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MAYOR



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

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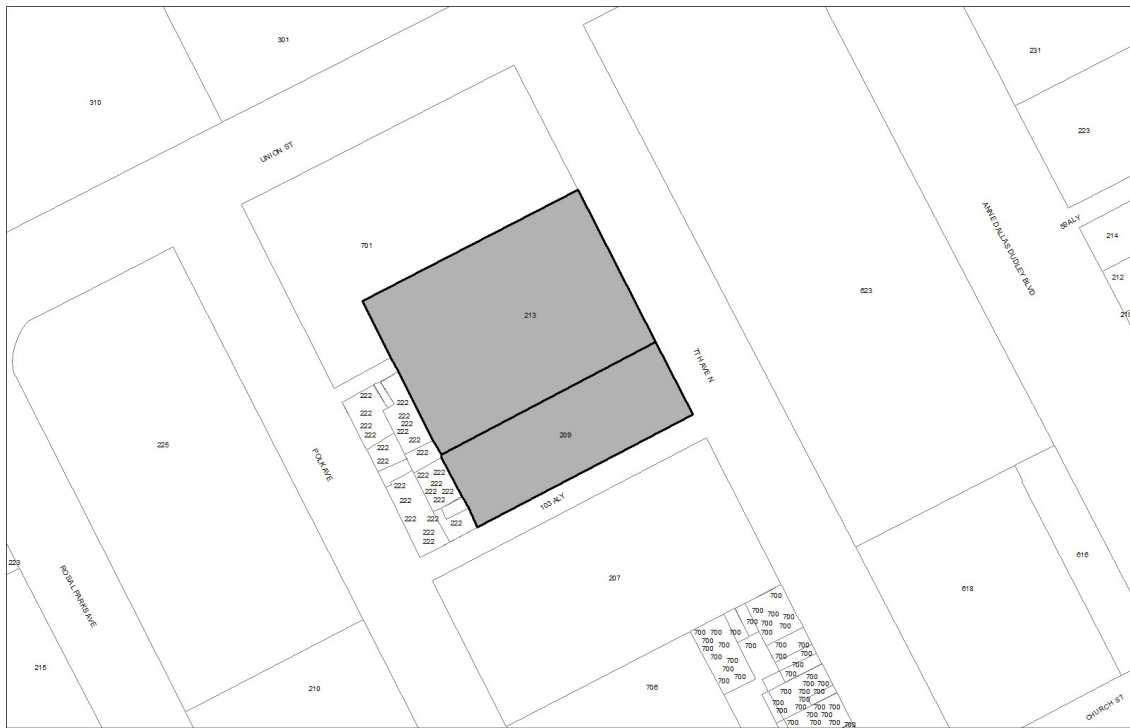
STAFF RECOMMENDATION

209-213 7th Ave N
December 16, 2020

Application: Historic Landmark Zoning Overlay for 209-213 7th Ave N
Map/Parcel: 09305201000 and 09305200800
Council District: 19
Applicant: Councilmember O'Connell
Project Lead: Robin Zeigler, robin.zeigler@nashville.gov

<p>Description of Project: Councilmember O'Connell requests a Historic Landmark Zoning Overlay for the 209-213 7th Ave N neighborhood.</p> <p>Recommendation Summary: Staff suggests that the Commission recommend approval of the 209-213 7th Ave N as a Historic Landmark, finding the area to meet criterion 5 of section 17.36.120.</p> <p>Staff recommends that adoption of the draft design guidelines proposed for the new district finding that they are consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards.</p>	<p>Attachments A: Short History</p>
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District Map:



Applicable Ordinance:

17.40.410 Powers and duties.

A. Creation of Historic Overlay Districts. The historic zoning commission shall review applications calling for the designation of historic overlay districts according to the standards contained in Chapter 17.36, Article III, referring written recommendations to the metropolitan council. Establishment of an historic overlay district on the official zoning map shall be in accordance with Section 18.02 of the Metropolitan Charter and Article III of this chapter.

B. Establishment of Design Review Guidelines. The historic zoning commission shall adopt design guidelines for each historic overlay district and apply those guidelines when considering preservation permit applications. Design guidelines relating to the construction, alteration, addition and repair to, and relocation and demolition of structures and other improvements shall be consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. A public hearing following the applicable public notice requirements of Article XV of this chapter shall precede the adoption of all design review guidelines by the historic zoning commission. Testimony and evidence material to the type of historic overlay under consideration may be considered by the commission in its deliberations.

17.36.110 Historic overlay districts established.

The following classifications of historic overlay districts are made a part of this title, each classification having separate and unique regulations and guidelines established according to the provisions of Chapter 17.40, Article IX.

C. Historic Landmark (HL) District. The boundaries shall be shown on the zoning map or on special overlays thereto that are made a part of this zoning code and noted by name on such maps, in which no structure shall be constructed, altered, repaired, relocated or demolished in whole or in part unless the action complies with the requirements set forth in this title.

17.36.120 Historic districts defined.

B. Historic Landmark. An historic landmark is defined as a building, structure, site or object, its appurtenances and the property it is located on, of high historical, cultural, architectural or archaeological importance; whose demolition or destruction would constitute an irreplaceable loss to the quality and character of Nashville and Davidson County; and that meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. The historic landmark is associated with an event that has made a significant contribution to local, state or national history;
2. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in local, state or national history;
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic value;
4. It has yielded or may be likely to yield archaeological information important in history or prehistory;
- or
5. It is listed or is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Background:

The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The Young Women's Christian Association Building is significant because of the contributions made there to the physical, social, intellectual and spiritual needs of the women of Nashville. The YWCA Building is the last remaining of a group of Christian athletic buildings built in the early 1900's in Nashville. It was the first real home of the YWCA in Nashville.

Contributing to the significance are the people associated with the construction of the YWCA building. Furthermore, the YWCA Building is an outstanding local example of the skillful use of the Georgian Revival style in an institutional building. (Please see attached National Register nomination for more on the history of the building.)

Analysis and Findings:

The neighborhood meets criterion 5 of section 17.36.120 of the ordinance as it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. There have been no changes since listing in 1982 that would jeopardize its historic status.

Recommendation:

Staff suggests that the Commission recommend approval of the 209-213 7th Ave N as a Historic Landmark, finding the area to meet criterion 5 of section 17.36.120.

Staff recommends that adoption of the draft design guidelines proposed for the new district finding that they are consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards.

Summary of Significance

The Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A. or "the Y") building at 211 7th Avenue North, in the central business district, is an architecturally and historically significant piece of Nashville's built heritage. Constructed from 1910-1911, the building retains Georgian Revival elements like limestone and brick veneer, semi-circular window openings, limestone belt courses and keystone flat arches. The Y.W.C.A. is significant for the activities and community services provided as part of its mission to assist not only Nashville's young women but the public in general. Praised for its erection as a symbol of Nashville's desire to help women and others in need, the building stands as a testament to this charitable spirit and as a refuge for generations of women in Middle Tennessee.

Historical Background

On April 18, 1855 the world organization of the Y.W.C.A. was founded in the United Kingdom.¹ In 1894, the organization established an International Division, which helped to bridge people from varied cultures and countries and unite them through the Y's mission. These programs often included financial, vocational and refugee assistance (efforts later in tandem with the U.S. Peace Corps).² As it became a popular refuge and benefit to young women in other cities, women living in and visiting Nashville made public appeals that a local Y.W.C.A. be established by the turn of the century. A young business woman visiting Nashville in late October 1898, and the first person publicly quoted making this request, told the local paper, "I wish to ask the ladies of Nashville why they do not organize a Y.W.C.A. with its many advantages for good." A mere 18 days later, and after another public plea by Dr. Ira Landrith, the city had established a new Y.W.C.A.³

The first organizational meeting of the Nashville Y.W.C.A. was held at the Maxwell House Hotel (demolished 1961) on November 8, 1898. A second meeting held on November 18 at the Y.M.C.A. on Church Street marked the formal organization of the Nashville Y.W.C.A., with national affiliation achieved on March 24, 1899.⁴ While some initially hoped that the Y.W.C.A. would serve as a "rescue mission for unfortunate girls," the aim instead became "to provide physical, social, mental, and spiritual opportunities for all young women and girls, to build Christian character."⁵

¹ "World YWCA," Young Women's Christian Organization, <https://www.ywca.org/what-we-do/world-ywca/>, accessed 11/2/2020.

² "Language School on Seventh Ave.," *The Tennessean* · 12 Nov 1961, Sun · Page 24.

³ "Nashville YWCA Looks to 57 Years of Service as Anniversary Nears," *Nashville Banner* · 5 Apr 1955, Tue · Page 21.

⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Young Women's Christian Association Building, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, National Register #82001727; "Nashville YWCA Looks to 57 Years of Service as Anniversary Nears," *Nashville Banner* · 5 Apr 1955, Tue · Page 21.

⁵ "Nashville YWCA Looks to 57 Years of Service as Anniversary Nears," *Nashville Banner* · 5 Apr 1955, Tue · Page 21.

Initial operations for the local branch were held "in three rooms over Thompson's store," according to the first president, Mrs. H.C. Tolman.⁶ This location was in the parlors above Gartner & Maden Millinery Shop at 227 North Summer Street (now Fifth Avenue), a space that interestingly in years prior was used for other women's outreach activities like "The Working Women's Exchange" which offered free lunches and a sewing department.⁷ The Y.W.C.A.'s space was shared with the [Union Gospel] Tabernacle Circle.⁸ For the next eleven years, the Y.W.C.A. expanded operations which required moving their operations between multiple buildings, including a larger space on Summer Street and across the street into the "Jackson Block" in 1905.⁹

On January 15, 1908 the Nashville Protestant School of Industry (NPSI), an industrial school for girls, deeded the site of the subject property to the Y.W.C.A. for the purposes of carrying out its mission, specifically stated as "the use, support, and education of poor white girls, in connection with and as a part of the work and home of said Association."¹⁰ Mrs. Norman Farrell, President of the Board of Trustees for the NPSI and nine other trustees signed on as the grantors, while Board of Trustees President T.L. Herbert signed on behalf of the Y.W.C.A. The property was described as:

A certain house and lot in the town of Nashville on the west side of Vine Street, being part of lot No. 136, beginning at the corner of what was Mrs. Harrell's stone wall and running southwardly with Vine Street sixty-five feet, more or less, of which about 5-1/2 feet is in an alley, taken from lots 136 and 137, thence at right angles to Vine Street and with said alley one hundred and fifty feet, more or less, to Mrs. [James K.] Polk's plank fence, northwardly with said plank fence, sixty-five feet more or less, to what was Mrs. Harrell's stone wall, thence eastwardly with said wall one hundred and fifty feet more or less, to the beginning, being the same piece of land conveyed by Jos. T. Elliston to Mrs. Thos. Haney, President, by deed of record in Book 22 p. 387...Said property to be used by said Young Womens Christian Association of Nashville Tennessee, for the use, support, and education of poor white girls, in connection with and as a part of the work and home of said Association..." [The deed also stipulated that the new building cost no less than \$16,000.]¹¹

⁶ "Nashville YWCA Looks to 57 Years of Service as Anniversary Nears," *Nashville Banner* · 5 Apr 1955, Tue · Page 21.

⁷ "The Working Women's Exchange," *The Tennessean* · 9 Mar 1890, Sun · Page 6; "Y.W.C.A.," *The Tennessean* · 22 Dec 1898, Thu · Page 9; "Timeline," YWCA, <https://www.ywcanashville.com/who-we-are/history/>, accessed 11/16/2020.

⁸ "The Tabernacle Circle," *Nashville Banner* · 26 Jan 1899, Thu · Page 8.

⁹ "Nashville YWCA Looks to 57 Years of Service as Anniversary Nears."

¹⁰ Davidson County Register of Deeds, Book 362 page 448, 1/15/1908; The Nashville Protestant School of Industry purchased the subject property in 1855, see Deed Book 22, Page 387, 11/2/1855. Although the 1908 deed states the property was located on Vine Street, that road was renamed 7th Avenue North in 1904.

¹¹ Davidson County Register of Deeds, Book 362, Page 448, 1/15/1908.

"No more opportune time could have been set for the establishing of the YWCA on a permanent and efficient basis—it was as if the vision of the world conflict and the demands it would make on the organization were made clear long in advance . . . With its well equipped building, its attraction for girls and women, and its influence throughout the community, the YWCA was ready to set upon its tasks without handicap the moment the need was apparent."

Quote from a 30th anniversary Y.W.C.A. booklet which praised the permanent building.
Source: "Nashville YWCA Looks to 57 Years of Service as Anniversary Nears," *Nashville Banner* · 5 Apr 1955, Tue · Page 21.

From April 1-10, 1909, a feverish fundraising campaign raised the monies needed to erect the Y.W.C.A. building, with nearly \$90,000 raised in the first nine days.¹² During the building fund campaign, several committees lobbied for financial support, including the Citizens', Business Men's, Young Men's, and Industrial committees. Teams of young business women and teams from local colleges were also enthusiastic and hard-working supporters during the campaign. The local paper urged:

The spiritual, intellectual, physical well being of thousands of young women of Nashville who have cast their lot among this people and are deprived of the Christianizing and therefore the helpful influences of their own private home life, is at stake. These young women need a Christian home where they will not only find comfortable quarters after busy days spent in the performance of exacting duties in shop or office, but where they will have wholesome companionship and be able to spend their idle time in such intellectual and physical improvements as their tastes may dictate."¹³

¹² "Final Day of the Great Y.W.C.A. Campaign Should Lead All Others," *Nashville Banner* · 10 Apr 1909, Sat · Page 9.

¹³ *Ibid.*

While the paper praised the Y.W.C.A for its success in past work, it emphasized the dire need for adequate quarters. While the Y.W.C.A. building fund campaign drew several large donors like the Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Company, William J. Cummins, Percy and Edwin Warner, subscriptions to the fund by many of those were made conditionally upon the full \$100,000 being raised. Hundreds of Nashvillians chipped in, and only \$10,565 was needed on the final day of the campaign.¹⁴ The fundraising goal was ultimately exceeded by more than \$11,000.¹⁵

The Executive Committee of the Nashville Y.M.C.A., of which Percy Warner (president of the Nashville Railway and Light Co.) was Chairman, had control over the erection of the new Y.W.C.A. building that would cost no more than \$75,000, which was planned alongside the construction of a new Y.M.C.A. building that would cost no more than \$175,000.¹⁶ As they advertised the projects, the new Y.W.C.A. building was described:

The Y.W.C.A. building to contain boiler room, heating and lighting plant, swimming pool, lavatories, baths, locker rooms, general and private offices, reading room, gymnasium, restaurant and lunch room, small auditorium, library, domestic science and domestic art room, educational class rooms, Bible class rooms and dormitories for 100 young women.¹⁷

Contracts for work at the new Y.W.C.A. building site were awarded that June. The Building Committee awarded the contract for removing the preexisting buildings from the new Y.W.C.A. site to the E.T. Lewis Company. The contract for excavation and foundation work for the Y.W.C.A. building went to the Foster-Creighton-Gould Company.¹⁸ Montgomery & Company provided all furnishings for the edifice.¹⁹ Chicago architects Shattuck and Hussey designed the new edifice.²⁰ The Y.W.C.A. building's cornerstone was laid on January 27, 1910 during a short service presided by Mr. T.L. Herbert, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. A box placed inside the cornerstone contained histories of the work of the House of Industry and Y.M.C.A. and a sketch of the Y.W.C.A. building fund campaign.²¹

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ "Great Achievement for the Nashville Y.W.C.A.," *Nashville Banner* · 11 Apr 1909, Mon · Page 2.

¹⁶ The final cost for the construction and furnishing of the Y.W.C.A. building appears to have been \$175,000. See "Substantial New Y.W.C.A. building," *The Tennessean* · 3 Dec 1911, Sun · Page 30.

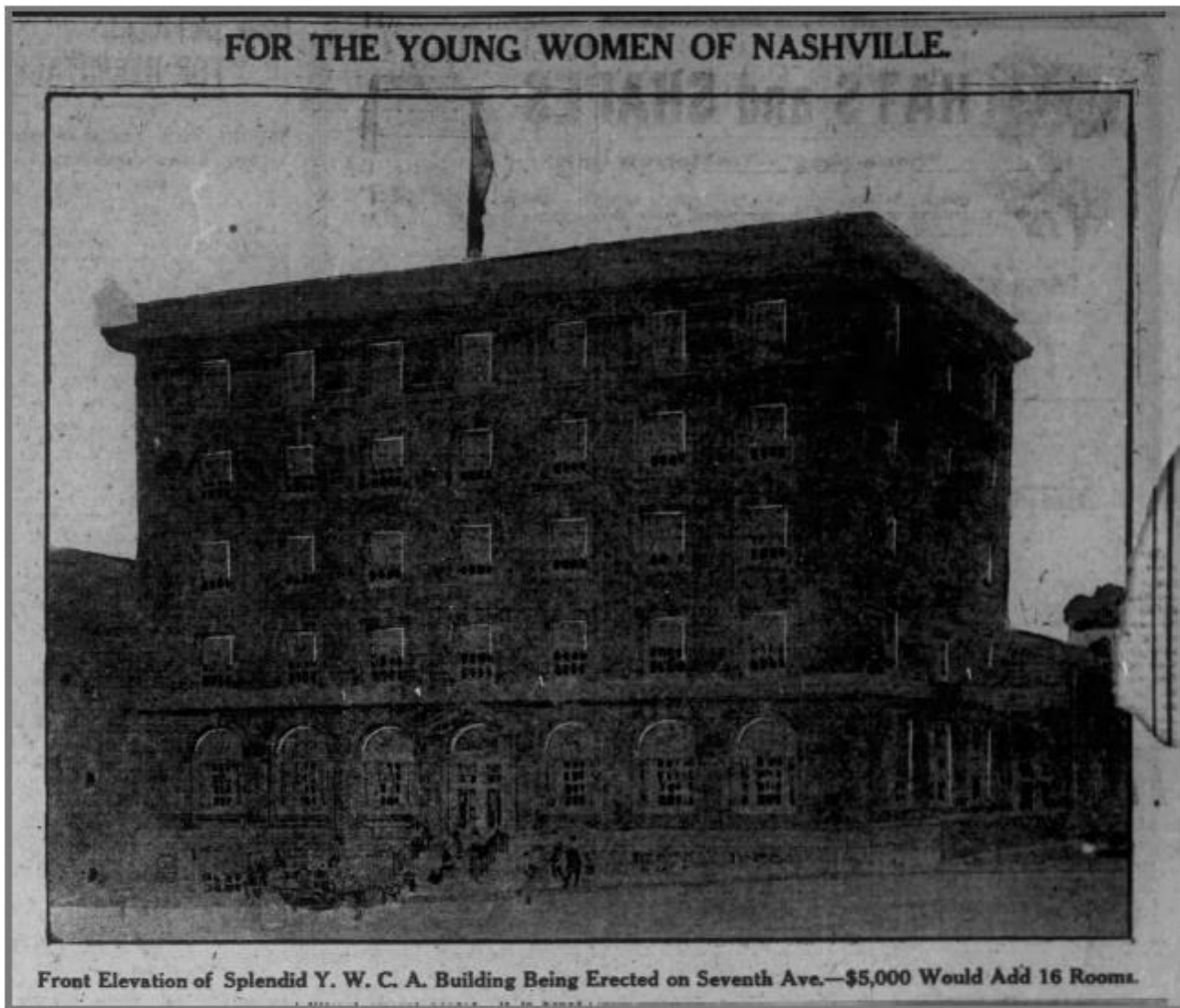
¹⁷ "Plans for the Two Buildings," *Nashville Banner* · 17 Apr 1909, Sat · Page 1. Proposals and cost estimates were due to the Building Committee by May 3, 1909.

¹⁸ "New Plans for Y.M.C.A. Building," *Nashville Banner* · 10 Jun 1909, Thu · Page 11.

¹⁹ "New Y.W.C.A. Building of Nashville," *The Tennessean* · 14 May 1911, Sun · Page 13.

²⁰ Clara Hieronymous, "Old YW Building Gets New Lease on Life," *The Tennessean* · 31 Jan 1982, Sun · Page 79.

²¹ "Cornerstone of Y.W.C.A. Building," *Nashville Banner* · 26 Jan 1910, Wed · Page 7.



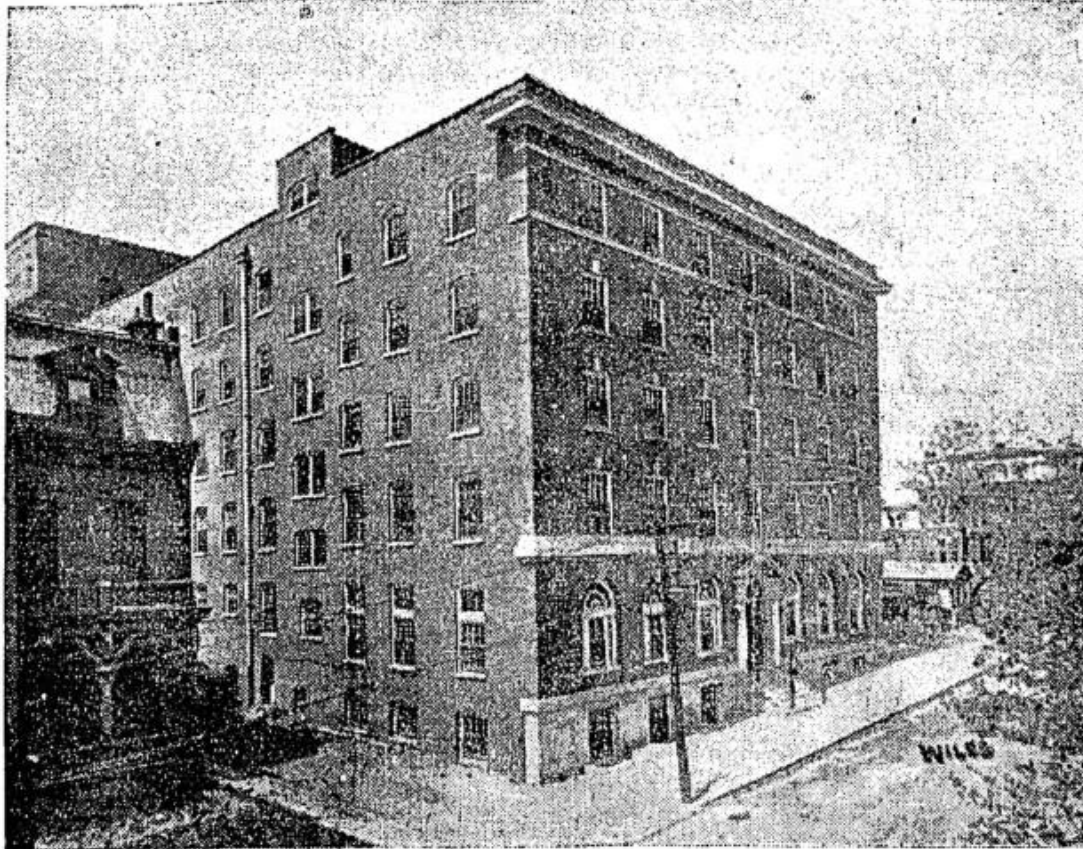
(above) View of the proposed Y.W.C.A. building.
Source: *Nashville Banner* · 27 May 1910, Fri · Page 10.

The new Y.W.C.A. building was dedicated on May 7, 1911 at Warner Auditorium; Dr. James I. Vance of First Presbyterian Church delivered the dedicatory address, proclaiming:

...We regard this as a great day in the life of this city. Nashville has done few things more important in recent years than the erection of these two splendid buildings [the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A.]...and both of them to register our vow to God and to the future that we propose to grow a better race of men and women. For, after all, that is the thing we must do if we are to improve our civilization...This building means that the city would go to the firing line against the forces which are hostile to a girl's welfare...This building is not a religious retreat; it is no nunnery. It will practice the open door, and its effort will be to reach all life.²²

²² "Y.W.C.A. Building is Dedicated," *The Tennessean* · 8 May 1911, Mon · Page 10.

NEW Y. W. C. A. BUILDING



(above) The Y.W.C.A. building just days after opening, view looking northwest.
Source: *The Tennessean* · 11 May 1911, Thu · Page 12.

When this building opened, Mrs. Edward Buford served as President, while Miss Adeline C. Gordon and Mrs. G.P. Edward served as General Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.²³ Around 1910 or 1911, the organization appears to have had a name change from "The Young Womens Christian Association of Nashville, Tennessee" to the "Nashville Young Womens Christian Association," based on a deed between those two names dated January 30, 1911.²⁴ Interestingly, in line with their community service-driven mission, the first library operated out of the Y.W.C.A. and patrons paid \$2 for a "reader's card" in order to check out a book.²⁵ In its early years around the World War I era, the new Y.W.C.A. building also provided housing and meals for female workers at the "Powder Plant," Nashville's defense center. During this time, the new adjacent auditorium given by building committee chairman Percy Warner transformed into a cafeteria. Also during this time, the Y.W.C.A.'s first Nashville branch formed- the Blue Triangle Y.W.C.A. for African American women.²⁶

²³ 1911 *Nashville City Directory*, p. 1010.

²⁴ Davidson County Register of Deeds, Book 379, Page 733-734, 1/30/1911.

²⁵ Nashville Sites, Hidden History and Haunts Tour (Ben West Library stop), <https://nashvillesites.org/tours/hidden-history-and-haunts/ben-west-library>, accessed 11/02/2020. The card fee was discontinued in 1950, the same year that the library system desegregated.

²⁶ "Nashville YWCA Looks to 57 Years of Service as Anniversary Nears," *Nashville Banner* · 5 Apr 1955, Tue · Page 21. Property at 5th and Gay Street was purchased for the Blue Triangle Y.W.C.A. branch in



Photomontage of the thirtieth birthday of the Y. W. C. A. *The Tennessean* · 3 Feb 1929.
 Source: Nashville Public Library Digital Collections.

1921. The branch was later forced to move to 1508 Pearl Street (dedicated 1954) due to the Capitol Hill Redevelopment Project.

The Y.W.C.A. became a very important community resource in Nashville and refuge to its members, functioning as a home, club, discussion forum, gymnasium, social center, place to eat and a "school in feminine living."²⁷ It also gained an excellent reputation as an ideal place for women visiting from out of town, especially Middle Tennesseans coming here for work, and as an "informal hotel for transient guests and a temporary home for its residents," the latter group limited to a three-year stay.²⁸ The Y.W.C.A. had several social and discussion clubs, including "nighters" that met after work hours. These meetings not only facilitated safe social interactions between young women, but also provided a means for recreational activities, dinners, and programs with speakers, music or discussion about topics like current events, art or psychology.

These groups reinvested and amplified support for other groups in the community; for example, Nashville's Junior Mrs. club sponsored holiday parties for young children at the Tennessee Industrial School and the Homemakers club sponsored a child's attendance at the Y.W.C.A.'s Camp Lakewood.²⁹ While Y members tended to primarily rely upon the Y.W.C.A. cafeteria for their meals, the general public was also allowed to dine in these facilities and often made use during shopping trips or after work downtown. The Y.W.C.A. also coordinated "Teen Towns," locations that offered coed activities at East Nashville library, the Martha O'Bryan house, Neighborhood House and Separation Center, and at the Vine Hill housing project. Support for its members may have been the original mission, but the Y.W.C.A. clearly had an extensive impact that benefitted the larger community. By 1950, the Nashville Y.W.C.A. had 5,000 members and was a "Red Feather" agency, with 11 percent of its budget sourced from Nashvillians' contributions to the local Community Chest.³⁰

²⁷ "Coeds, Out-of-Town Workers Find Haven at 'Y' With Snacks, a Swim," *The Tennessean* · 17 Sep 1950, Sun · Page 13.

²⁸ Long-term residents lived at the subject location as well as McGannon Hall at 301 8th Avenue North.

²⁹ "Coeds, Out-of-Town Workers Find Haven at 'Y' With Snacks, a Swim."

³⁰ Ibid. "Red Feather" agencies were part of a nationwide network that held annual charitable fundraising campaigns. The red feather served as the symbol of member agencies from 1946-1957. Local Community Chests would gather and disburse raised funds to organizations in need, including the Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., and 17,000 other local services. See "Time Magazine, November 10, 1952," <http://ameshistory.org/tribunearchives/1956-community-chest-campaign> and "Our History," <https://www.unitedwayplains.org/history-mission/>.



(above) Coverage of the many activities, programs and benefits that the Y.W.C.A. provided to young women in Nashville. Source: *The Tennessean* · 17 Sep 1950, Sun · Page 13.

While the Y.W.C.A. began as "a residence for rural girls coming to town to take jobs...after World War II, women could afford to live in apartments or suburbs and drive cars and, therefore, didn't need a sheltered residence," explained Dr. Carole Stanford Bucy who wrote a book about the history of the Nashville Y.W.C.A.³¹ Dr. Bucy summarized the impacts and social significance of the Y.W.C.A., saying:

The Y.W.C.A. history reflects changes in the role of women in Nashville and the United States. Their issues were the contemporary issues of the day- World War I, the Great Depression and World War II. They interacted with the business community, the Community Chest and the United Way. The most significant was the YWCA efforts in race relations.³²

³¹ "Book traces history of YWCA in Nashville," *The Tennessean* (Nashville, Tennessee) · 29 Mar 1998, Sun · Page 167, quote from Davidson Count historian Dr. Carole Stanford Bucy.

³² *Ibid.*

In 1977, the Y.W.C.A. was forced to sell its downtown residence facility and moved its headquarters to 1608 Woodmont Boulevard the following year, shifting its focus to education and job training for women and a domestic shelter.³³ The Y.W.C.A. remains at that location. In 1982, the subject property, then home to the Jaques-Miller Corporate Headquarters, underwent a \$6 million renovation, completed in June of that year.³⁴ It was nominated for an MHC architectural award the following spring.³⁵ Work included cleaning of the exterior brick, limestone and cast iron elements, while a newly-added five-story glass atrium with elevators provided for contemporary usage.³⁶ The project also demolished a two-story brick auditorium formerly at the rear of the building.³⁷ The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 16, 1982.

Architecture and Integrity

Architects Walter Francis Shattuck (1871-1948) and Harry Henry Hussey (1882-1967) designed the subject property. In the U.S. and Canada, they designed over sixty buildings for the Y.M.C.A. and Y.M.C.A., often employing Georgian or "Renaissance Revival" styles.³⁸ This meant a more standardized design that would ease the process with local building committees. Other examples of their work include the Neoclassical Chinese Y.M.C.A. of Hong Kong (1918) and the Late Gothic Revival Minneapolis Y.M.C.A. Central Building (1919, NRHP listed in 1995).³⁹ They also created buildings for similar purposes in China.⁴⁰

The former Y.W.C.A. building is a six-story, ell-shaped concrete-and-steel-frame structure with limestone and brick veneer. The building retains its original Georgian Revival detailing, including a "pedimented entrance with tabernacle enframement, first floor windows enframed by columns, raised limestone pedestal and subtle cornice and window treatment."⁴¹ The exterior walls are load-bearing, with interior steel and concrete framing and poured concrete floor slabs in the bays that are approximately 13'-16' x 14' each. These materials combines with numerous exits allowed the building to be considered a fireproof structure at the time of its construction.

³³ Ibid; *1988 YWCA Annual Report*, on file at the Metro Historical Commission.

³⁴ "Program by Dye, Van Mol & Lawrence," on file at Metro Historical Commission; "Blueprint for Financial Growth," *The Tennessean* · 16 Jan 1983, Sun · Page 248.

³⁵ "Old YWCA Building Nominated for Award," *The Tennessean* · 11 Apr 1983, Mon · Page 29.

³⁶ "Old YW Building Gets New Lease on Life."

³⁷ National Register of Historic Places form, section 7.

³⁸ "Shattuck & Hussey," *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950*,

<http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/2559>, accessed 11/16/2020.

³⁹ *Brief Information on Proposed Grade I Items*,

https://web.archive.org/web/20121013023413/http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/ce/Museum/Monument/form/Brief_Information_on_proposed_Grade_I_Items.pdf, accessed 11/16/2020, 85; National Register of Historic Places, Minneapolis Y.M.C.A. Central Building, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, National Register #95001375.

⁴⁰ "Building the Seoul YMCA 91900s-1910s), Colonial Korea,

<https://coloniakorea.com/2019/12/16/building-the-seoul-ymca-1900s-1910s/>, accessed 11/16/2020.

⁴¹ Ibid.

On the façade (east elevation), a cut limestone foundation rises above ground to a limestone water table. The façade contains red flash brick laid in a Flemish bond; while white mortar exists on the north and south exterior walls, the east façade has a darker mortar, which may indicate modern repointing of this wall. The six, double-hung, four-over-four windows on the main floor have limestone sills and recessed brick panels beneath; all are framed by pilasters and four-light sidelights, topped by half-round transoms and brick voussoirs. Oversized limestone keystones intersect with a stone beltcourse inscribed with the Y.W.C.A.'s name; the organization's initials are inscribed in applied circular medallions below, spaced across the full width of the façade. Window sashes were originally wood double-hung with 1/4" clear float glazing and were replaced in-kind during the 1982 renovation. While all windows originally had an eight-over-eight configuration, the renovation changed those on the north, south and west elevations (sides and rear) to one-over-one arrangements.⁴²

Two Doric stone columns flank the main entry and support a classical open triangular pediment with dentil detailing. A keystone voussoir above the door sits within a limestone surround. Additional fenestration on the façade consists of eight-over-eight, double hung windows with flat-arch brick surrounds and oversized decorative stone keystones. Raised, square brick panels with stone corner inlays stand between each of the sixth story windows, flanked above and below by narrow stone beltcourses. A cast iron cornice and brick parapet rise to a flat roof. The remaining elevations are devoid of ornamentation and the rear ell contains running bond brick veneer.

The former Y.W.C.A. building at 211 7th Avenue North retains a high degree of architectural integrity, exhibiting nearly all of its original character, materials, workmanship and design, save the window replacements. While a former auditorium was lost during the 1982 renovation, that removal did not impact the architectural integrity of the primary edifice, which is also where most of the historically important activities occurred. The 1980s aluminum curtain wall office addition and cement plaster stair towers, designed as sensitive additions, have minimal impact on the building's architectural integrity, as these are narrow and mostly out of view, primarily sited towards the rear of the north elevation and on the north side of the ell. These additions, along with the replacement windows, were already in place when the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, so are not considered to impact the property's integrity or ability to convey its historical and architectural significance.

⁴² Ibid.