. . . . Without being open to the charge of being too sensitive, I can not help but feel that there must be something personal in all this procrastination. Therefore I am constrained to say now that if any board member feels that it would be wiser not to build the new building while I am head resident, my resignation is before you to take effect at your

¹⁵ "North East Neighborhood House Head Worker's Second Annual Report," January 12, 1917. All typescript annual and monthly head worker's reports available in Boxes 4-7 of North East Neighborhood House Records, 1889-1961, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

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pleasure. I am so deeply conscious of the need for the settlement that I dislike to think that I may be standing in the path of its progress. What other reason can there be than a personal one?¹⁶

Whether Gilman was serious in his threat to abandon the settlement to others is uncertain. The board must have thought so because they quickly fell in line with their support. The new NENH was under construction by the end of the year.

VI. A New Building

The board chose to erect the new building five blocks north of Drummond Hall at the intersection of Second Street Northeast and Twentieth Avenue. A survey of Northeast Minneapolis convinced settlement house management that the site was impartially located, within modest reach of most families requiring its services, and not favoring one ethnicity over another. Moreover, the site was just across Second Street Northeast from thirty-two-acre Bottineau Field, a recreational area created by the Minneapolis Park Board that was a major attraction for area children.¹⁷

The design for the new building came from the prominent architectural firm of Kenyon and Maine, Minneapolis. William Kenyon was born in Hudson Falls, New York. He graduated from Boston Arts Normal School in 1884. Within two years of leaving school he was chief draftsman at the Kansas City office of van Brunt and Howe, a Boston architectural firm. By 1893 he had moved to Minneapolis and set up a private practice. He became well known as a residential architect specializing in the neo-Georgian style, designing more than seventy houses by the 1910s, including the John and Minnie Gluek House.¹⁸ In 1912 he formed a partnership with Maurice Maine,

¹⁶ "North East Neighborhood House [Monthly] Report of the Head Worker," June 1918, available in North East Neighborhood House Records, 1889-1961, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

¹⁷ "25-Year Service."

¹⁸ John Gluek was one of the city's first brewery operators. Established by the mid-1800s, his brewery was located on Marshall Street in what would eventually become Northeast Minneapolis. The residence William Kenyon designed

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a graduate of Hamline University. The duo designed numerous structures including Abbot Hospital in Minneapolis; a blacksmith shop for the Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad, also in Minneapolis; and a depot in Thief River Falls, again for the Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad. The enterprise relied on the neo-Georgian style for many of its designs, with brick becoming their preferred building material. The partnership between Kenyon and Maine dissolved in 1920.¹⁹

With its hipped roof and the rigid symmetry of its front facade, the design of the new NENH reflected Kenyon and Maine's neo-Georgian roots. It was comprised of two parts, a main section and a north wing. Fronting Second Avenue Northeast, the brick, three-story main section measured seventy feet by forty-one feet. The settlement's living quarters were located in this section. The head worker's office, as well as some rooms set aside for community patrons, also comprised this part of the building. The north wing was over eighty feet long and more than forty feet wide. It paralleled Twentieth Avenue and held a large kindergarten and stage area. The nursery and its corresponding facilities occupied much of the second floor.²⁰

for Gluek and his wife on Bryant Avenue South in Minneapolis still stands today. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in February 1990. For further information on the Gluek House see: Paul Clifford Larson, "Gluek, John G. and Minnie, House and Carriage House," July 1989, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, available in State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

¹⁹ The Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Depot in Thief River Falls was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. The brick depot's architecture is not neo-Georgian, but rather a Bungalow/Craftsman style. See Heather Esser, Elizabeth A. Butterfield, and Barbara M. Kooiman, "Minneapolis St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Depot," 1995, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, available in State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul. For information on Kenyon and Maine see Larson, 8.1. Also see Kenyon and Maine File at Northwest Architectural Archives, Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

²⁰ Engineering drawings.

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The staff of the NENH moved into the new building in late August 1919, although office desks, library tables, chairs, laundry equipment, kitchen utensils, lockers, rugs, and other furnishings had not yet arrived. Staff was also waiting for the delivery of plumbing fixtures and cabinets. Even with these headaches Gilman could hardly contain his excitement over the new building:

All inconveniences, delays, non-deliveries and mistakes of whatever kind, were joyously, I might say rapturously, overlooked because we were in one of our dreams, the largest one. [The new settlement house] had been realized after 4 years of planning, 3 years of waiting and 9 months of construction.²¹

The settlement house was formally dedicated in November. Gilman invited a local community organization to attend. The secretary for the Northeast Improvement Association responded to his offer warmly: "You little realize with what great appreciation we accept your kind offer. . . . We shall show our appreciation by turning out in full numbers." A neighborhood crowd numbering more than six hundred showed up to make merry. The community was understandably exited, as one celebrant exclaimed: "Just think, this place is ours!" The celebration included talks by Robbins Gilman and D. H. Olson, president of the Northeast Improvement Association. Children from both Schiller School and Sheridan School performed dance and musical numbers.²²

Later, at the annual meeting of the board of directors for the settlement house, the president reviewed the accomplishments made in 1919, noting that the new building was erected at a cost of \$80,000, including the expense for the land. All of these funds were obtained through donations. The chief contributors were Kate

²¹ "North East Neighborhood House [Monthly] Report of the Head Worker," August 1919, available in North East Neighborhood House Records, 1889-1961, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

²² "Northeast Community Housewarming Held," *Minneapolis Journal*, November 7, 1919; letter from the Northeast Improvement Association to Robbins Gilman, October 6, 1919, scrapbook available in Box 38 of North East Neighborhood House Records, 1889-1961, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

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Koon Bovey and her husband Charles, although Charles would learn of his financial generosity only after his wife informed him that she had made him a donor. Kate Koon Bovey would become a major benefactor for the settlement house throughout much of her life. Charles Bovey was managing the Washburn Crosby Company at the time the new settlement house was built. After the board's president finished speaking it was Gilman's turn. He informed the board that the settlement house was in "active touch" with 1,233 families in the neighborhood. It was obvious from the various statistics provided by the head worker that the new building was going to be well used. The nursery at the old facility, for example, had over 6,500 attendees during 1919, while the kindergarten had more than 3,000. The infant welfare clinic attended to 1,434 children, and the dental clinic saw 585 patients. Attendance in other departments was also significant.²³

Prior to erecting the new building management had already decided to maintain Drummond Hall for use by the department for men and boys. The annual attendance in this department by 1919 was an impressive 18,000. With no other departments to fill space at the hall the facility was thought adequate for this purpose. But in less than a decade it would become clear that continued use of Drummond Hall just would not work.²⁴

VII. Expansion

By the mid-1920s Drummond Hall was past its prime and unable to handle growing use. The building was slowly falling apart and it was no longer being used in a means compatible with its original design. Its use as a sports venue was stifling, since no adequate ventilation existed. The plumbing was in poor condition and no lockers were available. Gilman began advocating for expansion in June 1925, to help convince the board of the need for an addition, Gilman called on a young man who grew up around Drummond Hall and intimately understood its deficiencies. Courteous and thankful for

²³ Margo Ashmore and Tim Fuehrer, "Neighborhood House, at 75 Still a Hub of Services, Activities, Child Care, Fun," *Northeaster*, January 24, 1990; "Progress in 1919."

²⁴ Jacobson, 5.

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all the board had done for the neighborhood over the years, the young man nevertheless attacked the decaying and antiquated condition of Drummond Hall:

The showers in the old building are poor and almost unsanitary due to a bad drainage system. The plaster is falling down in many places and every time it rains the roof leaks and leaves large circles in the walls. The ventilation, which is an important factor in gym and athletic work, had been overlooked when the building was remodeled, and no fresh air gets into the building, especially in the basement except by opening the windows, and that is almost impossible in the winter when the snow and ice freeze them up till spring. The old building is also a firetrap. What an awful catastrophe and panic would result if that wooden structure ever caught on fire some day when the gym and club rooms are taxed to the limit as they are during the winter, as there is only one exit that is used.²⁵

Valid points indeed, but the young man bolstered his argument with a familial appeal:

This institution could be compared with a good family. The sisters, the girl's department of the North East Neighborhood House is staying at home with the folks as it were. By that I mean they are right under the same wing with Mr. Gilman and the main part of the building. The brothers, the men's department of the North East Neighborhood House are not staying home and are not as well off as their sisters the girls, and would appreciate beyond words if they could be united with the rest of the family into one large, strong institution.²⁶

²⁵ "The Need for a New Wing at North East Neighborhood House to Adequately Provide for the Men's and Boy's Work," June 1925, privately printed pamphlet of an address given before the board of directors of the North East Neighborhood House, available at East Side Service, Administration Office, Minneapolis, n.p.

²⁶ Ibid.

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The entreaty was later privately printed and distributed under the heading "The Need for a New Wing at North East Neighborhood House to Adequately Provide for the Men's and Boy's Work." Although it is doubtful that this was Gilman's only attempt at convincing the board to build an addition, it must have been one of his strongest.

It is uncertain when the board offered its approval, but less than two years later construction on two new wings was underway. Pike and Cook Company, Builders and Engineers, Minneapolis, received the contract. Costs for the addition were estimated at \$65,000, although the final expense was closer to \$57,000. The money was obtained through private subscription. A little more than a month after work began the board sold Drummond Hall for \$4,500. Drummond Hall continues to stand today, although it has undergone significant change.²⁷

The plan for the addition called for a brick, two-story, thirty-three- by seventy-two-foot dormitory contiguous with the south wall of the main section of the 1919 structure. A brick, fifty-five- by

²⁷ While Drummond Hall still stands today it has been considerably altered. It currently serves as a Buddhist temple. Its original wood siding has been replaced with stucco. It is unclear if any of the original stone foundation remains since it has been stuccoed as well. The dormers are encased within composite siding, as is the chimney at the rear of the building. The undersides of the eaves are also covered with the material. An unsympathetic frame addition protrudes from the rear of the building. The handsome second-floor balcony that once covered the main entrance has been replaced with a boxed structure that appears to be a room extension. A painting of a Buddhist figure covers the front exterior of this structure. All of the windows on the first and second floor have been covered with wood panels. Small windows punctuate the center of the panels. Concrete blocks occupy the basement window openings. A solid concrete railing marks either side of the walkway at the foot of the porch and is the structure's most unique feature. Two dragons, one atop either railing, each with teeth and tongue bared, greet visitors to the temple. Description from a site visit by the author on March 13, 2001. See also "Northeast Neighborhood House Fetes Opening of Wing Costing \$57,000," *Minneapolis Journal*, December 14, 1927; "Settlement House Addition Planned," *Minneapolis Journal*, May 17, 1927; untitled and unsigned memorandum dated July 27, 1927, noting that the board had sold Drummond Hall, available in North East Neighborhood House File, Minneapolis Collection, Minneapolis Public Library, Minneapolis.

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ninety-four-foot gymnasium was designed perpendicular to the dormitory. Construction moved quickly and the wings were completed by September 1927. The architectural style of the wings and the pigmentation of the brick used in construction created an addition that hardly looked like an addition. The gymnasium measured twenty feet from floor to ceiling. A mezzanine edged the floor on three sides. The west section of the mezzanine served as a walkway while the north and south ends provided seating room for spectators. The gym also had a basement where the lockers and showers were located. A library and game rooms filled the first floor of the dormitory, while the upper story was occupied by living quarters and a crafts room. With the addition the NENH was one of the five largest settlement houses in the country. Its reputation as a social organization was also expanding. A local newspaper remarked: "The neighborhood house has grown in fame and activity until it rivals the internationally known Hull House of Chicago and the University Settlement House of New York City." On December 14, 1927, the NENH provided another open house for area residents, allowing people to roam the halls of the dormitory and watch basketball exhibitions in the gymnasium.²⁸

With a larger building and a growing reputation the NENH continued its business of neighborhood service. When the Depression hit the settlement house became a focal point for aid, adopting many citywide and nationwide relief programs. By this time Minneapolis was home to ten settlement houses, each with an area of influence generally distinct from the others.²⁹ Also during this period the

²⁸ Ibid.; "City Settlement Building Rivals 5 Largest in U.S.," *Minneapolis Journal*, August 12, 1927; "The Board of Directors of the North East Neighborhood House," 1927, pamphlet announcing a board meeting and open house at the North East Neighborhood House, available in North East Neighborhood House File, Minneapolis Collection, Minneapolis, n.p.

²⁹ In 1934, the ten settlement houses in Minneapolis included Pillsbury House, Phyllis Wheatley House, Margaret Barry House, South Side Neighborhood House, Emanuel Cohen Center, B. F. Nelson Memorial, Wells Memorial, Unity House, Elliot Park Neighborhood House, and North East Neighborhood House. For a general boundary description of each facility's sphere of influence see Twin City Federation of Settlements, *Self-analysis Survey of Minneapolis Settlement Houses* (Minneapolis: self published, 1934), 6-7.

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Gilmans seemed to become more publicly vocal with their moral judgements. They were quite pleased with the government's prohibition stance. Robbins Gilman felt that the saloon had "done more to retard our national progress, debauch our citizenship and piteously outrage the innocent . . . than anything the modern world has known." He would later remark: "Thank God, for the awakened conscience which has doomed the liquor traffic." Of course the liquor traffic would resume, but it was victory at the time. The Gilmans also sought to explain the high juvenile delinquency rate in Northeast during the mid-1920s by blaming motion picture theaters, bowling alleys, pool and dance halls, and similar establishments.³⁰

Although the Gilmans' moral righteousness was sometimes unappreciated there was little doubt in the community that they were providing a valuable service. It was a difficult occupation; that is, it was a difficult life. The Gilmans were essentially on-call all day and every day. The staff that worked for the head worker did not have it much easier. They were also expected to address issues and problems as they arose. But despite the hard life it seems that staff often felt they were receiving more than they were giving. The sense of accomplishment that comes with helping others seemed to provide a boost in morale. Simple gestures like a "thank you" from a grateful resident, or merely a handshake, spurred the settlement house's workers to continue helping.³¹

VIII. An Evolving Social Institution

In 1948, after dedicating half their lives to the management of the NENH, the Gilmans finally retired. They could be proud of their efforts, but they must have experienced some dejection as well. In the mid-1950s, an anonymous report noted that the cohesiveness of Northeast as a neighborhood had certainly improved through the years, but the core problem of ethnic differences was never

³⁰ Bolin, 67; Twin City Federation of Settlements, 6-7.

³¹ Untitled typescript history/diary, ca. 1937, written by an anonymous staff member at the North East Neighborhood House, available in Box 1 of North East Neighborhood House Records, 1889-1961, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul.

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satisfactorily resolved. Robbins Gilman admitted as much fifteen years earlier. While he believed that neighborhood unity had improved since the settlement house opened, the lack of a cooperative spirit among the various nationalities was still disappointing.³²

Lester L. Schaeffer succeeded Robbins Gilman. Schaeffer was head worker for a settlement house in Syracuse, New York, for four years before taking the position at NENH. Eventually, Schaeffer was followed by Joe Holewa, the only one of the three managers who actually came from Northeast. Since Gilman left the neighborhood house the institution's direction has changed somewhat. The emphasis continues to be community service, but the organization no longer operates entirely in the traditional settlement house manner. There are several reasons for this. In the 1950s, and especially the 1960s when Lyndon Johnson advocated his "New Society," government began dominating social service programs historically administered by the settlement houses. Large, well-funded private groups also usurped some settlement house functions. Moreover, traditional neighborhoods have changed. Groups that grew up with the settlement houses have moved out of the area, replaced by others less familiar with the movement's history. Additionally, the social problems that emerged in the last half of the twentieth century were generally more severe than those experienced in the first half. New means of dealing with these issues were required. To survive and meet the evolving needs of a different clientele, settlement houses were forced to rethink their approach to community service. Many did this by merger with other social service groups or settlement houses. Pillsbury House underwent merger in 1959, joining with the Citizen's Club to form Pillsbury Citizen's Service. Later, in 1963, the NENH did the same, merging with the Margaret Barry House. The expanded social service enterprise was organized as East Side Neighborhood Service, Incorporated (ESNS). It may have been at this time that staff no longer made their permanent residence within the settlement house.³³

³² Bolin, 68.

³³ Over the past century Minneapolis has been home to numerous settlement houses. Today, almost all of the early settlements find their progeny in two social service organizations, East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc. and Pillsbury Neighborhood Services. In 1932, B. F. Nelson Memorial merged with the Margaret

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Eventually ESNS sold the Margaret Barry House structure. In the early 1980s the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission determined the Barry House was historic. The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office agreed, as did the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. The new owner of the building resisted the designation, however, and the house was never officially placed on the National Register. Presently, no representative example of a settlement house in Minnesota exists on the National Register. The Margaret Barry House remains today and continues to reflect its historic appearance. Various community

social service organizations, East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc. and Pillsbury Neighborhood Services. In 1932, B. F. Nelson Memorial merged with the Margaret Barry House. Later, in 1945, the Saint Anthony Community Center did likewise. As mentioned above, Margaret Barry then merged with North East Neighborhood House to become the present East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc. Pillsbury Neighborhood Services is the descendant of a more extensive array of settlement houses and other social organizations. Pillsbury House evolved from Bethel Settlement, and as noted in the narrative, it merged with Citizen's Club in 1959 to form Pillsbury Citizen's Service. Edward F. Waite Neighborhood House was later added to this organization in 1967, creating Pillsbury-Waite Neighborhood Services. At the time, Edward F. Waite traced its roots to South Side Neighborhood House and Elliot Park Neighborhood House. These two, in turn, evolved from the Washington Community Center and the Luthern Welfare Society Center. In 1984, Pillsbury United Neighborhood Services was born when Northside Neighborhood Services merged with Pillsbury-Waite. The settlement heritage of Northside is found in Unity House and Wells Memorial. By the early 1990s, the Phyllis Wheatley House, the only settlement house specifically constructed to serve the African-American community, was the only settlement facility erected prior to 1930 that was still free from merger. By this time, though, it was known as the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center. Also, it was no longer located at 809 Aldrich Avenue North, a site the organization had moved to in 1929. For further information on settlement house mergers see "History of Minneapolis Settlement Houses," ca. 1990, single-sheet illustration of settlement house mergers in Minneapolis, available in Seminar Papers File, Social Welfare History Archives, Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. See also Miriam Alburn, "Settlement Houses Respond to Change," *Minneapolis Tribune*, January 9, 1967; "Gilman to Quit N.E. House Post," untitled newspaper, March 20, 1948, available in North East Neighborhood House File, Minneapolis Collection, Minneapolis Public Library, Minneapolis; "Still a Hub of Services, Activities."

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groups currently use it.³⁴

In the 1970s, ESNS was required to adapt the NENH facility to current building codes. Bathrooms were made handicap accessible and a new elevator was installed in the southeast corner of the main building, explaining the odd vertical structure that protrudes from the roof. A stairwell and storage area addition was added to the south side of the main building at the third-floor level, creating a curious boxed structure that rests atop the roof of the 1927 dormitory wing. It is likely that the basement exit door at the front of the main building was constructed around this time. Other alterations over the last few decades include the installation of a hanging ceiling and fluorescent lighting throughout much of the building. Former bedrooms and social rooms were also converted to office space. About thirty or forty years ago the glass block windows in the upper wall on the south and east sides of the gymnasium were removed. The window space was then filled with brick.³⁵

ESNS continues to carry on the social service heritage of its settlement house forerunner, only its sphere of influence is greater. ESNS has numerous programs designed to meet the needs of a diverse clientele. Many of these programs are based at different facilities throughout the eastern part of Minneapolis, including Northeast Park on Pierce Street Northeast, Luxton Park at Williams Avenue Southeast, and Northeast Neighborhood Early Learning Center on Thirteenth Avenue Northeast. Of course the original NENH building continues to be used as a service center and as the administrative hub for ESNS. ESNS also provides outdoor excursions for area residents at Camp Bovey near Solon Springs, Wisconsin. This practice originated in 1949 when Schaeffer was managing the NENH. The current executive director is William Laden, who has been part of the establishment for the past twenty-one years. Laden has helped lead the organization's campaign to raise funds for a new ESNS building. The new building is presently under construction on

³⁴ Margaret Barry House File, available at State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul; visual inspection of the Margaret Barry House by the author on March 6, 2001.

³⁵ Site visit; interview with Laden; engineering drawings.

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Second Street Northeast, only a few blocks south of the original structure. ESNS will soon move into their new facility and the old settlement house building will be adapted for use as apartment dwellings.³⁶

IX. Conclusion

At the turn of the twentieth century a few enlightened individuals chose to dedicate their lives to the betterment of others. The settlement house movement was designed to reach those most in need, typically immigrants. Consequently, these social welfare institutions were generally established in disadvantaged neighborhoods with high immigrant populations. The NENH stands today as a tangible reminder of this movement. Specifically, it is a significant representative example of the settlement house movement in Minneapolis. As such, it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

³⁶ East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc., *Annual Report*, 1999, 4-5; interview with Laden.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Lots 6 through 8, of city block 8, of Bottineau's Second Addition to the town of Saint Anthony.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the city lots that have historically been associated with the property.

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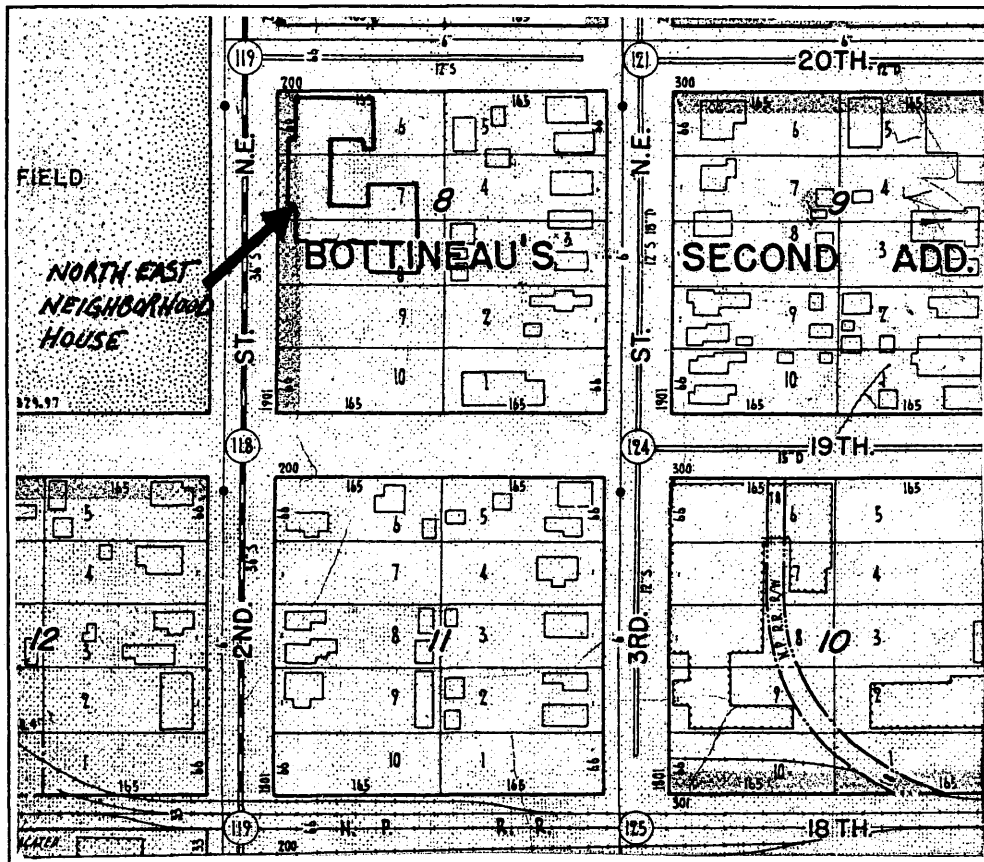


Figure 1. Site map showing location of North East Neighborhood House (East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc.). The map is adapted from *Atlas of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1940*. Minneapolis: City of Minneapolis, Department of City Assessor, 1941.

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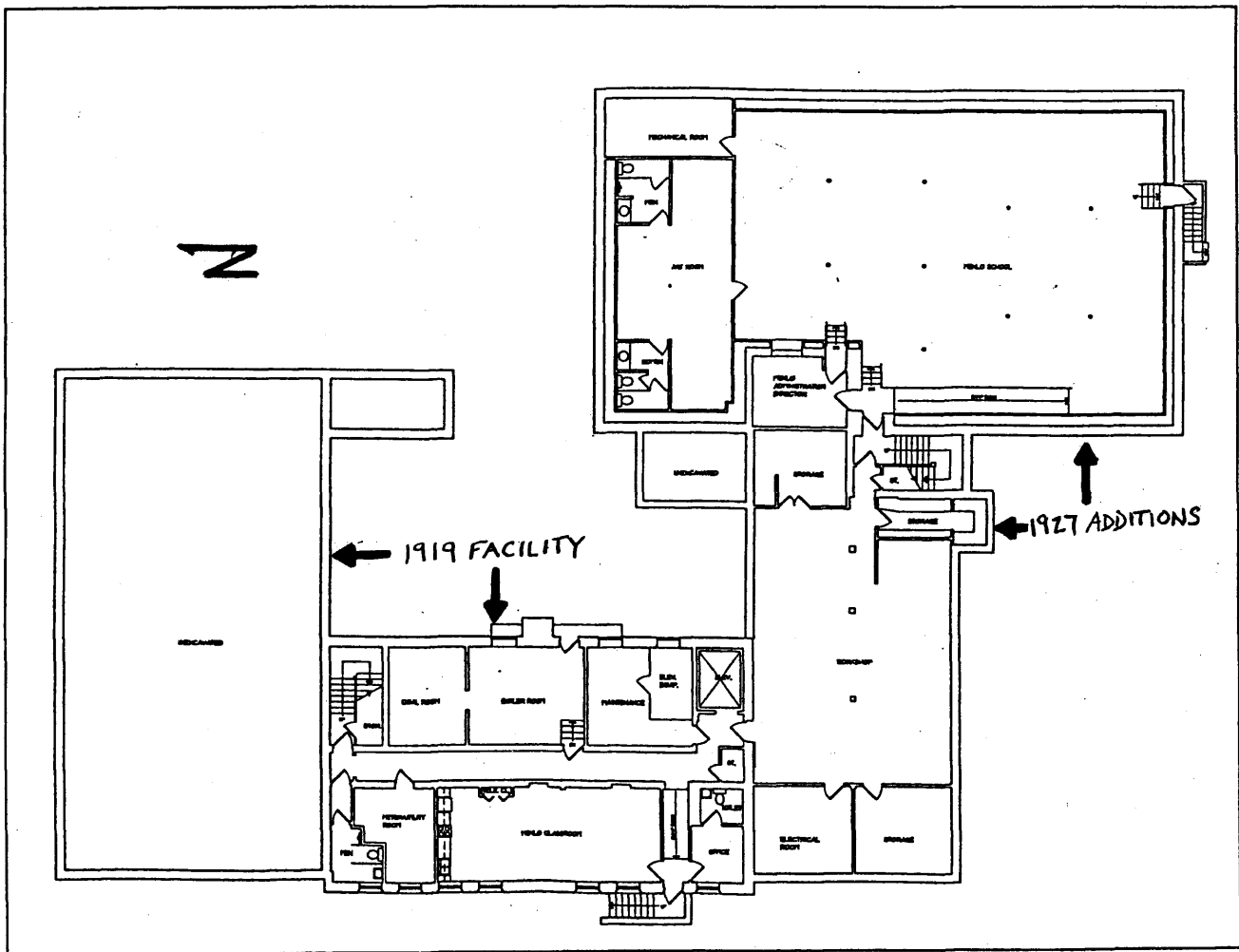


Figure 2. Site plan showing existing basement at North East Neighborhood House (East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc.). The plan is adapted from Sjoquist Architects, Inc., "East Side Neighborhood Services, Minneapolis, Minnesota," 1995, site drawing.

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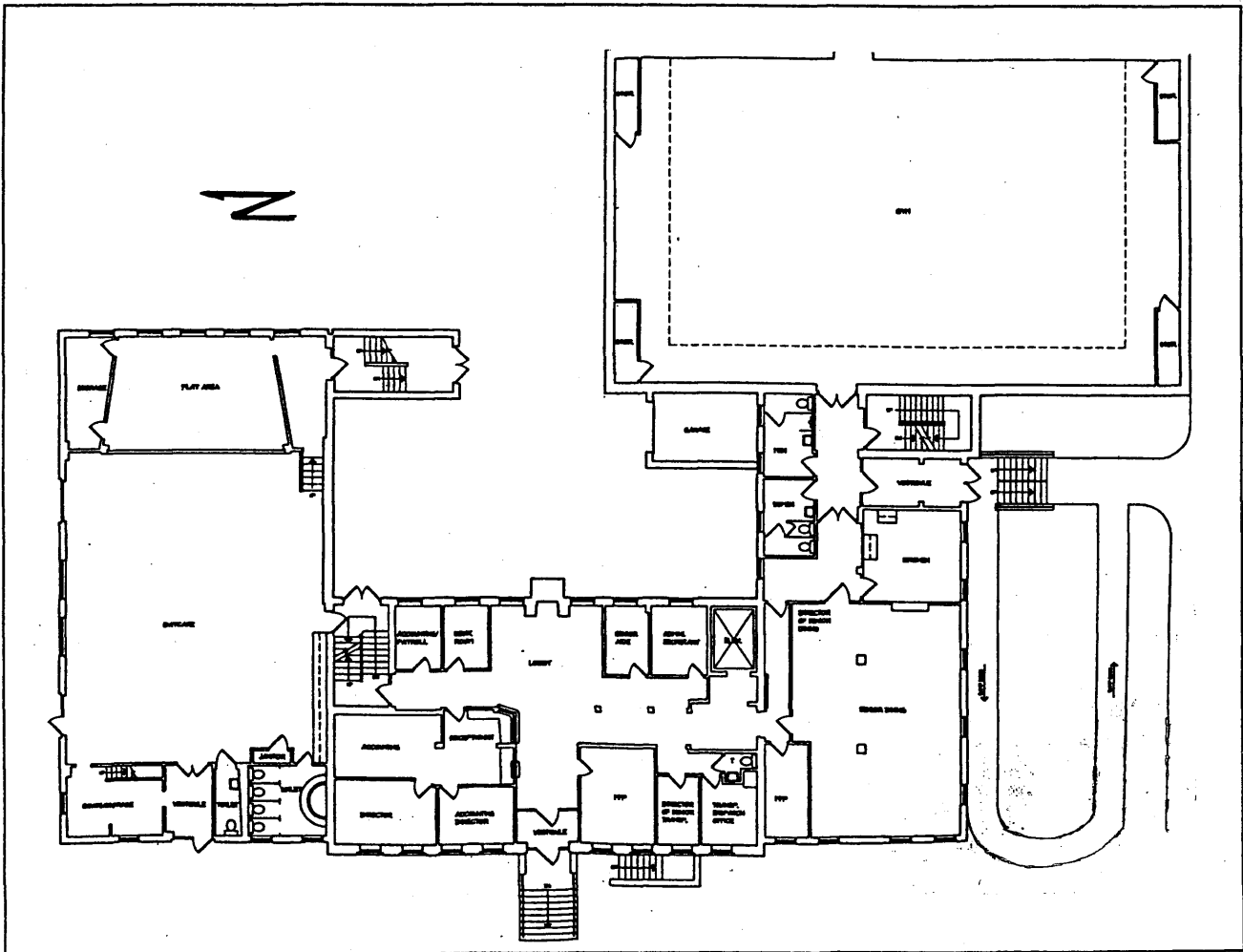


Figure 3. Site plan showing existing first floor at North East Neighborhood House (East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc.). The plan is adapted from Sjoquist Architects, Inc., "East Side Neighborhood Services, Minneapolis, Minnesota," 1995, site drawing.

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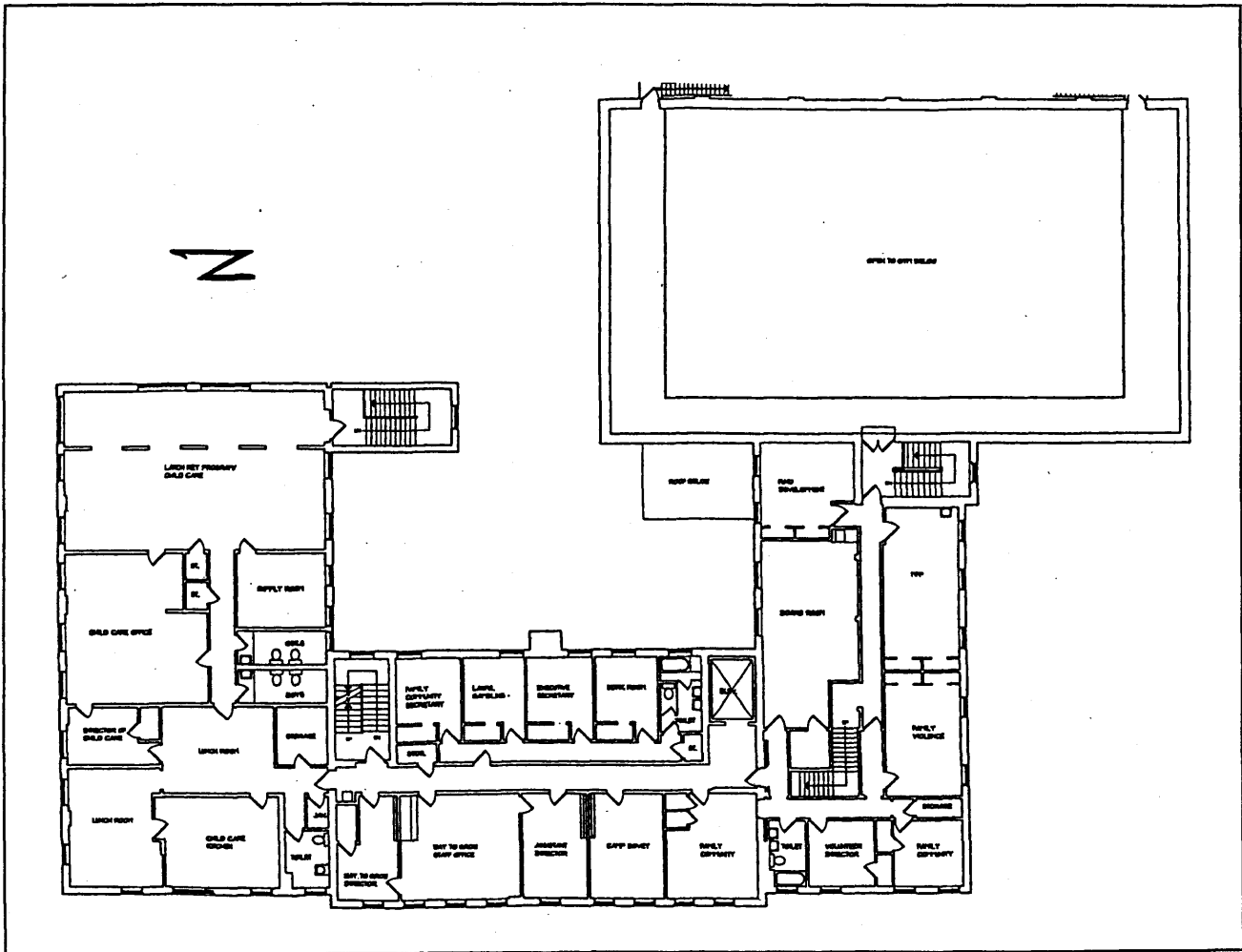


Figure 4. Site plan showing existing second floor at North East Neighborhood House (East Side Service, Inc.). The plan is adapted from Sjoquist Architects, Inc., "East Side Neighborhood Services, Minneapolis, Minnesota," 1995, site drawing.

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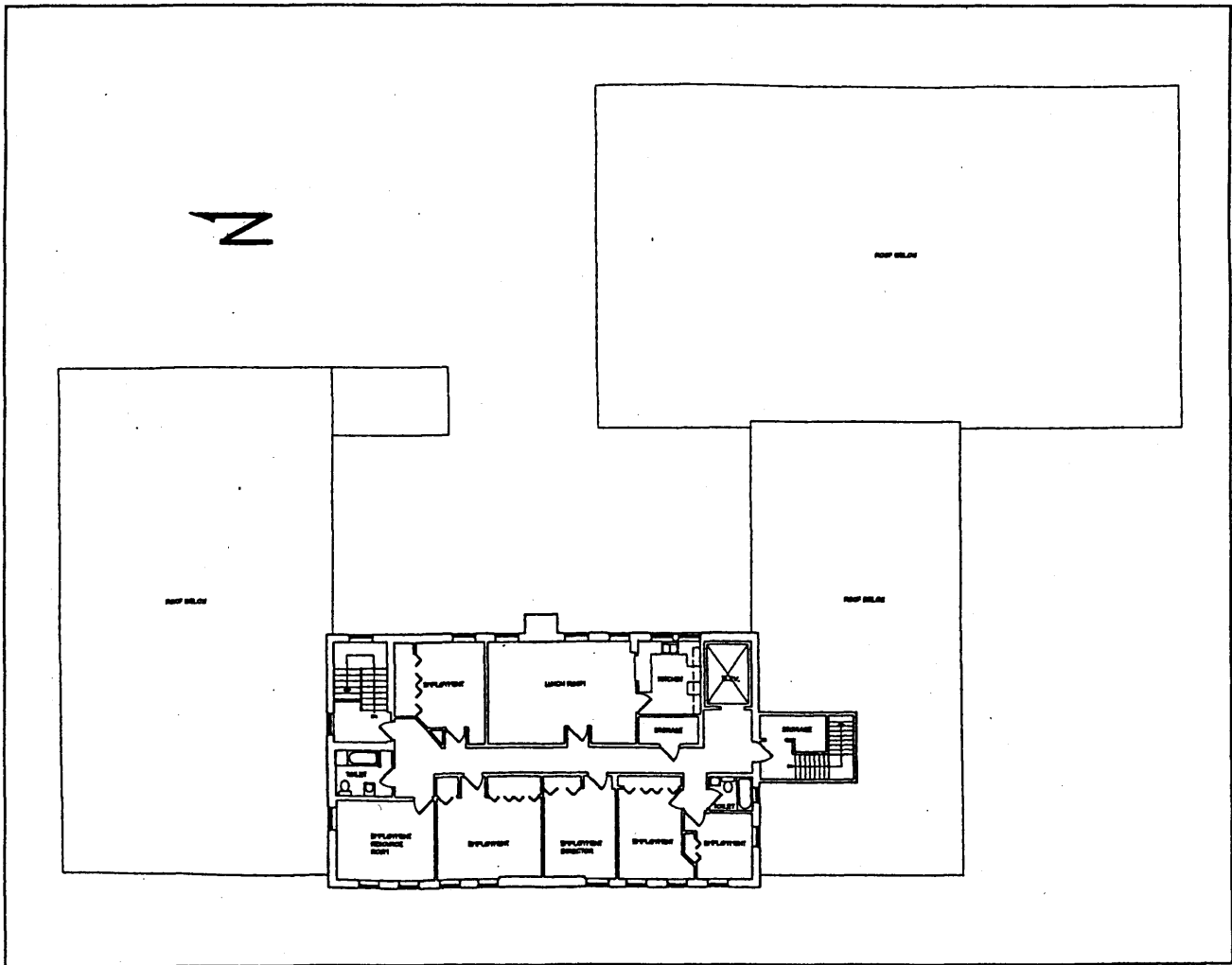


Figure 5. Site plan showing existing third floor at North East Neighborhood House (East Side Service, Inc.). The plan is adapted from Sjoquist Architects, Inc., "East Side Neighborhood Services, Minneapolis, Minnesota," 1995, site drawing.