

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received **AUG 12 1983**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Young Men's Christian Association Central Building

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 31 Genesee / 45 West Mohawk Street not for publication

city, town Buffalo vicinity of —congressional district

state New York code 036 county Erie code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>NA</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>VACANT</u>

4. Owner of Property

name City of Buffalo

street & number City Hall

city, town Buffalo vicinity of _____ state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Erie County Hall (Liber 1924, page 194)

street & number 95 Franklin Street

city, town Buffalo state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N.Y. State-Wide Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building #1
Albany, New York 12238

city, town Buffalo state New York

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Central YMCA building in Buffalo, New York, is a steel frame structure clad in tan-colored brick with windows, doorways, and decorative details, such as quoins and string courses, composed of white sandstone. A continuous base of gray granite supports the building, which is designed in the English-Flemish Renaissance style.

The building, the block plan of which approximates a right angle triangle, comprises three main sections (Photo 1, architects' perspective drawing of 1901). The tall central section housed on the ground floor a large lobby space. On the upper floors were classrooms, offices, dormitories, and a restaurant. The four-story eastern section contained an auditorium, swimming pool, and classrooms. The four-story western portion, or Franklin Street Annex, as it was called, contained two gymnasiums and the Boy's Department. Virtually nothing remains of the original interior finish or fixtures of the building, which has been vacant since 1978. Long before that time, unsympathetic remodeling had denatured the interior. With the exception of some of the dark oak paneling in the former tenth floor restaurant, no evidence exists today of the original finish or detailing of major interior spaces which were spoken of in contemporary accounts of the building.

The exterior of the building preserves most of its original appearance. The main tower section (Photo 2), which overlooked the former juncture of Mohawk and Genesee streets, is ten stories high. The primary entrance to the building is at the base of this section of the building. The original two-story stone portico of Tuscan columns (see Photo 1) that marked the portal is presently encased within a modern masonry shell (Photo 3). The central section of the five-bay tower has stone bay windows rising as a unit from the third through the eighth floors. This central feature is crowned with an ornamental shield. A string-course molding separates the eighth from the ninth floor of the tower. The tenth floor is capped by another stone molding above which rises the steep-pitched slate roof. A large round-arched stone and brick dormer rises flush with the plane of the facade in the center of the tower and reaches to the ridge of the roof. Smaller round-arched dormers stand at either side of the central dormer. The windows in the tower section, as nearly everywhere else in the building, are simple rectangular openings with sash frames.

The west facade of the tower block (Photo 4) consists of identical floors. The ninth floor is defined by string courses, above and below. These moldings continue around the building on both the west and east elevations from the main (south) facade. The roof line on the west consists of twin end gables between which is a small round-arched dormer. The gables, which have straight sloping sides, contain large round-arched windows divided by stone mullions into nine lights. Two smaller gables of similar design but of dark metallic material flank the central gable higher up in the roof.

The east facade of the tower block repeats the design of the western side.

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Buffalo, Erie Co., New York

The four-story eastern wing of the building is designed with an exterior of three levels (Photo 5). Rising through the full height of the center of the facade of the eastern wing (which originally faced Genesee Street) is a slightly projecting pavilion that terminates in a stone and brick gable. The crown of the gable is decorated with a blank round-headed stone arch. Two obelisks terminate piers at either side of the pavilion. In the roof there are four round-headed brick and stone dormers rising flush with the plane of the wall, two on either side of the central pavilion. The fenestration of the central section of the pavilion has been bricked up.

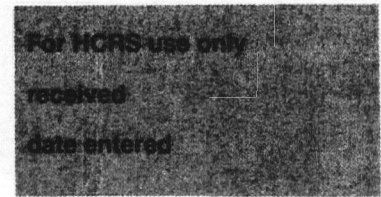
The narrow east facade of the eastern wing has a tripartite projecting bay terminating in a sloping metal shed roof which replaces the original curved roof (Photo 5). The gable of this narrow elevation is treated as a round arch.

The wing on the western side of the main entrance, known as the Franklin Street Annex, is also four stories high (Photo 6). The main or south facade of this section (which originally looked onto Mohawk Street) rests on a basement level of granite and is five bays wide. There is a string course on the first floor that continues across the front of all three sections of the building. Another similar continuous string course is above the third floor. The fourth floor consists of a series of four round-headed brick and stone dormers. The western bay is treated as a slightly projecting pavilion terminating in a gable with a flat-headed window in the center.

The Franklin Street facade of the western wing is nine bays wide and four stories high (Photo 7). It rests on a high granite basement. String courses are above the first and fourth levels, as on the main facade of the building. The fourth bay from the south end is defined by stone quoins and is slightly sunken from the plane of the facade. At the base is a small doorway. The roof line consists of a steep sloping slate roof with four asymmetrically grouped dormers in the north portion and two brick gables with windows and a window between the gables on the south end.

The north face of the main body of the building is without architectural character, for it was not envisioned by the architects to be visible once adjacent buildings were constructed. The north elevation of the tower, however, was given an architectural treatment. It continues the design of the other faces of the tower in a series of identical floors. The roof of the tower on this side has three round-headed dormers centered in the roof. A large chimney stack rises above the central dormer.

At the time of its construction, the site of the YMCA building fronted on Busti Avenue (now Genesee Street), one of the broad avenues which radiated from Niagara Square as part of Joseph Ellicott's original 1904 plan for the city of Buffalo. In 1976, the Buffalo Convention Center was built immediately across Genesee Street from the YMCA, and at that time the street pattern was altered (see Illustration 1). Because of the proximity of the Convention Center it is no longer possible to photograph the main elevation of the YMCA; however, it retains its original appearance as illustrated in photo 1 with the few exceptions already noted in the text.



8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901 - 1902

Builder/Architect Green and Wicks, architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former YMCA building in Buffalo is architecturally and historically significant for its skillful and innovative siting and design by one of Buffalo's most prominent turn-of-the-century architectural firms. The building was commissioned in 1901 as a new facility for the second oldest YMCA chapter in the United States. Its architects, Green and Wicks, were chosen as the result of a design competition judged by nationally prominent architectural critic ADF Hamlin. In designing the English-Flemish Renaissance style building, Green and Wicks took advantage of the broad property on one of the radiating avenues just off of Niagara Square, a result of Joseph Ellicott's 1804 street plan, and sited the building to dominate the triangular intersection. Its ten-story center tower further distinguished the YMCA as one of the first tall buildings to be constructed in downtown Buffalo. Green and Wicks were also sensitive to the philosophy of the YMCA movement and incorporated several features into the building in order to encourage single young men to adopt the conservative life style promoted by the association. The Buffalo YMCA was among the first to provide extensive accommodations for lodgers and was the very first to include a spa -- features that later became standard in YMCA buildings around the country. Although its siting has been compromised as a result of new construction which altered the city street plan, the YMCA retains integrity of design and materials and recalls both Buffalo's greatest period of urbanization and the history of the YMCA in the United States.

The Buffalo YMCA was a chapter of the international association founded in London in 1844. The original purpose of the Association was to foster the religious welfare of young single Protestant men. In 1851, a branch of the Association was established in Montreal; early in the following year, the first chapter in the United States was formed in Boston. The Buffalo chapter, the third to be organized in North America, opened in June, 1852. Other chapters soon sprang up in nearly every major city in the United States and Canada.

Early in its history, the Buffalo chapter assumed a conspicuous role in this national movement. In 1854, the International Committee, an organization of North American YMCA chapters concerned with the world-wide mission of the Association, came into existence here. The committee celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1904 in the then recently finished Green and Wicks building.

The YMCA in Buffalo occupied several buildings before it erected the new Central Building, as the structure under discussion was called. In 1883, the chapter opened a large downtown facility at Mohawk and Genesee streets. This building, now demolished, was an outstanding example in the city of the High Victorian Gothic style and contained a library, classrooms, and gymnastic facilities. These elements reflected the fact that by the 1870's, education and physical culture had assumed a significant place in the YMCA's mission.

With increased membership, the 1883 building soon became unable to meet the

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets for Bibliography.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1/3 acre (17,562 sq. ft.)

Quadrangle name Buffalo NW, NY--Ont

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UMT References

A

17	6	7	3	4	6	10	4	7	5	10	3	10	10
Zone	Easting			Northing									

B

Zone	Easting			Northing									

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

All that tract or parcel of land, situate in the City of Buffalo, County of Erie and State of New York, being part of Inner Lots Nos. 92 and 93, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the northerly line (see cont. sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

NA

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Francis R. Kowsky (see Continuation sheet)

organization

date March 8, 1983

street & number 62 Niagara Falls Blvd.

telephone 716-836-6069

city or town Buffalo

state New York 14214

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Albert E. Carrese

title Deputy Commissioner and Counsel

date 8/5/83

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 9/8/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet 31 Genesee/45 West Mohawk St Item number 8

Page 2

Buffalo, Erie Co., New York

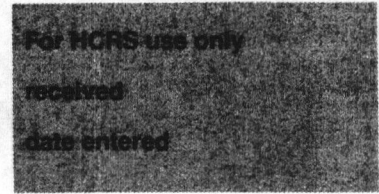
demands of the Association, which by 1900 had grown to be the fourth largest in the country. In March, 1900, the Association announced plans to construct a new building in the downtown area. It was hoped that this new structure would be finished in time for the Pan American Exposition the next year. The new edifice would greatly expand the accommodations for educational, social, gymnastic, and administrative activities, as well as contain inexpensive lodgings for Association members.

In April, 1901, the Association purchased a site at the juncture of Genesee and Mohawk streets, between Pearl and Franklin streets. At the time, this area was a residential neighborhood on the edge of the main business district. The location, which formally had been occupied by the home of Philip Becker, three time mayor of Buffalo, was a particularly prominent one, for it overlooked a broad triangular space created by the coming together of Mohawk and Genesee streets. The latter was one of the radial arteries emanating from Niagara Square in the 1804 plan of the city laid out by Joseph Ellicott. The area on front of the building site came to be called Association Square in honor of the YMCA building that dominated it. Today, Association Square (which can be seen in Green and Wicks's 1901 perspective rendering of the YMCA building) no longer exists; the site has been largely built over by the Buffalo Convention Center. The irregular building site formed by the intersection of the now-vanished streets, is, nonetheless, still recalled by the bent shape of the building's facade, which followed the line of Mohawk and Genesee streets. The main entrance to the building faced the intersection, and the ten-story tower block above it took full advantage of the scenic potential of the location. As such, the YMCA building is one of the major structures remaining in the downtown section that preserves the memory of the original street pattern of the city, much of which has been altered in this area.

In June, 1901, ten architects were invited to submit plans to the YMCA building committee. The committee had decided to keep the competition a local one, but had invited A. D. F. Hamlin, a nationally prominent architectural critic, to judge the entries. The competition, therefore, was a particularly significant one, for it took critical measure of the architectural profession in Buffalo at the opening of the century.

Of the ten firms asked to submit plans, eight responded. Hamlin chose the design by Green and Wicks as the best, saying it possessed "a distinct character well suited to an association building." Other entries by Esenwein and Johnson and Henry O. Holland received favorable mention. Hamlin, who taught architectural history at Columbia University, was described in contemporary newspaper accounts as the leading expert on YMCA architecture. He had previously judged similar, though smaller, projects in Scranton and New Haven.

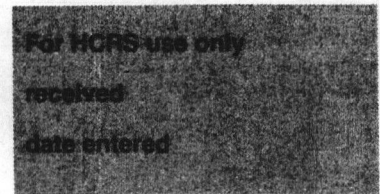
Green and Wicks's design epitomized the pattern to which most large YMCA buildings conformed in the early twentieth century, a period that saw the construction of nearly 300 Association buildings nationwide. Following the revered example of Robert McBurney's 23rd Street YMCA in New York City of 1869, these



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Buffalo, Erie Co., New York

buildings provided for the Association's unique fourfold program of religious, social, mental, and physical culture. Like the McBurney building, the Buffalo structure featured a spacious lobby, classrooms and laboratories, a library, an auditorium, and gymnastic facilities. The Buffalo YMCA, however, was one of the first, if not the first, Association building to provide extensive accommodations for lodgers. The introduction of dormitory rooms and dining facilities was a development in YMCA architecture that began in the late 1880's. Experiments in this direction took place in the 1887 YMCA in Milwaukee, as well as in buildings designed for Schenectady and Hartford at about the same time. The \$500,000 West Side YMCA in New York City, planned by McBurney in the 1890's, had only two dormitory floors. The Buffalo building, which was one of the early skyscrapers in the city, provided over sixty rooms for lodgers in its towered section, as well as a restaurant on the top floor. In its living accommodations, the Buffalo building was prophetic of many big city YMCA's in the coming years, most notably the eighteen-story Chicago YMCA Hotel which opened in 1916 and contained 1800 rooms.

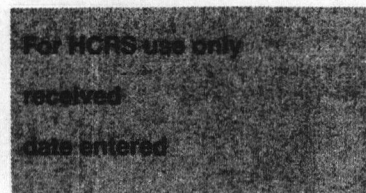
The conservative eclectic character of the Buffalo YMCA -- which was originally intended to have been constructed of red rather than tan-colored brick -- was also typical of YMCA architecture. For together with regarding its buildings as essential tools for carrying out its fourfold mission, the Association wished its structures to convey the image of social respectability. The Association Spa, a cafe adjoining the main lobby and serving non-alcoholic beverages every night until midnight, was another sign of the Association's attempt to foster conservative social standards. Intended to attract young men away from tavern going, the Spa was the first such facility in any YMCA building.

Designed in the English-Flemish style, situated at a prominent downtown corner, and equipped with the most modern facilities, the Buffalo YMCA building was one of the outstanding examples of its type in the nation.

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Buffalo, Erie Co., New York

A Building for Character Building. Buffalo: Y.M.C.A., (1904).

"Finest YMCA Building in the World," The Buffalo Evening News, September 13, 1902.

"Great YMCA Convention," The Buffalo Express, May 8, 1904.

Hopkins, Howard C. History of the YMCA in North America. New York: Association Press, 1951.

"Lowest Bid, \$245,456," The Buffalo Express, December 4, 1901.

"New Beauty Spot," The Buffalo Courier, April 21, 1902.

"New Building: Splendid Six-Story Structure is Practically Assured for the YMCA," The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, January 1, 1901.

"New Home for Buffalo's Central YMCA," The Buffalo Express, January 12, 1902.

"New Home is Needed: YMCA Contemplates Larger Quarters," The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, March 8, 1900.

"New Year Gift of \$25,000," The Buffalo Courier, January 1, 1902.

"New YMCA Restaurant Open for Use of Members," The Buffalo Express, November 8, 1902.

"Plans Filed," The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, December 28, 1901.

"Plans Received," The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, July 15, 1901.

Sickels, Frank E. Fifty Years of the Young Men's Christian Association of Buffalo. Buffalo: YMCA, 1902.

"YMCA Building Corner Stone Laid," The Buffalo Courier, June 6, 1902.

"YMCA Building Plans: Committee Approves Finding of its Expert," The Buffalo Express, July 19, 1901.

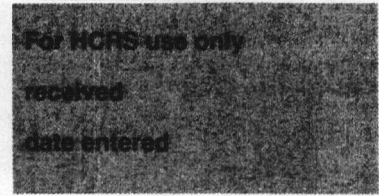
"YMCA Building Site Land at Genesee and Mohawk Streets Bought," The Buffalo Evening News, March 14, 1901.

"YMCA Extension: General Plan for the New Building Presented," The Buffalo Express, May 12, 1900.

"YMCA Notes: Architects Invited to Compete for the New Building," The Buffalo Express, June 2, 1900.

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"YMCA to Build at Once," The Buffalo Express, December 24, 1901.

"YMCA Wins \$25,000," The Buffalo Express, July 2, 1902.

Zald, Mayer N. Organizational Change: The Political Economy of the Young Men's Christian Association. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970.

Twelve sheets of drawings for the YMCA building by Green and Wicks are in the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Young Men's Christian Association Central Building

Continuation sheet 31 Genesee/45 West Mohawk St. Item number 10

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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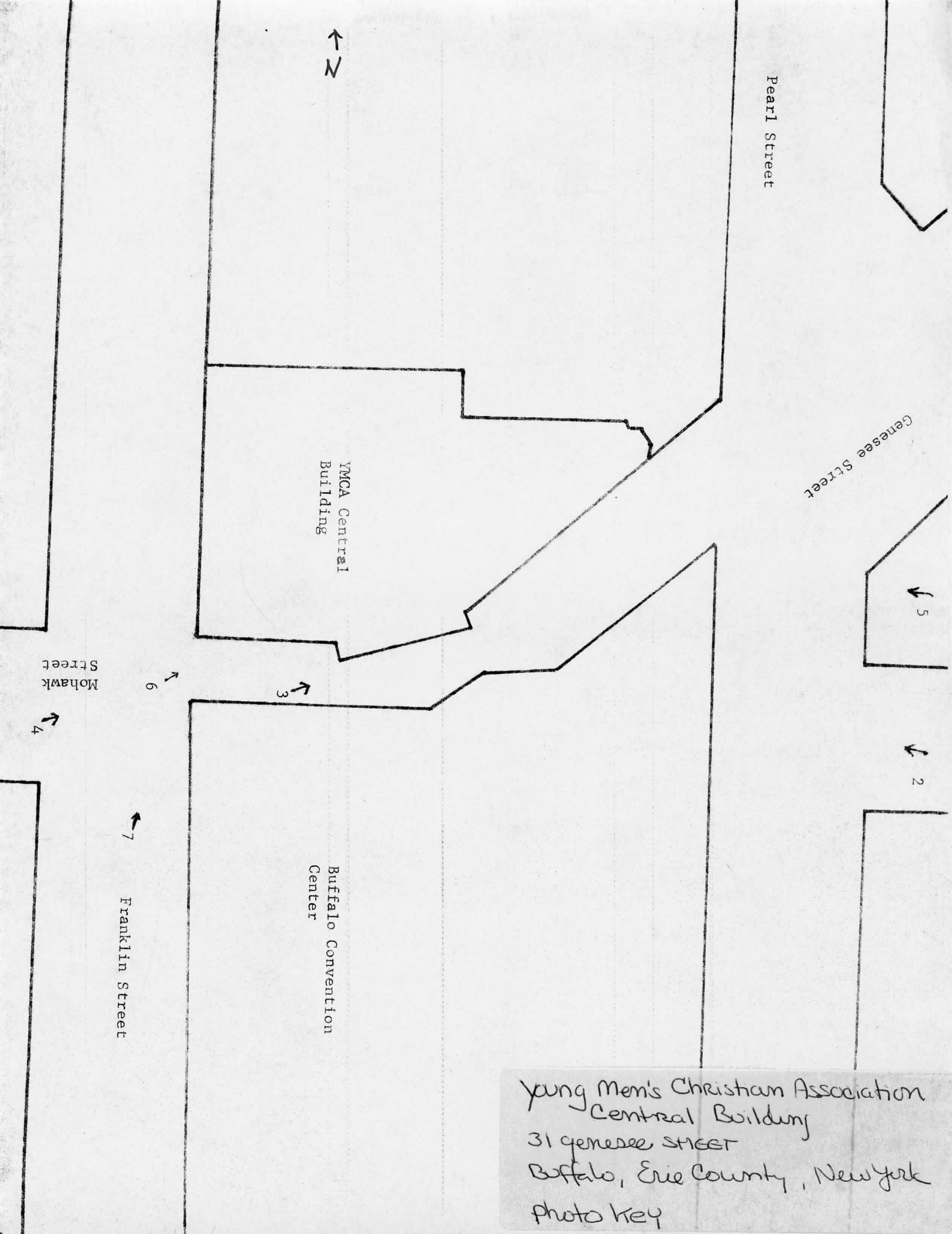
Buffalo, Erie Co., New York

of Mohawk Street with the easterly line of Franklin Street; thence northerly along the easterly line of Franklin Street 125 1/2 feet more or less to the north line of the south 1/3 of said Inner Lot No. 93; thence easterly along the said northerly line of the south 1/3 of said Inner Lot No. 93, 116.58 feet more or less to the middle line of the Block between Franklin and Pearl Streets; thence southerly along the middle line of said Block 20 feet; thence easterly parallel with the said north line of the south 1/3 of said Inner Lot No. 93, 103.17 feet more or less to the northwesterly line of Genesee Street; thence southwesterly along the said line of Genesee Street 159.56 feet more or less to the northerly line of Mohawk Street; thence westerly along the northerly line of Mohawk Street 101.27 feet more or less to the easterly line of Franklin Street the place of beginning. (Description is taken from deed dated July 14, 1980.)



Illustration 1. SQUARE
 Showing original siting of YMCA Building
 and present sheet pattern
 --- = original sheet pattern for
 Bust Ave (now Genesee Street)
 ■ = YMCA Building

Young Men's Christian Association
 Central Building
 Buffalo, Erie County, New York



Young Men's Christian Association
Central Building
31 Genesee Street
Buffalo, Erie County, New York
photo key

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Young Men's Christian Association Central
Building
Erie County
NEW YORK

Working No. AUG 12 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 9/8/83 9/26/83
Action: ACCEPT 9/8/83
 RETURN
Entered in the National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection



Swicks
Architect

THE
BUFFALO Y.M.C.A.

YMCA Central Building
31 Genesee/45 W. Mohawk Sts.
Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
Neg.: N.Y. Dept. Parks, Recreation &
Historic Preservation

#1 of 7: Architect's perspective
rendering, 1901, from Sickels, Fifty
Years of the YMCA of Buffalo, frontis-
piece.



YMCA Central Building
31 Ganeseee/45 W. Mohawk Sts.
Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
Photo: F. Kowsky, Feb., 1983.
Neg.: N.Y. Dept. Parks, Recreation &

Historic Preservation
#2 of 7: View from the east, from
W. Mohawk St.



YMCA Central Building
31 Genesee/45 W. Mohawk Sts.
Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
Photo: F. Kowsky, Feb., 1983
Neg.: Dept. Parks, Recreation &

Historic Preservation
#3 of 7: View of main entrance from
the west



L.L. BERGER

YMCA Central Building
31 Genesee/45 W. Mohawk Sts.
Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
Photo: F. Kowsky, Feb., 1983
Neg.: N.Y. Dept. Parks, Recreation &

Historic Preservation
#4 of 7: View of building from the
west, from W. Mohawk St.



YMCA Central Building
31 Genesee/45 W. Mohawk Sts.
Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
Photo: F. Kowsky, Feb., 1983
Neg.: N.Y. Dept. Parks, Recreation &

Historic Preservation
#5 of 7: View from the east



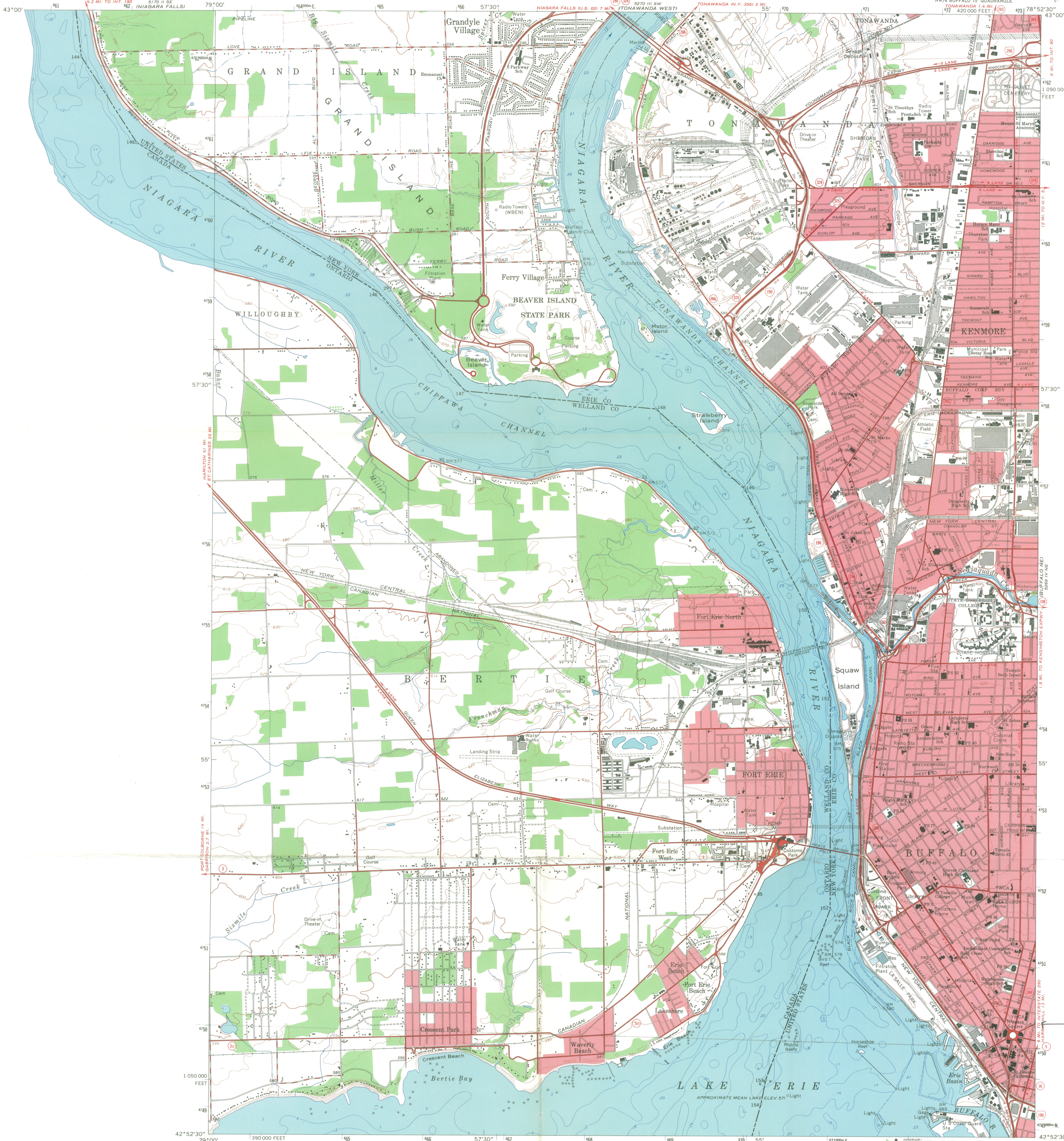
YMCA Central Building
31 Genesee/45 W. Mohawk Sts.
Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
Photo: F. Kowsky, Feb., 1983
Neg.: N.Y. Dept. Parks, Recreation &

Historic Preservation
#6 of 7: View of south facade of
Franklin St. Annex

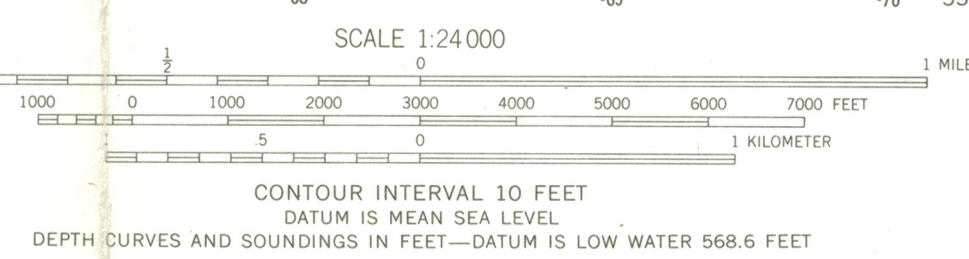
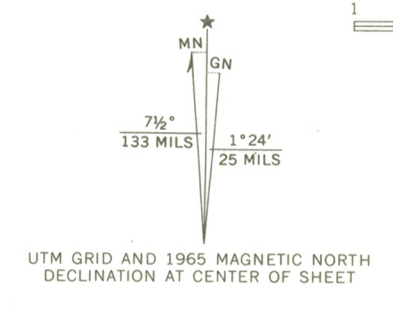


YMCA Central Building
31 Genesee/45 W. Mohawk Sts.
Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
Photo: F. Kowsky, Feb., 1983
Neg.: N.Y. Dept Parks, Recreation &

Historic Preservation
#7 of 7: View of west facade of
Franklin St. Annex



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with New York Department of Public Works Control by USC&GS, International Boundary Commission, and U. S. Lake Survey
Planimetry compiled by U. S. Corps of Engineers from aerial photographs taken 1942. Topography by planetable surveys 1948. Revised 1965
Canadian portion mapped by the Surveys and Mapping Branch, Dept. of Mines and Technical Surveys 1961
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey Charts 312 and 314 (1965).
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, west zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



Young Men's Christian Association Central Building
Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
UTM References
Buffalo NW, N.Y. -- Ont. Quad Easting 673460 Northing 4750300

THE U. S. AREA OF THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

BUFFALO NW, N.Y.—ONT.
NW 4 BUFFALO 15' QUADRANGLE
N4252.5—W7852.5/7.5

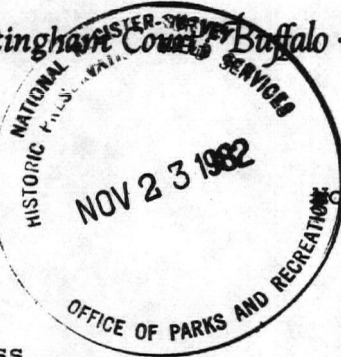
1965
AMS 5269 IV NW—SERIES 7821

Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society



Founded 1862

25 Nottingham Street Buffalo · New York 14216 ☎ 716-873-9644



November 15, 1982

Ms. Claire Ross
New York State Office of
Parks and Recreation
Division for Historic Preservation
Agency Building No. 1
Nelson A Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

Dear Ms. Ross:

As requested through Mrs. Clyde Helfter, Please find the enclosed copy of our Buffalo Y.M.C.A.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. Gabor
Assistant Librarian

PWG/jac
Enclosure



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1 Albany, New York 12238

Clare

518-474-0456

February 16, 1983

Mr. James Militello
Commissioner
Department of Community Development
City of Buffalo
920 City Hall
Buffalo, N.Y. 14202

Attention: Gregory J. Bernas

Dear Mr. Militello:

UDAG Project
YMCA Building
45 West Mohawk Street
Buffalo, Erie County

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on the eligibility of the YMCA building. The SHPO has reviewed the materials you submitted in accordance with the regulations of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 CFR 800. Based upon this review, the SHPO has determined that the YMCA building does meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places.

The 1902 structure, although altered on its interior, appears to preserve most of its original appearance. The YMCA building was designed in the Northern Renaissance style by Green and Wicks, Buffalo's most important architectural firm at the turn of the century. At the time of construction, the building was regarded as one of four or five outstanding YMCA buildings in the country. It was the main facility of the second oldest YMCA chapter in the United States. The plan of the building as well as the placement of its ten-story tower were conditioned by the irregular building site which fronted on the intersection of Mohawk and Genesee Streets. The tower prominently marked the junction of these streets.

We recommend that you seek a final determination of National Register eligibility by forwarding this letter, photographs, a site map and historic documentation to:

Ms. Carol Shull
Chief of Registration
National Park Service
440 G. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Mr. James Militello
Page 2
February 16, 1983

Assuming that the YMCA building will be determined eligible for the National Register, then all future work on the building will need to be reviewed by this office. If you should have any questions, please contact the project review staff at 518-474-3176.

Sincerely,

Ann Webster Smith
Deputy Commissioner for
Historic Preservation

ANG:mr

cc: Claire Ross

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

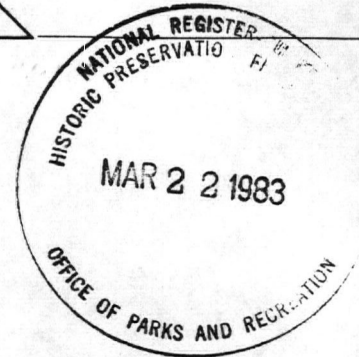


City of Buffalo

920 City Hall

Buffalo, New York 14202 855-5035

March 21, 1983



Mr. Orin Lehman, Commissioner
N.Y. State Office of Parks
Recreation and Historic Preservation
The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, New York 12238

Atten: Larry Goebrecht

Re: National Register Application
YMCA Building

Dear Commissioner Lehman,

We submit herewith the City of Buffalo's application to the National Register of Historic Places for 45 West Mohawk, the former Y.M.C.A. building in downtown Buffalo. Conceived in the English-Flemish Renaissance style, the Y.M.C.A. was designed by Green and Wicks, Buffalo's foremost architectural firm at the turn of the century. Erected in 1902, the building served as the central headquarters for the second oldest Y.M.C.A. chapter in the country. The building's irregular site configuration recalls the original radial street pattern of Joseph P. Ellicott's plan for downtown Buffalo.

As you may be aware, we are currently negotiating the sale of this property with the developer of our new Hyatt Regency Hotel. It is anticipated that the Y.M.C.A. will be returned to an economically viable use and form an architecturally significant contribution to the Main/Genesee development in downtown Buffalo. The investment tax credit now available to developers of historic properties of this type is certainly a valuable incentive.

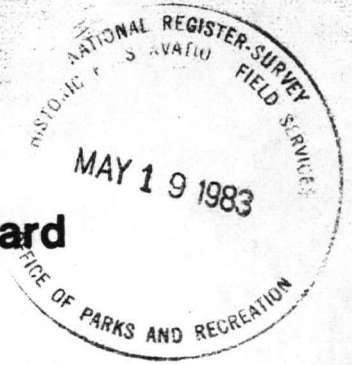
We look forward to a favorable evaluation and thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

JAMES R. MILITELLO
Commissioner
DEPT. OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JRM:oih

James D. Griffin, Mayor / James R. Militello, Commissioner / Daniel E. Kwiatkowski, Deputy Commissioner



Buffalo Landmark and Preservation Board

May 17, 1983

Orin Lehman, Commissioner
N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

re: former Y.M.C.A. Building
Franklin St., Buffalo, Erie County
(former address - 45 West Mohawk St.)

Dear Sir:

The Buffalo Landmark & Preservation Board at its regular meeting on May 12, 1983 voted unanimously to support the nomination of the above-referenced building to the National Register of Historic Places and to the State Register.

The Board recognizes that the building has the distinctive characteristics of an early 20th century office and institutional building and that it adds a distinctive accent to the downtown Buffalo streetscape and skyline.

Yours very truly,

BUFFALO LANDMARK & PRESERVATION BOARD

by Olaf W. Shelgren, Jr.
chairman

OWS, Jr:j

cc: Claire Ross ✓
Secretary - BLPB



RECEIVED

MAY 19 1983

19

Buffalo Landmark and Preservation Board

May 17, 1983

Orin Lehman, Commissioner
N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

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BUFFALO LANDMARK & PRESERVATION BOARD

Olaf W. Shelgren, Jr.
by Olaf W. Shelgren, Jr.
chairman

OWS, Jr:j
cc: Claire Ross
Secretary - BLPB