

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

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: YMCA of Northern Middlesex County

Other names/site number: Middletown YMCA

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 99 Union Street

City or town: Middletown State: CT County: Middlesex

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this  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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

_____ <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>	_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

SOCIAL/clubhouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

SOCIAL/clubhouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

MODERN

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE: Limestone; CONCRETE;  
METAL: Steel; STUCCO

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County building is a masonry building located in Middletown, Middlesex County, Connecticut that was constructed in two phases in 1928 and 1972. The first construction phase encompasses a two-and-one-half-story, Colonial Revival-style red brick administrative and dormitory section with a gable roof and limestone trim, as well as flat roofed, single-story red brick athletic building sections with cast stone details. All 1928 construction was designed by New Haven, Connecticut architect Douglas Orr. The 1972 phase includes flat-roofed athletic building sections added to the east of the 1928 section and designed in the Modern style by The Malmfeldt Associates with red brick walls and steel trim.

The building occupies the majority of a 1.5-acre rectangular property located at the corner of Union and Crescent Streets in downtown Middletown. This portion of Crescent Street is Main Street to the north and Main Street Extension to the south. The YMCA is in walking distance to the commercial district and in close proximity to State Route 9 and the Connecticut River to the east. Several National Register historic districts are located immediately to the north and west. Each section of the building is identifiable and maintains integrity of design, workmanship, and materials from its construction date.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

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## **Narrative Description**

### Setting

The YMCA building originally faced west but was reoriented in 1972 to be entered from the north. It occupies the majority of a 1.5-acre rectangular lot that slopes downward from west to east. This property consists of two parcels identified as Map 24, Lot 285 and Map 24 Lot 284. The property is bounded by Crescent Street on the west, Union Street on the north, a parking lot on the east, and residential property to the south (Figures 1 and 2). The original front (west) side of the property has concrete sidewalks and grass with the building set back about 15 feet from the street. The street frontage to the north is mostly paved. A playground and trees are located at the east (rear) side of the lot. The property is located at the southern edge of the commercial center of Middletown, centered on the National Register-listed Main Street Historic District (1983). The South Church is located to the west of the YMCA building, the Union Green is to the northwest, and commercial buildings are to the north and east. The building consists of a 1928 original YMCA building with a 1972 addition to the east (rear).

### Exterior

#### *Original Building (1928)*

The original 1928 section of the YMCA building faces Crescent Street and has an almost square plan with a central courtyard. This original portion of the YMCA is built out to the edges of the property limits at that time, which is consistent with the limits of Lot 285 (Figures 2 and 3). The building is designed to appear as multiple sections but was constructed simultaneously. Douglas Orr's Colonial Revival design is expressed on the two public (north and west) elevations, where the building appears as an L-shaped residential estate or dormitory, expanded over time (Figure 10). The west (Crescent Street) elevation measures 122 feet, and the north (Union Street) elevation measures 158 feet. This L-shaped block is two-and-one-half stories with a raised basement, side gable roof with a denticulated wood cornice, limestone parapet coping, and red "Puritan" brick walls. The brick is from the Tuttle Brick Company of Middletown and is set in a Flemish bond pattern (Photographs 1 through 3). The L-shaped mass is vertically divided by limestone quoins and end chimneys, so that the façade (west elevation) appears as a 9-bay section with a 3-bay extension to the south, and the north (side) elevation appears as a 7-bay wing or ell. A plain brick exterior stair tower has been added to the southwest corner of the building. Two square-shaped plain brick ells (racquetball courts) form the south side of the 1928 building, and a 3-bay-wide rectangular gymnasium block forms the east side and encloses the courtyard.

Limestone belt courses wrap the building at the water table and third story. The water table is further defined by brick bands formed by four courses of protruding brick and one course of recessed brick. Stylized voussoirs formed by diagonally laid brick remain over basement window openings that have been bricked in. The fenestration pattern on the upper floors is symmetrical and consists of single square openings with limestone sills and double-hung windows. First-story

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

windows are larger than those found on the upper stories with fifteen-over-fifteen sash, and flat keystone arches made of limestone. Upper story windows are eight-over-eight sash and have flat arches made of stepped brick voussoirs, with limestone keystones. The gable roofs terminate in parapeted straight-line ends. Three round hooded dormers are inset with louvers and are present on both the north and west sides of the roof.

When the building was first constructed, the main entrances were on the west elevation, with separate doorways for men and women. They both still feature elaborate surrounds. The men's entrance on the northern portion of the elevation features an arched transom infilled with patterned paneling and a fanlight (Figure 15 and Photograph 2). The women's entrance is found on the southern portion of the west elevation and is topped by a closed pediment. Both entrances are set within recessed brick arches. They are accessed by brick and stone stairs with cast iron railings.

The gable end on the north elevation contains a large wrought-iron brick anchor depicting the letter Y (Figure 11 and Photograph 4). Below the anchor is a round window with a limestone surround accentuated by four keystones. It was once leaded with a globe pattern. Beneath this, on the second story, a central window is surrounded by an arched stucco panel with a cast iron balcony beneath.

Further east along the north elevation, the brick basketball court section of the 1928 building has a parapet with geometric cast iron grilles along its flat roof (Photograph 5). Below are three large pane-glass windows with stucco arched surrounds between brick spandrels, each with a limestone keystone. The racquetball court section on the south elevation has three stucco circles with two bricked-in arches beneath them. Brick equivalents of the stone quoining, belt courses, and flat arches above the windows are present.

### *1972 Addition*

In 1972, new construction was added to the east of the 1928 building and measures 130 by 100 feet at its furthest extents. It was completed in the Modern style but retains brick as its main exterior wall material, edged in standing-seam metal wall cladding. A flat-roofed portico was added to the north elevation of the 1928 section, reorienting the building to be entered from Union Street through what was once the boys' entrance (Figure 12 and Photograph 4). It has a full brick wall on the north side with a round archway, all covering the double staircase that leads to the doorway. The portico abuts a brick-walled walkway that was added to connect the 1972 addition to the 1928 building. The walkway lines the first story of the north elevation with full-height glass pane windows framed in steel. The north elevation of the 1972 addition has angled concrete walls and pane glass windows between brick piers (Photograph 2 and 5).

Blind walls of running bond brick and standing-seam metal dominate the south and east elevations of the 1972 addition (Photographs 8 through 10). The rear entrance on the south elevation is within a steel and glass portico that meets a single-story portion of the addition with full-height pane windows between brick piers. All brick walls in the 1972 addition are trimmed in standing-seam steel. This trim matches the full metal walls that over a two-story section of the 1972 addition that rises above the southern half of the east elevation. Finally, as part of the 1972 addition, a brick

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

stairwell was built at the southwest corner of the building. It has a flat roof and protruding brick belt and sill course (Photographs 1 and 9). A metal swinging door is at the center of the stairwell's first story on the west elevation.

### Interior

The YMCA building has three above-ground stories and a basement level, totaling 51,500 square feet. The square-shaped plan around a central light court makes up the western 1928 section of the building and it contains offices, the kitchen, preschool classrooms, the lobby, a three-lane pool, locker rooms, the basketball court, fitness center, beginner fitness room, a cardio room, two racquetball courts, and dormitories. It has a central corridor running in a square connecting to a linear corridor running along the southern side of the pool. The main lobby separates the two corridors and is accessed by the main entrance on the north elevation. The irregularly shaped 1972 addition is to the west of the 1928 section and it contains the six-lane pool, additional locker rooms, two additional racquetball courts, fitness rooms, and cardio rooms (Figures 4 through 7). The building has interior ramps connecting various levels of floors that match the sloping ground of the building site.

On the first floor, the lobby is accessed by wooden swinging doors and a small vestibule on the north elevation (Photograph 11). It was once used as a game room, with space for billiards, table tennis, and chess (Figures 13 and 14). Now, the reception desk is the main feature of the lobby, backed by a wooden flat archway displaying the emblem of the YMCA, a triangle within a circle on a crest surrounded by the words "FRIENDSHIP", "CHARACTER", and "LOYALTY" (Photograph 12). An interior wall was added to partition off the northwestern portion of the lobby. Both rooms have cased ceiling beams with acoustic tiles between the beams. These modern ceiling tiles continue into the surrounding hallways. Floors are covered in composite tile.

To the south and west of the lobby are offices. Walls added to what was once the men's social room in the center of the building's westernmost portion create modern office space. The hallway leading from the entrance on the west elevation has the original tile floor in place (Photograph 13). It was once the main entrance to the building and has a vestibule with leaded transom light (Photograph 14). The hall meets a wall which contains the original reception desk encased by sheetrock (Photograph 15). On the northern side of the hall is a large meeting room with original cased beams, fireplace with wood pilasters, and plaster walls with painted floral decorations in the crown molding (Photograph 16). To the south of the light court are classrooms, which have been modernized with sheetrock walls and ceilings, and composite tile flooring (Photograph 18). The preschool in the southwest corner is accessed by the entrance on the western elevation that was once used as the women's entrance. Wood paneling and a fireplace mantle remain in place (Photograph 19). The basketball court is to the east of the lobby which has remained unchanged since its construction except for the addition of florescent lighting and the closing off of a viewing stand in the southern wall (Figure 16 and Photograph 20). The fitness center to the south of the basketball court was originally a gymnasium. During conversion to a fitness center, its floors were covered in carpet and a steel mezzanine was added (Figure 17 and Photograph 21). Wood floors, buff brick walls, painted plaster panels in the upper portions of the wall, and plaster ceiling with

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

large beams remain intact. To the east are the 1972 additions of fitness and cardio rooms that were originally built as racquetball courts.

The basement level contains the 1972 six-lane pool at the far east, and the 1928 three-lane pool to the west. Each display the original architecture of their respective construction dates including tiled floors and concrete block and brick walls. The six-lane pool room has laminated wood beams running along the width of its ceiling (Photograph 22). The deep end of the small pool has been raised since its original construction and is no longer suitable for diving (Photograph 23, Figure 18). Both are flanked on the south by locker rooms. Most locker rooms in the building have been renovated with coated steel partitions and composite tile floors (Photographs 24 and 25). Showers are set amongst the locker rooms and feature original tile work on the floors and walls, with marble partitions where they are not renovated with modern materials (Photographs 26 and 27). A whirlpool room attached to the locker rooms and showers in the southeastern corner of the basement has modern cement floors, tile walls, and drop ceiling (Photograph 29). A steam room is accessed from the whirlpool room. It has an original tile floor and wood board benches, ceiling, and walls (Photograph 30). A sauna is accessed from the corridor between the three-lane and six-lane pools, with wooden materials intact (Photograph 31). In the center of the basement there is a log cabin boy's club room with log veneer walls, a stone fireplace, and wood swinging doors (Photograph 32). The south-central portion of the basement contains a lounge now used as daycare space, with wooden half walls and cased ceiling beams in place (Photograph 33). Hallways in this area have composite tile floors, sheetrock walls, and drop-ceiling, though typical 1972 swinging doors are in place (Photograph 34). The western half of the basement contains utility and work rooms. A large auxiliary room here was once the bowling alleys.

The second story consists of dormitories and an associated lounge, laundry room, and telephone room on the second floor of the 1928 section of the building (Figures 6 and 19, Photographs 35 through 38). Dormitories continue throughout the third floor, and there are bathrooms with toilets and showers on the second and third floor (Figure 7). This section has original plaster walls with chair rails, and plaster ceilings. Dormitory rooms are large enough to fit a twin-sized bed, a desk, and a dresser, and each has a small closet. The rooms line both sides of a central corridor terminating in stairwells. There are thirty dormitory rooms on the second floor, and thirty-two on the third. The hallways have composite tile flooring, while original tiles remain in the lounge. Original dormitory room flooring is covered with carpeting. Two racquetball courts are in the southeast corner of the second story, accessed from stairs in the main corridor of the first floor (Photographs 39 and 40).

### Integrity

The building remains in its original location and urban setting at the south end of downtown Middletown. The 1928 section of the YMCA building retains its original massing and design. Exterior doors have been updated in their original frames. The dormitories, pool, basketball court, and racquetball courts are especially intact. Room use in the first story of the 1928 section changed with the 1972 renovation to accommodate separate women's, men's, and boy's space. The preschool portion went through a series of uses, first as the women's entrance in the 1920s, then

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

as a youth shelter in the 1970s, and now a preschool. The integrity of materials and workmanship are intact as these new uses minimally altered the architecture. The addition of acoustic tile ceilings, composite tile floors, carpeting, and fluorescent lighting comprise the majority of changes in the 1928 section. The 1972 addition to the building remains intact and unchanged. It does not impact the original 1928 section since it is to the rear of the building and not visible from Crescent Street. The 1928 and 1972 sections are recognizable as separate construction phases. Continued operation of the YMCA and use of by local residents maintain the building's feeling and association as a twentieth-century community recreation facility.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1928-1972

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1928: First phase of construction

1972: addition completed

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Orr, Douglas William (1928 section)

O'Brien Construction Company

The Berlin Construction Company

The Malmfeldt Associates (1972 section)

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A in the area of Social History. The building is associated with an international welfare movement to provide community services and foster an ideal of good citizenship perpetuated during the early twentieth century, during a period of post-industrialization, nativism, immigration, and the movement of youth to cities. The Middletown facility included space for community instruction such as citizenship classes and leadership training, along with dorm housing, and recreational space to promote physical fitness as part of health and the productive use of leisure time. The YMCA is also associated with the societal shift to support equal access and roles for women during the mid- to late-twentieth century and is representative of the conflict between equitable community service and the displacement of minorities during the urban renewal period. The period of significance extends from 1928, when the building was completed, to 1972, when the facility was expanded.

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

Criterion A – Social History

The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County is significant under Criterion A for Social History, first for its response to industrialization and second for its response to redevelopment in downtown Middletown. In both eras, the YMCA actively supported the local community and organized programming that assisted them in facing contemporary challenges. With its 1928 construction, the YMCA housed the wave of young male workers entering Middletown's various industries while also provided a meeting space for newly arrived immigrants who had limited options for boarding and social space in the city despite nativist sentiments in the country at the time. The 1972 addition was completed in the context of Middletown's urban renewal redevelopment project that displaced the City's minority families from the area directly surrounding the YMCA. Though the YMCA utilized the space that had been cleared of multi-family homes, the Association coordinated workshops that highlighted the disparate treatment of people of different backgrounds, while encouraging Black residents of Middletown to continue to attend the YMCA and remain a presence in the Main Street area from which they had been removed. At the same time, the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County staff finally focused attentions on female members, creating space in the building and programming that was exclusively for women. This inclusion of female members coincides with national women's rights movements but shows a unique effort in a YMCA to commit to providing equal access.

*The Origins of the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County*

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) had its beginnings in England in the nineteenth century. As a reaction to industrialization in the early nineteenth century, religious conservatism



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

and nativism began to rise in the 1840s and 1850s. Certain groups believed that the growth of cities and an influx of immigrants would lead to destructive and harmful behavior that they deemed immoral. In 1844, twelve men who worked as drapers in London founded the first YMCA, originally known as the Young Men's Missionary Society, as a non-denominational evangelical prayer group.<sup>1</sup> In the United States, a similar resurgence in religious conservatism was taking place at that time and the YMCA appealed as an organization with a focus on "Christian values" that was run by laypeople.<sup>2</sup> The first YMCA in the United States was established in Boston in 1851 and was housed in the Old South Church. The Boston YMCA's mission statement captured the intent of these YMCA founders, indicating "A strong desire for the promotion of religion among the young men of this city..." Soon after, the first YMCA in Connecticut opened its doors in Hartford in 1852. New Haven and Waterbury followed, establishing their YMCAs in 1854 and 1858 respectively.<sup>3</sup> By 1900 there were 1,476 Young Men's Christian Associations in the United States, 391 of which had buildings constructed for their use.<sup>4</sup>

In Middletown, Connecticut, the founding of the YMCA was headed by a generation of older men, many of them returning to the city after serving in the military during the Civil War. At that time, Middletown was a busy port city, and the establishment of the YMCA was driven by the influx of seamen arriving in the city as well as the new workers, many of them immigrants, drawn to the growing number of industries. Later known as the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County, the Middletown YMCA was founded on June 1, 1865.<sup>5</sup> Though the association did not allow non-Christian members to join until 1903, it focused more on the organization's concepts of morality over Christian theology.<sup>6</sup> Leaders of the Middletown YMCA structured the association around the belief that social development of young men was achieved through good works in the community. Initially, the building design only required space for social and educational functions.<sup>7</sup>

In 1877, the Middletown YMCA bought the former home of Commodore Thomas McDonough at 274 Main Street to use as their meeting space (Figure 8). It was not until 1893 that recreational facilities were conceived of for the Middletown chapter of the organization. At that time, YMCA officials decided to demolish the McDonough house and build a larger facility designed by the

<sup>1</sup> Joseph W. Reed, "From the Beginning: The History of the YMCA in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, October 28, 1986, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph W. Reed, "From the Beginning: The History of the YMCA in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, October 28, 1986, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut; Albert E. Van Dusen, *Connecticut* (New York: Random House, 1961), 216.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph W. Reed, "From the Beginning: The History of the YMCA in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, October 28, 1986, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>4</sup> Verranus Morse, *An Analytical Sketch of the Young Men's Christian Association in North American from 1851 to 1876, together with Contemporary Essays; and a Statistical Statement of the Results of Its Work from 1876 to 1901* (New York: The International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations, 1901), 148, Library of Congress, <https://lccn.loc.gov/unk80015940>.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph W. Reed, "From the Beginning: The History of the YMCA in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, October 28, 1986, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>6</sup> Joseph W. Reed, "From the Beginning: The History of the YMCA in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, October 28, 1986, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>7</sup> Joseph W. Reed, *Getting Started: The Beginnings of the Middletown YMCA*, (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 1986): 4.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

firm of Cook, Hapgood & Company of Hartford, Connecticut on the same lot, renumbered to 277-279 Main Street (now 339-351 Main Street) (Figure 9). The YMCA occupied the upper three stories of this building, while retail businesses and the Connecticut Business College occupied the first floor.<sup>8</sup> The second story was the location of YMCA administrative rooms, with two being offered for rent. The third floor contained the chapel and classrooms, and the fourth floor contained additional classrooms as well as lodging rooms. The gymnasium was situated on the main floor, with bathrooms and bowling alleys underneath.<sup>9</sup>

The expanded focus on physicality of the Middletown YMCA is evident in its constitution, published in 1899, which states that this chapter's mission was "to develop the Christian character and usefulness of its members and to improve the spiritual, mental, social and physical condition of young men."<sup>10</sup> Membership in the organization was open to men aged 16 years and up (with ages 14 to 16 in special cases) who were in good standing with a Protestant Evangelical Church indicating the continued importance of religion within the organization. However, in support of facilitating recreational pursuits, the former YMCA facility at 277-279 Main Street contained a reading room, game room, gymnasium, combination shower/needle/spray baths, lockers, and classrooms.<sup>11</sup> The gymnasium was furnished with dumb bells, bar bells, a punching bag, Indian clubs, chest weights, a vaulting horse, parallel bars, horizontal bars, flying rings, a spring board, a kicking disk, medicine balls, and basketballs.<sup>12</sup> The YMCA also provided classes on book-keeping, penmanship, mechanical drawing, arithmetic, and grammar. Saturdays were reserved for entertainment programs, including singing, reading, debates, and music. Sundays were reserved for song service and Bible Training Class.<sup>13</sup>

Though the YMCA provided a variety of services, the majority of the space in the former 277-279 Main Street building was devoted to recreational activities. This differs from the earlier function of YMCAs as protective social gathering spaces where young men were trained in Christian morals. In the mid-nineteenth century, a Protestant movement linked physical fitness with the Christian faith. Proponents of this movement reinterpreted the Christian figure of Jesus from a gentle man to a physically fit hero.<sup>14</sup> "Muscular Christianity" became popular in the 1850s, which promoted the idea of a strong man as someone with good Christian character.<sup>15</sup> Young men were encouraged to enroll in physical programs rather than spend time in libraries and lounges, and

<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth A. Warner, *A Pictorial History of Middletown* (Norfolk: Donning Company Publishers, 1990), 92-93.

<sup>9</sup> "The Y. M. C. A. Building: A Minute Description of it—How it Will be Arranged," newspaper clipping from the Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>10</sup> *Constitution and By-Laws of The Young Men's Christian Association of Middletown, Conn.*, (Portland: Middlesex County Printery, 1899), 3, Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>11</sup> "Young Men's Christian Association Middletown, Connecticut. 1901-1902," unpublished booklet printed by J. D. Young Printer, Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>12</sup> "Young Men's Christian Association Middletown, Connecticut. 1901-1902," unpublished booklet printed by J. D. Young Printer, Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>13</sup> George T. Meech, "First Annual Report of the Young Men's Christian Association, Middletown, Conn., Apr. 1, 1887: President's Report," unpublished manuscript, Middlesex County Historical Society, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>14</sup> Paula Lupkin, *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern Urban Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 115-116.

<sup>15</sup> Clifford Putney, *Muscular Christianity: Manhood and Sports in Protestant America, 1880-1920* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003): 22.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

YMCA floor plans reflected this.<sup>16</sup> Parlors and assembly halls were replaced with swimming pools, billiard rooms, and workshops.<sup>17</sup> A landmark example is that of the Chicago Central YMCA. Their 1867 facility was essentially a space for assembly and prayer meetings. When they constructed a new skyscraper facility in 1894, it contained bowling alleys, a pool, locker rooms, steam baths and showers, dressing rooms, a gym, an indoor running track, a darkroom, woodworking shops, and handball and tennis courts.<sup>18</sup> The YMCA hoped that regimented athletic programming, which replaced leisure, would legitimize their goal of shaping young men into good Christian men. Athletic space would take up the majority of the subsequent iteration of the Middletown YMCA, built on Union Street in 1928. In addition, a still extant club room made to resemble a log cabin is original to the 1928 building. Reminiscent of the American frontier, the room was intended to evoke thoughts of the role of traditional masculinity in the preindustrial era. In addition to serving as playrooms, these spaces were utilized as a place for boys to hold mock board meetings, meant to teach community thinking and leadership skills. Only the largest YMCAs in the United States had log cabin rooms.<sup>19</sup>

### *The YMCA on Union Street*

By the 1920s, Middletown's population and the Middletown YMCA's membership had grown enough to create the need for a new building.<sup>20</sup> In the years leading up to the construction of the Union Street facility, Middletown had seen an increase in residential development and industrial success. The large-scale production of machine parts, hardware, and textiles had replaced small firms. Large employers in the city included Russell Manufacturing Company, New England Enamel Company, Arawana Mills Mosquito Netting Company, and The Noiseless Typewriter Company, as well as quarries and the railroad.<sup>21</sup> As industry grew, so did the number of job openings in factories. In 1899, there had been 159,733 wage earners working in Connecticut's industrial establishments. By 1919, that number had increased to 292,672, which included 221,047 male and 71,625 female workers.<sup>22</sup> In Middletown specifically, there were 3,985 industrial wage earners in 1919 working for the city's 88 establishments, placing it at a midpoint between the cities of New Britain and Ansonia in industrial scale.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>16</sup> C. Howard Hopkins, *History of the Y.M.C.A. in North America* (New York: Association Press, 1951), 457.

<sup>17</sup> Paula Lupkin, *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern Urban Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 112.

<sup>18</sup> Paula Lupkin, *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern Urban Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 117.

<sup>19</sup> Paula Lupkin, *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern Urban Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 128-130.

<sup>20</sup> "The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County: Over A Century of Service to Greater Middletown," unpublished manuscript, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>21</sup> Barbara Ann Cleary et al., *Middletown, Connecticut: A Survey of Historical and Architectural Resources* (The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, 1979), 19-20.

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Fifteen Census of the United States: Manufactures: 1929 Volume III Reports by States, Statistics for Industrial Areas, Counties, and Cities* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1933), 89-90, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1933/dec/1930f-vol-03-manufactures.html>.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Fourteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1920 Volume IX: Manufactures 1919 Reports for States, with Statistics for Principal Cities* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1923), 168-193, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1923/dec/vol-09-manufactures.html>.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

It was this rise in the early twentieth century that spurred construction of the Middletown YMCA. Immigrants comprised a large quantity of the people filling industrial jobs in the early twentieth century. In general, the percentage of immigrants living in New England increased from 25.8 in 1900 to 27.9 of the entire New England population in 1910.<sup>24</sup> Urban areas in particular were significantly affected by the influx of new arrivals. The percentage of Connecticut's population living in metropolitan areas increased from 56 to 78.5 between 1920 and 1930.<sup>25</sup> In Middletown, immigrants were mainly moving from Southern Europe at this time.<sup>26</sup> In 1920, Middletown had 3,675 foreign-born white residents, 1,546 of which were from Italy.<sup>27</sup> The census also recorded 57 Black and five Asian and Southeast Asian residents.<sup>28</sup> Many of the Italian immigrants worked at the Tuttle Brickyard and established their own businesses along Main Street.<sup>29</sup> Immigrants often founded mutual aid societies and social clubs. In Middletown the main Italian social organizations were the Sons of Italy and the Guiseppi Garibaldi Mutual Benefit Society, which formed in 1902 and 1905, respectively.<sup>30</sup> Before these organizations came into existence, Italian immigrants had been gathering at the YMCA, where the first Italian American Club in the city was organized.<sup>31</sup> Members of the Italian community also used the YMCA as a venue to teach citizenship classes between 1913 and 1959.<sup>32</sup>

The Middletown YMCA sold their Main Street building to Sears and Roebuck Company when they moved to their Union Street location in 1928.<sup>33</sup> The cornerstone for the current building on Union Street had been laid the previous year, on November 6, 1927. The most prominent features of the 1928 construction, designed by Douglas William Orr (1892-1966), were the dormitories

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<sup>24</sup> Niles Carpenter, *Immigrants and their Children 1920: A Study Based on Census Statistics Relative to the Foreign Born and the Native White of Foreign or Mixed Parentage* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1927), 14, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1927/dec/monograph-7.html>.

<sup>25</sup> Frank Hobbs and Nicole Stoops, *Demographic Trends in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Census 2000 Special Reports* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2002), 160, <https://webarchive.loc.gov/all/20101015234215/http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/censr-4.pdf>.

<sup>26</sup> Jan Cunningham, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form: Main Street Historic District, Middletown, Connecticut," United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, 1982.

<sup>27</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, *Fourteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1920 Volume III Population 1920: Composition and Characteristics of the Population by States* (Washington D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1922), 161, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1922/dec/vol-03-population.html>.

<sup>28</sup> U. S. Census Bureau, *Fourteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1920 Volume III Population 1920: Composition and Characteristics of the Population by States* (Washington D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1922), 159, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1922/dec/vol-03-population.html>.

<sup>29</sup> Barbara Ann Cleary et al., *Middletown, Connecticut: A Survey of Historical and Architectural Resources* (The Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, 1979), 19-20.

<sup>30</sup> Peter Cunningham Baldwin, "Italians in Middletown, 1893-1932: The Formation of an Ethnic Community," (MA Thesis, Wesleyan University, 1984), 54-55.

<sup>31</sup> "The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County: Over A Century of Service to Greater Middletown," unpublished manuscript, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>32</sup> Peter Cunningham Baldwin, "Italians in Middletown, 1893-1932: The Formation of an Ethnic Community," (MA Thesis, Wesleyan University, 1984), 91.

<sup>33</sup> Elizabeth A. Warner, *A Pictorial History of Middletown* (Norfolk: Donning Company Publishers, 1990), 92-93.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

within the second and third stories.<sup>34</sup> The increase in urban population had created a need for housing in Middletown where there were three recorded lodging houses, two on College Street and one on Main Street.<sup>35</sup> This number jumped to fifteen in 1929, after the YMCA had already opened.<sup>36</sup> Young men came to the city from more rural areas seeking employment during its period of industrial growth. Shop workers had once lived above the storefront they worked in, but now newly arrived employees had to find affordable living space in the city on their own.<sup>37</sup> To address this issue, the YMCA included dormitories in their new facility.

The 1887 Milwaukee YMCA became a model for YMCA dormitories, having been one of the first buildings to feature them. Prior to their construction, YMCAs located in the downtown areas of cities often had office spaces for rent on the first story to provide income for the association, as was the case with the 1893 Middletown YMCA building. Dormitories provided an alternative form of income, as well as contributing to the organization's mission of developing young men. They were so successful that the Milwaukee YMCA constructed a building abutting their facility that solely consisted of 161 dormitory rooms. These rooms typically contained a bed, a dresser, chairs, and a washbasin.<sup>38</sup> In the case of the Middletown YMCA, its dormitory rooms contained a bed, dresser, chair, and desk in each of its 64 rooms. Eating, bathing, and cleaning were completed in shared spaces making it more of a social experience than an apartment. This was meant to give young men responsibility over their own space while also living in a group, which provided a sense of accountability.<sup>39</sup>

The dormitories at the 1928 Middletown YMCA building were so highly anticipated that all 64 rooms were claimed before the building was completed. After 1928, there was a waiting list to live at the YMCA.<sup>40</sup> If men were assigned to this waiting list, the Middletown YMCA assisted them in finding lodging elsewhere in Middletown until a room opened up.<sup>41</sup> Other features in the new YMCA building on Union Street besides dormitories were spaces for educational classes, club meetings, social events, and community activities. The building also had bowling alleys, a billiards

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<sup>34</sup> Paula Lupkin, *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern Urban Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 124.

<sup>35</sup> *Middletown and Portland Directory 1927* (New Haven: The Price & Lee Co., 1927), 401, Ancestry.com. *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line], Lehi: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

<sup>36</sup> *Middletown Portland Directory 1929* (New Haven: The Price & Lee Co., 1929), 389, Ancestry.com, *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line], Lehi: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

<sup>37</sup> Paula Lupkin, "Manhood Factories: Architecture, Business, and the Evolving Urban Role of the YMCA, 1865-1925," In *Men and Women Adrift: The YMCA and the YWCA in the City*, ed. Nina Mjagkij and Margaret Spratt (New York: New York University Press, 1997), 43-44.

<sup>38</sup> Paula Lupkin, *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern Urban Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 124.

<sup>39</sup> Paula Lupkin, *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern Urban Culture* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 125.

<sup>40</sup> "Dormitory Rooms All Full," *Our Y* 11, no. 2 (October 18, 1928), Russell Library Local History Room, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>41</sup> "'Y' Report for 1957: Serving Thousands in Middletown," newspaper clipping in Russell Library Local History Room, Middletown, Connecticut.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

room, two gyms, two handball courts (later used as racquetball courts), a pool, and separate lounges for women and men.<sup>42</sup>

New Haven architect Douglas Orr aptly fit all of these uses into his design for the 1928 YMCA building. Orr worked with Robert H. S. Booth beginning in 1916 until he opened his own practice in 1926, making this project one of his earliest works.<sup>43</sup> He designed the YMCA in Ansonia, Connecticut in 1923, followed by one in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1925, Middletown's in 1926, and the New Haven YMCA and YWCA between 1924 and 1931, with each project being allotted a larger budget than the previous.<sup>44</sup> Orr is best known for his contributions to the Yale University campus and for the Southern New England Telephone Company Administration Building in New Haven, Connecticut.<sup>45</sup> This was achieved in Orr's economical Colonial Revival style with flattened ornament that suited private organizations.<sup>46</sup> The Middletown YMCA designed by Orr located on Union Street required \$303,650 of funding, \$200,000 of which was pledged by Edward Hazen, a Middletown philanthropist and retired advertising director of Curtis Publishing Company in Philadelphia.<sup>47</sup> Hazen was a fervent supporter of the YMCA's goal to provide everything Middletown's youth needed to mature into what the organization deemed were principled citizens, and later became the Chairman of the Connecticut State Executive Committee of the YMCA.

In the early twentieth century, the YMCA began standardizing their architecture. Walter Wood, Superintendent of Education for the YMCA of Chicago, laid out the principles of YMCA construction in a 1906 edition of *The BrickBuilder* architectural magazine. Wood wrote that properly designed YMCA buildings are necessary for conducting institution activities, bringing attention to the association within its community, validating the association's commitment to the community, providing independence for the association, and bringing in income.<sup>48</sup> Key elements to be included in a YMCA building, according to Wood were a reception room, a general office, private offices with utilitarian space, a library and study room, clubrooms, classrooms, laboratories and shops, a gymnasium, a handball court, bowling alleys, locker rooms, bathroom facilities, a swimming pool, a medical examination room, a barber shop, bicycle storage, parlors, a music

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<sup>42</sup> "Y.M.C.A. Official Opening Sunday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>," *Our Y* 11, no. 1 (October 1, 1928), YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>43</sup> Christopher Wigren, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form: New Haven Lawn Club," United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, 2003.

<sup>44</sup> "Work Accomplished From 1920 to 1932," box I, folder B, Manuscripts Collection No. 128 "Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967," The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

<sup>45</sup> Colin M. Caplan, *A Guide to Historic New Haven, Connecticut* (Charleston: The History Press, 2007); "Biographical note," box I, folder Q-1, Manuscripts Collection No. 128 "Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967," The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

<sup>46</sup> Elizabeth Mills Brown, *New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976), 10.

<sup>47</sup> "Work Accomplished From 1920 to 1932," box I, folder B, Manuscripts Collection No. 128 "Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967," The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut; "An Overview of the History of the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County, Inc.," unpublished manuscript, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>48</sup> Walter M. Wood, "Buildings of the Young Men's Christian Association," *The BrickBuilder* 14 (December 1905): 264.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

room, a game room, a kitchen, a refreshment room, dormitories, and an auditorium. These spaces needed to be attractive and practical, easy to modify, and sufficiently separated so that activities did not interfere with each other but were easily visible to people moving through the building.<sup>49</sup> Wood provided the floor plans of the Oak Park YMCA in Illinois as a model (Figure 19). There are multiple similarities with the Middletown YMCA as both buildings include a pool, locker rooms, bathrooms, and bowling alleys on the basement level. Additionally, the gymnasium is located above the pool in both, with offices and social rooms nearby (though there are more in the Middletown YMCA). Club rooms are above this in the Oak Park YMCA, while they are located in the basement in Middletown. Finally, dormitories are reserved to the upper stories.

The 1928 construction project sent the YMCA into debt until the mid-1930s, when the organization took out insurance on donors. The YMCA paid insurance premiums until 1970.<sup>50</sup> During this span of time the YMCA faced financial difficulties, exacerbated during the two world wars to the point that the organization nearly closed down until funds were raised by five local churches.<sup>51</sup> During the Great Depression, the YMCA was open to the public, whether members or not, for a fee of 25 cents for a full day of access. Still, budgets during this time relied greatly on donations and income from the dormitories, making programming activity limited and membership rates almost static between the 1930s and early 1960s.<sup>52</sup> During the 1940s, the YMCA was used by servicemen on leave, and during the 1950s, the YMCA mainly served local high school youth. Major changes did not come to the YMCA until the 1960s when the men's, women's, and boys' entrances were consolidated to a single entrance on Union Street, a day care center replaced the bowling alley and soda fountain, and a youth shelter was created in the area of the women's social room.<sup>53</sup> Women's programming continued in other spaces as the YMCA attempted to draw in both male and female membership and therefore stabilize their finances. The YMCA also increased their membership by becoming a county YMCA, serving boys outside of Middletown. Each day an average of 112 out-of-town male high school students came to the YMCA, which was renamed the Northern Middlesex County YMCA in 1960 when the Middletown and the Middlesex County associations merged.<sup>54</sup> These additions to membership led to the 1972 construction project in the midst of urban unrest that caused the closure of many YMCAs in America.

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<sup>49</sup> Walter M. Wood, "Buildings of the Young Men's Christian Association," *The BrickBuilder* 14 (December 1905): 266.

<sup>50</sup> "An Overview of the History of the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County, Inc.," unpublished manuscript, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>51</sup> "100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration," unpublished manuscript, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>52</sup> "An Overview of the History of the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County, Inc.," unpublished manuscript, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>53</sup> Northern Middlesex YMCA, "A 100-Year heritage," unpublished manuscript, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>54</sup> "Open This Door to the Boys and Young Men of Middletown and Vicinity: The Y.M.C.A. A Community Center," unpublished booklet, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut; "An Overview of the History of the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County, Inc.," unpublished manuscript, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut; Joseph W. Reed, "From the Beginning: The History of the YMCA in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, October 28, 1986, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

The 1972 addition was designed by architects Don Ironside and Ed Breen of The Malmfeldt Associates based in Glastonbury, Connecticut.<sup>55</sup> The athletic space the new building provided was an answer to Middletown's Metro South Redevelopment Project that was carried out between 1965 and 1984. The project was described as "A program to rebuild, strengthen and beautify Middletown" by updating traffic arteries, installing new sewer lines, and "revitalizing" downtown.<sup>56</sup> The project involved conserving, rehabilitating, and clearing sections that were considered by the city to be areas of "decay and obsolescence" in downtown in redevelopment documents. The Metro South Redevelopment Project catered to people who had more and more leisure time, coinciding with an increase in white collar workers between 1960 and 1970, which became the largest labor force in Middletown in 1970 at 49 percent.<sup>57</sup> The City planned to create open space and recreation facilities including parks, playgrounds, and large institutions near a strong downtown area with retail businesses and services, offices, public buildings, facilities for transients, and housing.<sup>58</sup> The City determined that urban neighborhoods do not allow for spacious backyards for play and sports, and therefore facilities with swimming pools and various courts were required.<sup>59</sup>

By 1971, a fully developed Community Development Action Plan was created that asked public and private institutions in Middletown to provide athletic programs for the cultural enrichment of school-age youth.<sup>60</sup> The new pool at the YMCA in particular was viewed as a great asset to Middletown. It was one of three indoor pools in the county, the other two being at Wesleyan University and Connecticut Valley Hospital (both in Middletown), which were smaller. Swim teams from across the county came to the YMCA on Union Street to practice, including both teams from Middletown's two contemporary high schools (Vinal Technical High School and Woodrow Wilson High School).<sup>61</sup>

While there were many people who supported the idea of moving the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County to the suburban Westfield area of Middletown, the decision was made to remain downtown. Suburban development would have been less expensive, and it would have allowed for updated utilities and accessible floor plans because of larger suburban land tracts. However, local businessmen frequented the YMCA. The steam room, which was the first in town, and the pool were especially popular for men during their lunch hour. In addition, the athletic facilities at the

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<sup>55</sup> "Field Report #20 – General Meeting: Northern Middlesex Y.M.C.A. Additions and Alterations Middletown, Connecticut," unpublished manuscript, July 24, 1972, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>56</sup> Redevelopment Agency for the City of Middletown, *Middletown's Community Renewal Program: A Summary* (Middletown: City of Middletown, 1964).

<sup>57</sup> Kathy Raczka, *Plan of Development July 1975 Middletown, Connecticut* (Middletown: City of Middletown, 1975), F-8.

<sup>58</sup> Technical Planning Associates, "Middletown Connecticut: The Plan of Development," report prepared for Middletown City Plan Commission, 1965, i.

<sup>59</sup> Technical Planning Associates, "Middletown Connecticut: The Plan of Development," report prepared for Middletown City Plan Commission, 1965, 45.

<sup>60</sup> *City of Middletown Community Development Action Plan: Culture. Report No. 2.*, report prepared for the Town of Middletown, 1971, 3.

<sup>61</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021; Phil Cacciola, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 21, 2021.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

YMCA attracted people who did not live or work near Main Street who would then spend money at downtown businesses. The YMCA was a gathering spot for city youth for the larger Main Street area who would buy food and drinks in Middletown.<sup>62</sup> Therefore, many businessmen funded the YMCA downtown expansion as a nearby recreational facility and a contributor to their financial success.<sup>63</sup>

The Metro South Redevelopment project focused on the needs of white-collar workers to the detriment of low-income families who lived in the project area. The residences around the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County building were targeted for removal, being deemed as “substandard” and the “most deteriorated section of the high priority study area” with the most blight.<sup>64</sup> This residential area was planned to be replaced as a “logical extension of the central business district.”<sup>65</sup> At this time, the central business district of Middletown that the YMCA bordered had a population of 3,723, of which 742 individuals were counted as African American, and 2,971 white.<sup>66</sup> The largest ethnic group after this was Italian immigrants at 666 individuals. In Middletown in general, the Black population had increased by 93 percent between 1960 and 1970.<sup>67</sup> Individuals from all of Middletown’s largest population groups used the city’s YMCA in the late twentieth century. While the Metro South Redevelopment project favored the needs of wealthier demographics, the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County continued to serve the low-income families that were being pushed from the area despite their new construction plans being a part of the Redevelopment project.

In 1971, the process of expanding the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County began. It was listed as one of the tasks to be completed within the second phase of the Metro South Redevelopment project coinciding with the construction of elderly housing, medical practice buildings, low-income family housing, and housing for graduate and married students of Wesleyan University, among other residential, commercial, and institutional buildings within a 125-acre area.<sup>68</sup> During redevelopment, 600 families were displaced and moved to city housing, including 200 of color.<sup>69</sup> Multi-family homes to the south of the YMCA and the railroad and highway, mainly housed Black occupants during the 1960s and 1970s, who had moved in after immigrant families from earlier decades, like Italian families, moved out. By the start of the Metro South Redevelopment project, Black-owned businesses were well established along deKoven Drive just east of the YMCA of

<sup>62</sup> Phil Cacciola, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 21, 2021.

<sup>63</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021.

<sup>64</sup> Claudia Center, “Urban Renewal and Citizens’ Groups in Middletown, Connecticut,” (MA Thesis, Wesleyan University, 1987), 7; Eugene Sagadenky et al., “Report on High Priority Study Area Community Renewal Program Middletown, Connecticut,” prepared for the Middletown Redevelopment Agency, 1964, 5.

<sup>65</sup> Claudia Center, “Urban Renewal and Citizens’ Groups in Middletown, Connecticut,” (MA Thesis, Wesleyan University, 1987), 7.

<sup>66</sup> Town of Middletown, “Population,” Middletownct.gov, accessed May 10, 2022, <https://www.middletownct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1353/Planning-Units-PDF?bidId=>.

<sup>67</sup> Town of Middletown, “Population,” Middletownct.gov, accessed May 10, 2022, <https://www.middletownct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1354/Population-PDF?bidId=>.

<sup>68</sup> “Meskill Calls Groundbreaking ‘Cleanest’ He Ever Attended,” *The Hartford Courant*, May 15, 1971, ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

<sup>69</sup> Louisa McFadden Winchell, “Redeveloping Remains: Encounters with Middletown’s City-As-Archive,” (MA Thesis, Wesleyan University, 2018), 41.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

Northern Middlesex County. The razing of many Black neighborhoods in the area separated these businesses from their clients and separated the YMCA from a large percentage of its members who had once lived between Main Street and the Connecticut River.<sup>70</sup>

With the neighborhood atmosphere along Main Street being threatened, the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County actively worked to continue to function as a gathering place for locals, the displaced, and out-of-town members. To do this, the association had to address the unjust treatment of minority groups in Middletown highlighted during the Metro South Redevelopment project. The targeting of minority neighborhoods as areas to be demolished and replaced with new construction provided a clear example of this injustice. National and local civil rights activists demanded recognition of racial inequality and fought to correct the institutional systems working against gaining equality. In Middletown, where non-white individuals represented 7.3 percent of the population, a club for Black teenagers engaged in the Black Power Movement called TOPS was based across the street from the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County.<sup>71</sup> They organized often controversial demonstrations and resisted attempts to force Black families out of downtown Middletown. Many TOPS members spent free time at the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County. During the 1970s, the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County offered free time in its athletic facilities to non-members to encourage youth to gather safely within the building.<sup>72</sup> Non-YMCA-members were allowed to play table tennis or checkers in the lobby and would often register for a membership.<sup>73</sup> Meanwhile, displaced youth continued to commute to the YMCA as full members, reconnecting with people who were once their neighbors and returning to the Main Street area they were forced to leave.<sup>74</sup>

In hopes of making all members feel welcome despite attempts to relocate minority groups, the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County facilitated sensitivity workshops in Middletown. In 1969, the Youth Director of the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County, Richard Loomis, coordinated a 12-hour workshop, which brought 125 Middletown high school students and faculty members to several churches in Middletown to learn about and discuss interpersonal relationships, the interactions of Middletown citizens with different racial backgrounds, and non-verbal communication, after which students gave suggestions for improvement.<sup>75</sup> In 1971, the Executive Director of the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County Herbert G. Mayo, the Middletown Mayor, the police chief, leaders of the clergy, and Redevelopment agency officials attended a three-day training workshop where they learned effective ways to communicate with local residents while understanding their backgrounds. Patti Vassia, who served as Associate Executive Director at the time, attended in Mayo's stead afterwards for three more single-day sessions. The program was

<sup>70</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021.

<sup>71</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Chapter B: General Population Characteristics," in *1970 Census of the Population Volume I Characteristics of the Population, Part 8 Connecticut* (Washington D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1973), 36, [https://usa.ipums.org/usa/resources/voliii/pubdocs/1970/Population/Vol1/1970a\\_ct-02.pdf](https://usa.ipums.org/usa/resources/voliii/pubdocs/1970/Population/Vol1/1970a_ct-02.pdf).

<sup>72</sup> Phil Cacciola, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 21, 2021.

<sup>73</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021.

<sup>74</sup> "The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County: Over A Century of Service to Greater Middletown," unpublished manuscript, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>75</sup> Andrea La Paugh, "Sensitivity Workshop Held at Middletown High," *The Hartford Courant*, May 25, 1969, ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

called Middletown Future. Vassia also represented the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County at sensitivity workshops planned by Yale University social workers, which brought leaders of Middletown's Black community, nurses, youth, and the Community Renewal Team together once a week for the period of one year. Attendees were always interracial, with equal representation from Middletown's Black and white residents. Leaders encouraged open discussion about issues for their communities in Middletown and discussed how the city could adapt to meet the needs of all residents.<sup>76</sup> Vassia also attended a City program called Trainer of Trainers every week for two months in which two facilitators, one Black and one white, taught local organizations how educational exercises can be used to educate children and adults in civil rights awareness.<sup>77</sup>

The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County took advantage of the 1972 building project to expand on programming they offered for women. Since its early history, the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County was a rare example of a YMCA that worked with women and girls through the Ladies Auxiliary Society formed in the 1890s with 69 members.<sup>78</sup> The Middletown YMCA was the first in Connecticut to provide facilities for women in their 1893 building.<sup>79</sup> In 1919, it was one of the first YMCAs to invite women to Board of Directors meetings, and in 1928 it was among the first to hire female staff.<sup>80</sup> Women were provided with a separate entrance to the 1928 building on the west elevation and granted access to facilities, usually twice a week, along with the use of the boy's locker rooms. This amenity regularly attracted 150 women.<sup>81</sup> Once women entered the workforce during the world wars and filled jobs left vacant by military servicemen, they were no longer limited to the home sphere. Women across the United States advocated for their right not only to work, but also engage in recreational activities outside of the home, often previously reserved for men. This national history played out at a local scale in YMCAs across the country. During World War I, 5,145 women served the YMCA locally and overseas to support the troops through the operation of mobile canteen and recreational facilities.<sup>82</sup> Having served with the YMCA, it seemed reasonable that women be allowed membership after the wars. However, it was not until 1957 that the National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States of America struck exclusionary language from their purpose statement that was worded for male-only membership.

The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County encouraged the creation of what they called "Tri-Hi-Y" clubs for Christian women during the 1950s, which were geared toward high school students;

<sup>76</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021.

<sup>77</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021.

<sup>78</sup> "Springfield Alumni in Action," *The College at Springfield* III, no. 1 (May 1929); Joseph W. Reed, "From the Beginning: The History of the YMCA in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, October 28, 1986, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>79</sup> Joseph W. Reed, *Getting Started: The Beginnings of the Middletown YMCA*, (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 1986): 12.

<sup>80</sup> Joseph W. Reed, "From the Beginning: The History of the YMCA in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, October 28, 1986, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>81</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021; "'Y' Report for 1957: Serving Thousands in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, newspaper clipping in Russell Library Local History Room, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>82</sup> *YMCA in America 1851-2001: A History of Accomplishment Over 150 Years* (Chicago: National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States of America, 2000), 21.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

there were 10 such clubs in Middletown by 1958. Volleyball became popular among women during the 1950s and the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County reported hosting women volleyball players from Cromwell, Portland, East Hampton, and Middletown in 1957, while on average having 40 members within its own volleyball program.<sup>83</sup> The Northern Middlesex YMCA hired its first female president in 1966, Christie McLeod. She was the second woman in American history to serve as president of a YMCA.<sup>84</sup> In the renovated 1972 building, women were provided separate locker rooms and granted access to the facilities seven days a week, responding to the demands of committed women members of the YMCA.<sup>85</sup> There were no longer separate men, women, and boys' entrances, and everyone entered from Union Street as they do today (Photograph 3).

In preparation for the opening of the new addition, the Executive Director of the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County made four new hires that allowed for an increase in offered programs, especially those for women.<sup>86</sup> This included Patti Vassia who became Director of Women and Girls' Programs later that year.<sup>87</sup> Marketing surveys were sent out to gauge Middletown's interest in the YMCA and new programs increased immediately following these hires. Vassia herself worked 60-hour work weeks overseeing cardio, swimming (including the Mom and Tots swim program for parent and child), and volleyball programs, among others. While previous employees were not formally trained, Vassia had a degree in Physical Education and was able to create and lead the inter-Y women's volleyball team, which practiced at the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County twice a week. The Women's Board (Auxiliary) raised \$10,000 to convert hallway space in the basement level and a girl's club room that resembled a ship captain's cabin (equivalent to the log cabin style boy's club room) into women's locker rooms (see Photograph 25 for example of renovated women's locker rooms). Women members noticed the serious attention their programming was receiving and encouraged acquaintances to join so that women membership increased dramatically. An average daytime course led by Vassia was attended by 30 to 50 members, while night courses had approximately 100 participants.<sup>88</sup>

The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County was the only building in town with large, designated women's athletic space. Following the success it saw, women's health and fitness centers began to open in Middletown with low membership fees in attempts to draw women YMCA members, but the YMCA is the only one that continues to operate to this day, a testament to how successful the YMCA was at catering to their women members.<sup>89</sup> Though part of a national organization that was limited in women involvement, the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County made notable attempts to encourage female membership. For most of its history, men and women had been

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<sup>83</sup> "'Y' Report for 1957: Serving Thousands in Middletown," *The Middletown Press*, newspaper clipping in Russell Library Local History Room, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>84</sup> "Woman Leads YMCA," *The Hartford Courant*, March 30, 1966, ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

<sup>85</sup> "Y Activities For Women Are Set Up," newspaper clipping from YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>86</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021.

<sup>87</sup> "3 Staff Changes Made at YMCA," *The Middletown Press*, November 24, 1967, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>88</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021.

<sup>89</sup> Patti Vassia, personal communication with Elizabeth Correia, September 17, 2021.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

separated within the building, but beginning in the late 1960s staff actively developed the facility into the main athletic recreational space for women in Middlesex County.

In addition, in the 1970s, the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County hosted a day care program that prepared pre-school children for kindergarten and provided varied physical activities five days a week. In 1971, plans were in place to establish a state funded YMCA Day Care Center for middle income families.<sup>90</sup> This was a direct response to Middletown's Community Development Action Plan that encouraged "community institutions and individuals to take responsibility for providing a variety and quality of stimulating experiences for pre-schoolers during these important years."<sup>91</sup> The space originally used as the women's social room in the 1928 building is now the preschool (Photograph 19). A complete list of programs being offered at the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County in 1986 follows, as a representation of the varied uses of the YMCA building after the completion of the 1972 addition: group fitness, women's fitness, dance aerobics, low impact aerobics, aerobic aeroflex, cardiac rehabilitation, targeted body toning exercise, trimnastics and training exercises, women's weight training and conditioning, yoga, stress management, weight management, "Healthy and Happy Back," prenatal fitness, postnatal baby class, paramount instruction, weight-lifting, recreational volleyball, advanced volleyball, co-ed walleyball, racquetball, men's basketball, women's basketball, karate, adult judo, dog obedience, adult swimming, competitive swimming for children and adults, aquatic exercise for adults and seniors, water ballet, bio aquatics, swimming and gymnastics programs divided by age groups from 12-weeks to five years of age, parent and child swimming and gymnastics divided by age group from ages six months to two years, toddler play groups, and after-school child care.<sup>92</sup> These programs show a continued diversification in activities that contributed to the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County's longevity since its founding.

By 1935, there were 31 city and county YMCAs in Connecticut, including the YMCA in Middletown.<sup>93</sup> YMCAs in Connecticut of similar scale, age, and setting include the New Haven YMCA Youth Center, the Greater Waterbury YMCA, and the Naugatuck YMCA. All three originally had large athletic facilities as well as dormitories located in their respective downtown neighborhoods. While these facilities continue to be used as athletic and community centers, they have been renovated to varying degrees within the past 10 years, with Waterbury's being the most modernized. The New Haven YMCA has original interior features intact, and was also designed by Douglas Orr, however, the use of the building has changed. Once serving as New Haven's main downtown facility for men and boys, it now only provides programming for children and teenagers, and is also used for office space and permanent, rentable housing. The Naugatuck YMCA, which retains many original architectural features, also operates their dormitory space as permanent housing. The YMCA of Northern Middlesex County is unique as an example of a

<sup>90</sup> Daniel B. Geary, *1971 Town Guide*, Middletown: The Greater Middletown Jaycees, 1971, 53.

"CAGM Grant Confirmed," *The Middletown Press*, May 22, 1969, Russell Library microfilm.

<sup>91</sup> *City of Middletown Community Development Action Plan: Culture. Report No. 2.*, report prepared for the Town of Middletown, 1971, 3.

<sup>92</sup> "Programs for the Young, the Old, and Everyone in Between," *The Middletown Press*, October 28, 1986, YMCA of Northern Middlesex County manuscript collection, Middletown, Connecticut.

<sup>93</sup> "State Convention Of Y.M.C.A.'s Arranged," *The Waterbury Democrat*, December 19, 1935, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

downtown YMCA in Connecticut maintaining its original building, setting, and use while adapting to its surrounding community. The 1928 and 1972 sections of the building together provide varied athletic facilities with designated spaces for men, women, and children, and dormitory rooms, all of which continuously remain in use.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

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Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

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YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

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YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

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Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 1.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.556752 Longitude: -72.646305

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

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

The boundary of the property is shown on Figure 2 and corresponds to two parcels identified as Lots 284 and 285 on Tax Map 24 on file with the City of Middletown Tax Assessor's Office.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the original 1928 boundary of the YMCA (Map 24, Lot 285) and a parcel acquired in 1972 for additions to the building (Map 24, Lot 284). The associated parking lot is not included since it was acquired outside the period of significance in 1979 to meet increased parking demands.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Elizabeth Correia and Stacey Vairo  
organization: Heritage Consultants, LLC  
street & number: 830 Berlin Turnpike  
city or town: Berlin state: CT zip code: 06037  
e-mail ecorreia@heritage-consultants.com  
telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
date: May 12, 2022

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

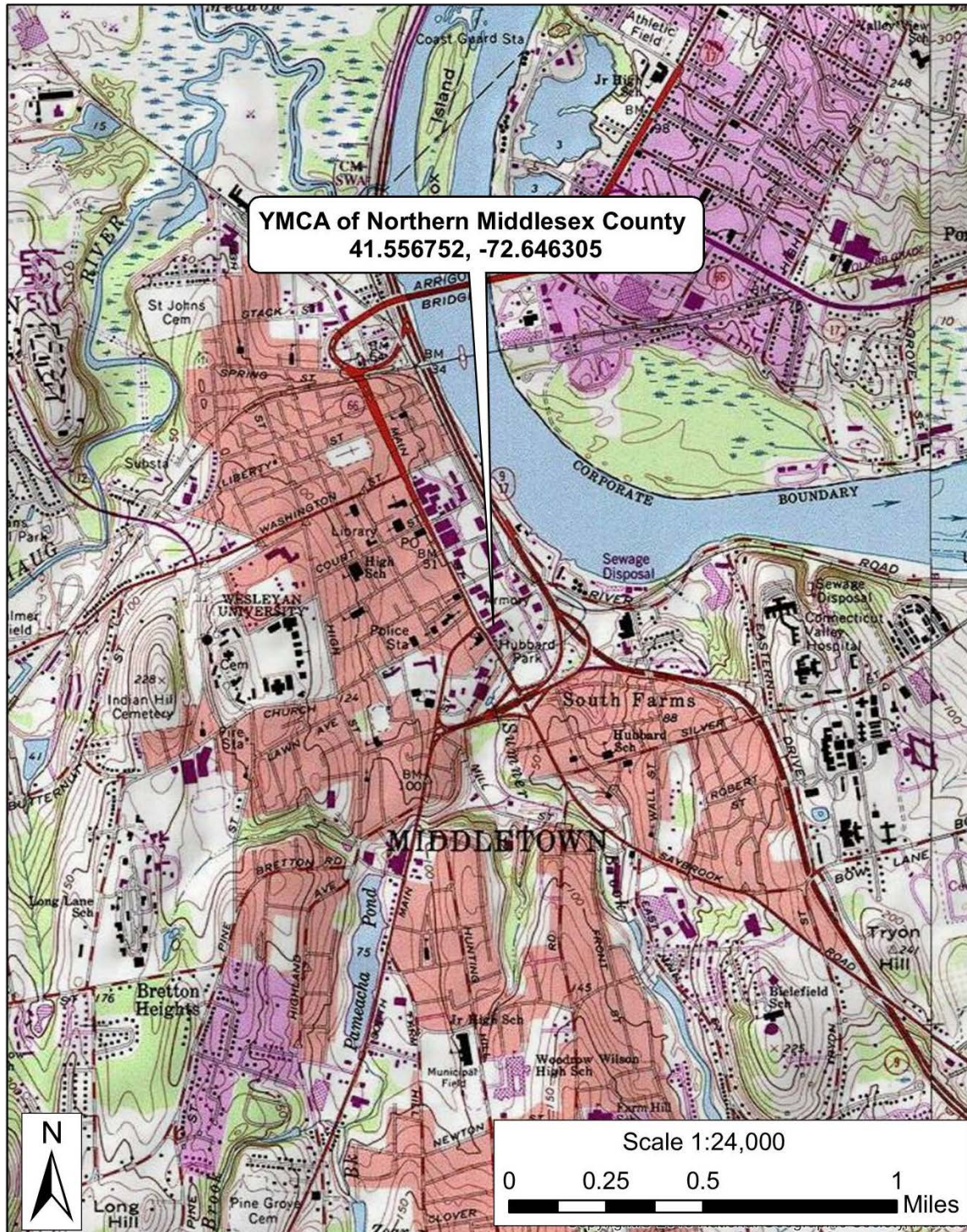


Figure 1. USGS Topographic Map, 1:24000, Middletown Quadrangle, 1992, showing location of map coordinates.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

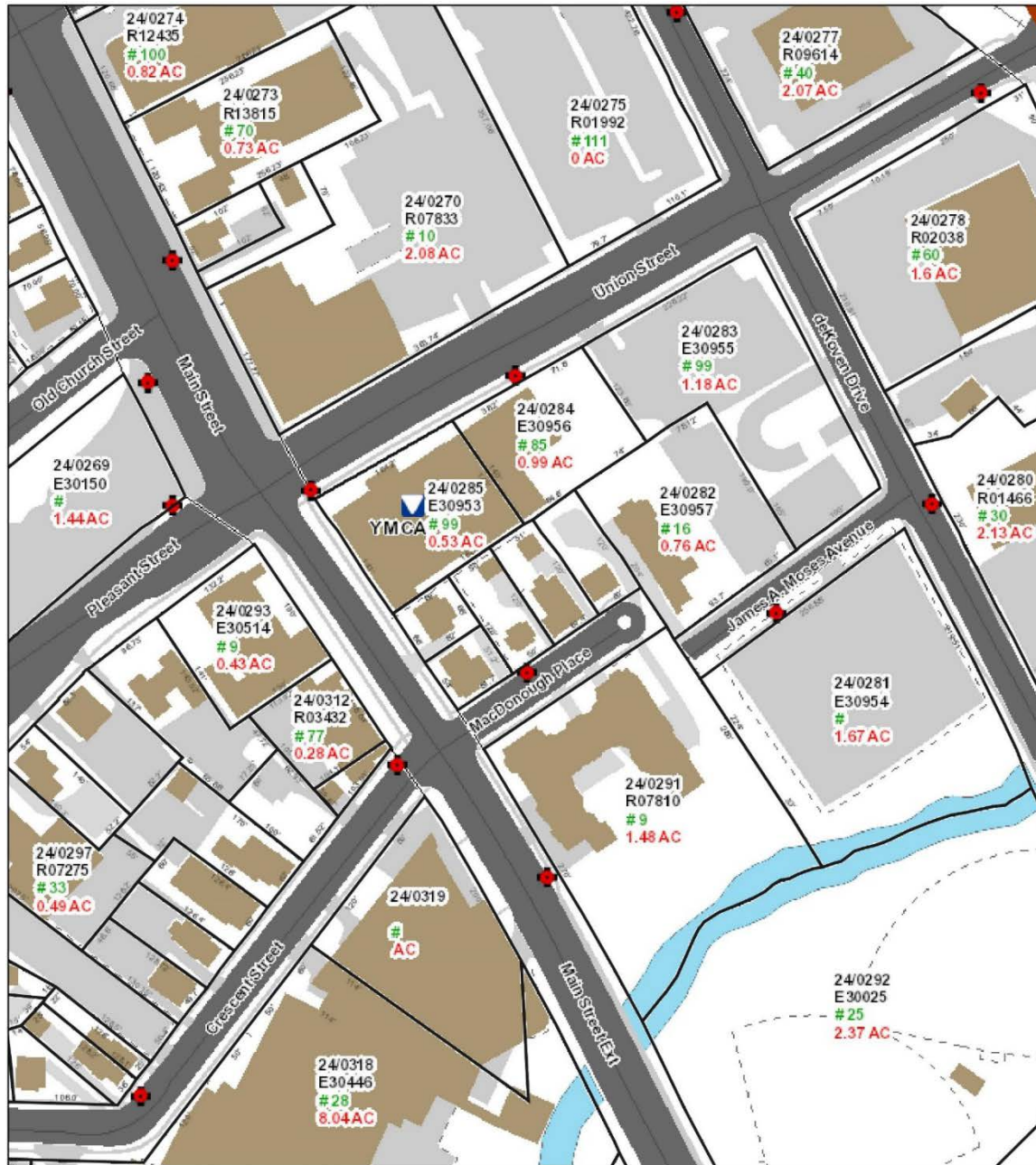


Figure 2. 2019 aerial image showing the site and location of exterior photographs (Photographs 1 through 10). The boundary of the property is outlined.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
 Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
 County and State



parcels Map generated 5/12/2022

Map Legend: <http://gis.cityofmiddletown.com/middletownct/legend.pdf>  
 <vision link>

0 0.0125 0.025 0.05 0.075 0.1 mi 1 in = 200 ft

**MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY - NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT**  
 Because of different update schedules, current property assessments may not reflect recent changes to property boundaries. Check with the Board of Assessors to confirm boundaries uses at the time of assessment.

Figure 3. City of Middletown parcel map with the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County being located at Map 24, Lots 284 and 285.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
 Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
 County and State

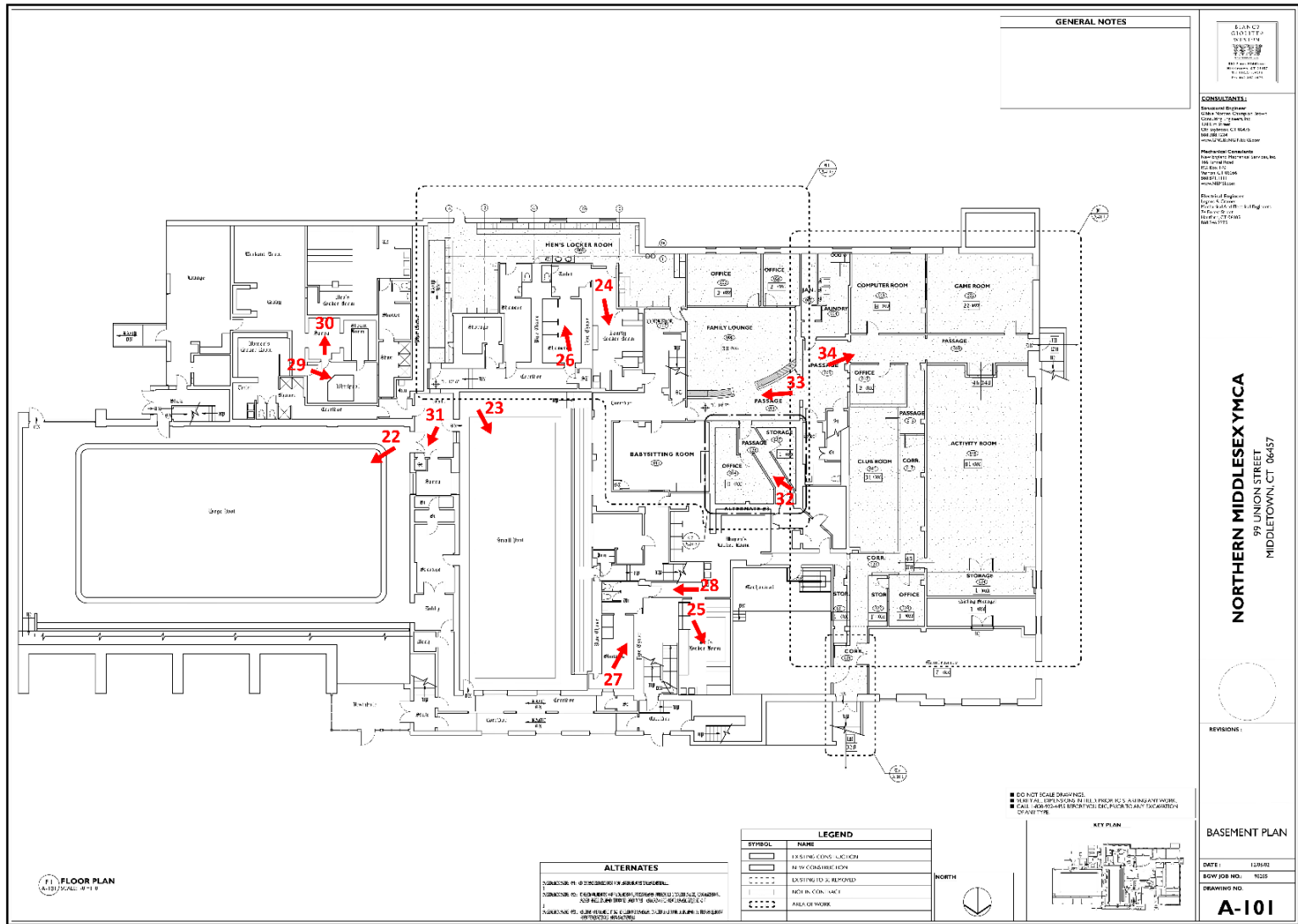


Figure 4. Plan drawing and photo key of the basement level.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
 Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
 County and State

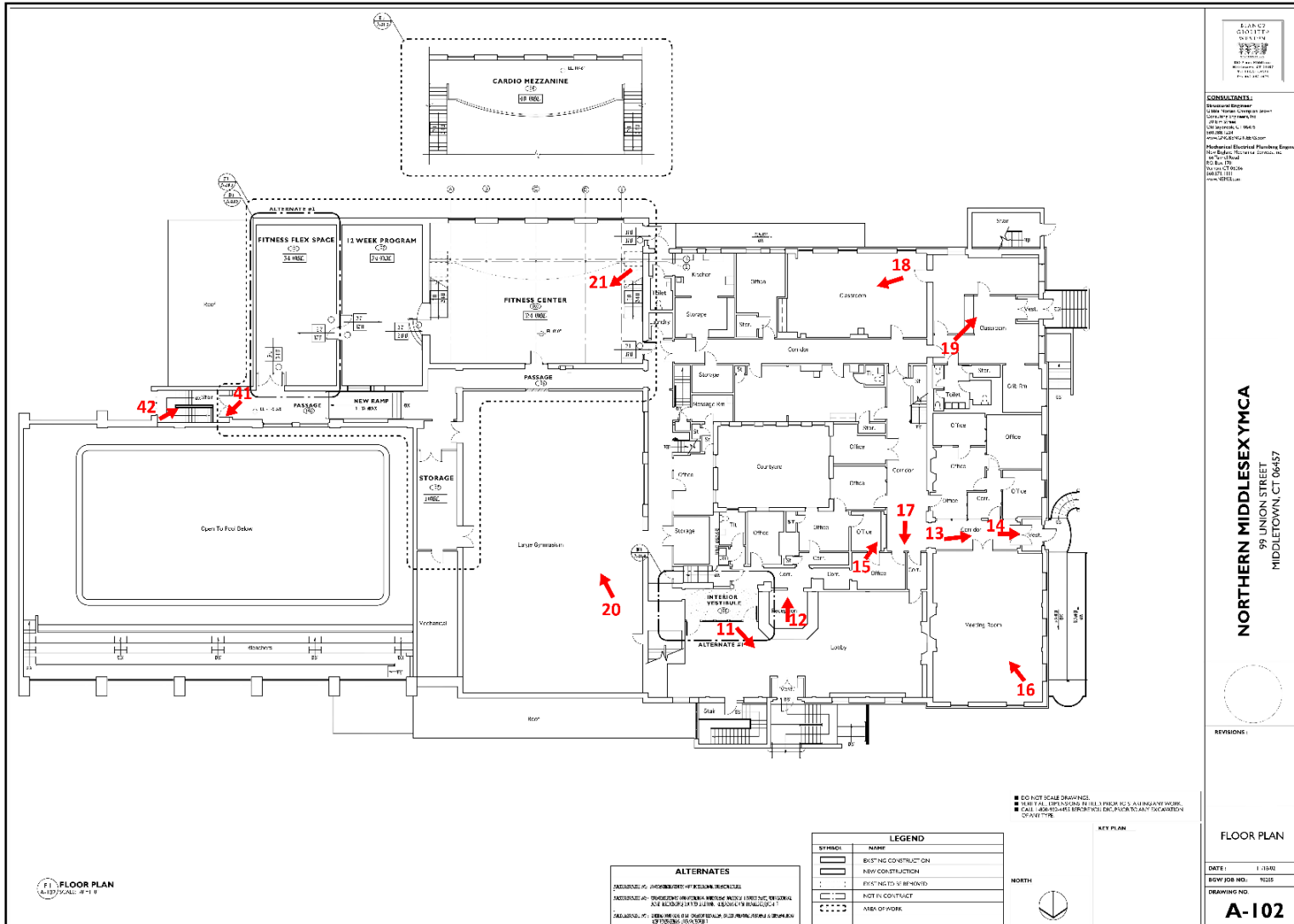


Figure 5. Plan drawing and photo key of the first floor.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 6. Plan drawing and photo key of the second floor.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

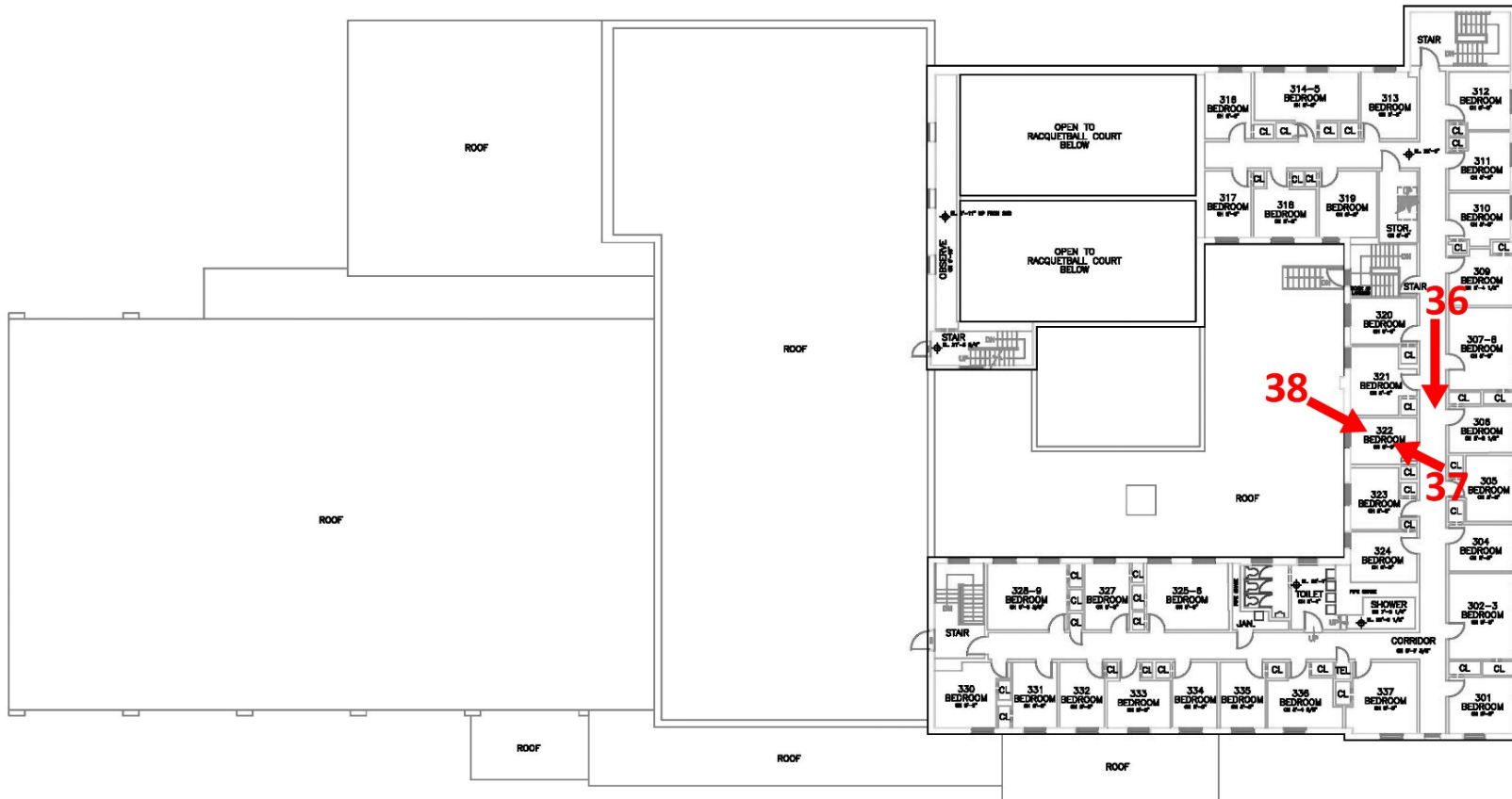


Figure 7. Plan drawing and photo key of the third floor.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 8. 1892 photo of the 274 Main Street building. Source: Middlesex County Historical Society.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 9. Photo of the 277-279 Main Street building. Source: YMCA of Northern Middlesex County archives.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 10. Drawing of the 99 Union Street building. Source: "Our Y" 2, no. 2 (October 18, 1928), archives of the YMCA of Northern Middlesex County.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 11. Historical photo of the gable end on the north elevation. Source: Manuscripts Collection No. 128 "Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967," The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

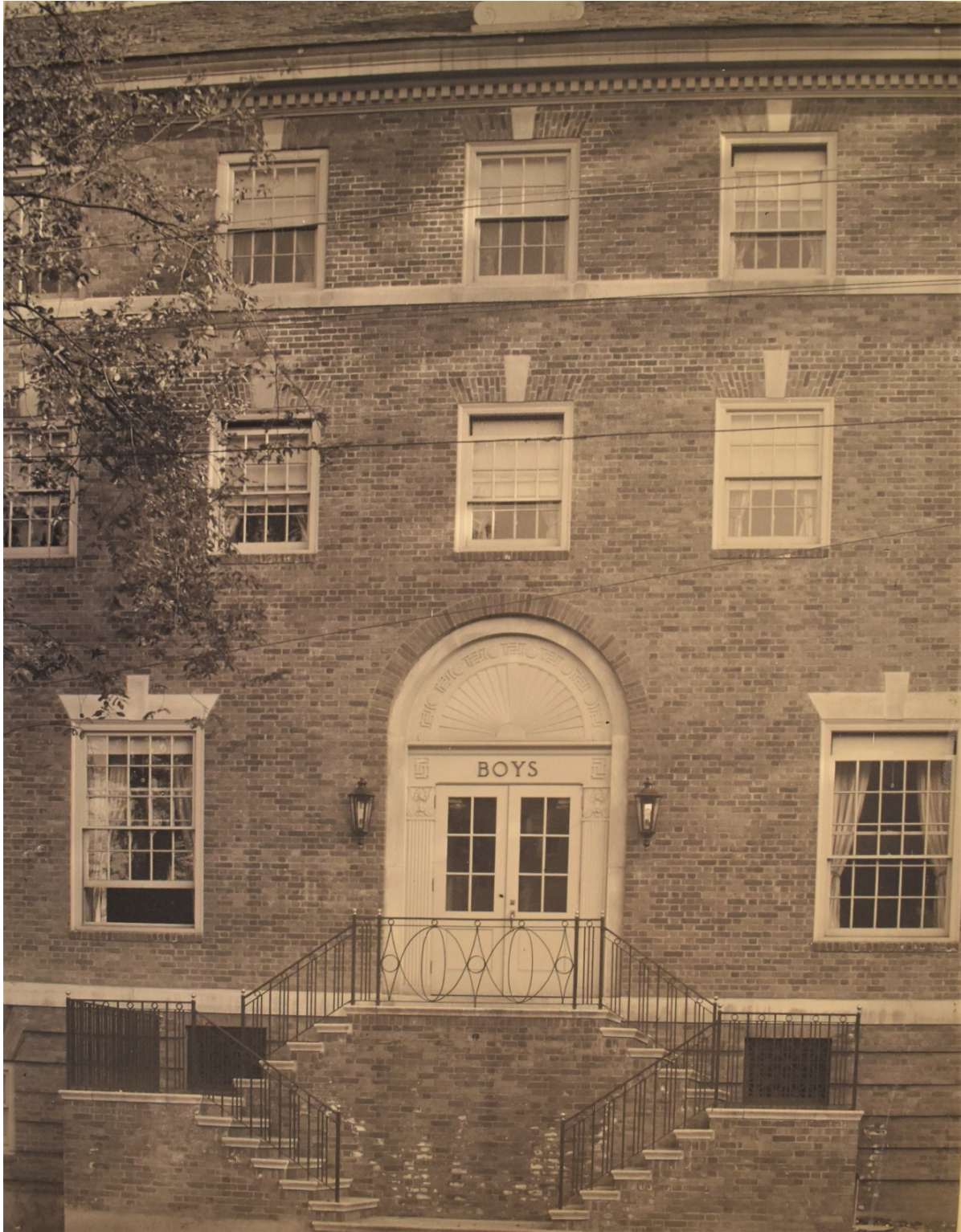


Figure 12. Historical photo of the entrance on the north elevation. Source: Manuscripts Collection No. 128 "Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967," The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 13. Historical photo of the game room (now lobby). Source: YMCA of Northern Middlesex County archives.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 14. Historical photo of the game room (now lobby). Source: Manuscripts Collection No. 128 "Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967," The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 15. Historical photo of the main entrance on the west elevation. Source: Manuscripts Collection No. 128 "Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967," The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 16. Historical photo of the basketball court. Source: Manuscripts Collection No. 128 “Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967,” The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 17. Historical photo of the gymnasium (now fitness center). Source: Manuscripts Collection No. 128 “Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967,” The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 18. Historical photo of the three-lane pool. Source: Manuscripts Collection No. 128 "Douglas William Orr Papers, 1929-1967," The Whitney Library of The New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.



YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State



Figure 19. Historical photo of a dormitory room. Source: YMCA of Northern Middlesex County archives.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

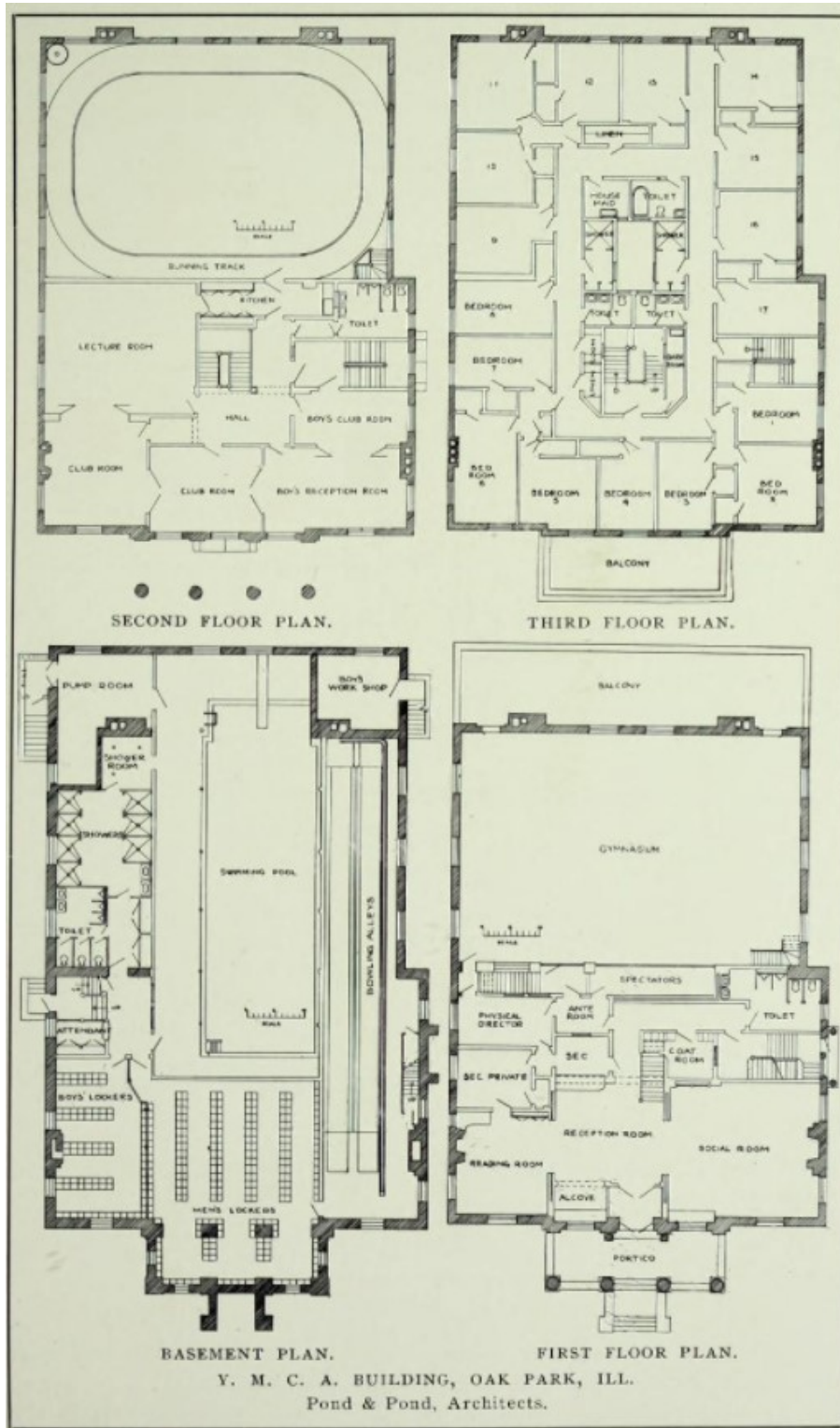


Figure 20. Plan drawings of the Oak Park YMCA. Source: Walter M. Wood, "Buildings of the Young Men's Christian Association," *The BrickBuilder* 14 (December 1905): 265.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: YMCA of Northern Middlesex County

City or Vicinity: Middletown

County: Middlesex

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Elizabeth Correia

Date Photographed: September 18, 2021 and October 19, 2021

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Photograph 1 of 42.  | West elevation. Camera facing northeast.                 |
| Photograph 2 of 42.  | West elevation. Camera facing southeast.                 |
| Photograph 3 of 42.  | North elevation. Camera facing southeast.                |
| Photograph 4 of 42.  | Western portion of north elevation. Camera facing south. |
| Photograph 5 of 42.  | Central portion of north elevation. Camera facing south. |
| Photograph 6 of 42.  | Eastern portion of north elevation. Camera facing south. |
| Photograph 7 of 42.  | North elevation. Camera facing southwest.                |
| Photograph 8 of 42.  | South elevation. Camera facing northeast.                |
| Photograph 9 of 42.  | South elevation. Camera facing northwest.                |
| Photograph 10 of 42. | East elevation. Camera facing west.                      |
| Photograph 11 of 42. | Lobby. Camera facing west.                               |
| Photograph 12 of 42. | Detail of the archway in lobby. Camera facing south.     |

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

- Photograph 13 of 42. Hallway. Camera facing west towards entrance on the west elevation.
- Photograph 14 of 42. Detail of the door and vestibule accessed via the entrance on the west elevation, originally the main entrance to the building.
- Photograph 15 of 42. Detail of the original reception desk. Camera facing southwest.
- Photograph 16 of 42. Meeting room in the northwest corner of the first floor. Camera facing southeast.
- Photograph 17 of 42. Typical doorways in the 1928 section of the building. Camera facing north.
- Photograph 18 of 42. Typical classroom in the 1928 section of the building. Camera facing east.
- Photograph 19 of 42. Pre-school in converted women's social room. Camera facing southwest.
- Photograph 20 of 42. Basketball court. Camera facing northeast.
- Photograph 21 of 42. Fitness center in converted gymnasium. Camera facing northwest.
- Photograph 22 of 42. Six-lane pool. Camera facing northwest.
- Photograph 23 of 42. Three-lane pool. Camera facing southeast.
- Photograph 24 of 42. Typical renovated locker room. Camera facing north.
- Photograph 25 of 42. Typical renovated locker room. Camera facing northwest
- Photograph 26 of 42. Typical shower room with original materials. Camera facing southeast.
- Photograph 27 of 42. Typical renovated shower room. Camera facing southwest.
- Photograph 28 of 42. Typical locker room door. Camera facing east.
- Photograph 29 of 42. Whirlpool room. Camera facing west.
- Photograph 30 of 42. Steam room interior. Camera facing south.
- Photograph 31 of 42. Sauna entrance. Camera facing north.

YMCA of Northern Middlesex County  
Name of Property

Middlesex County, CT  
County and State

- Photograph 32 of 42. Corridor originally used as the log cabin club room. Camera facing east.
- Photograph 33 of 42. Daycare. Camera facing east.
- Photograph 34 of 42. Typical modernized hallway. Camera facing west.
- Photograph 35 of 42. Hallway of second floor dormitories. Camera facing north.
- Photograph 36 of 42. Hallway of third floor dormitories. Camera facing north.
- Photograph 37 of 42. Typical dormitory room. Camera facing southeast.
- Photograph 38 of 42. Typical dormitory room. Camera facing northwest.
- Photograph 39 of 42. Typical racquetball court. Camera facing southeast.
- Photograph 40 of 42. Detail of stairwell in the center of the 1928 section of the building. Camera facing northwest.
- Photograph 41 of 42. Typical hallway door in the 1972 addition to the building. Camera facing northeast.
- Photograph 42 of 42. Typical stairwell in the 1972 addition to the building. Camera facing southwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.





Photograph 1 of 42. West elevation. Camera facing northeast.





Photograph 2 of 42. West elevation. Camera facing southeast.





Photograph 3 of 42. North elevation. Camera facing southeast.



Photograph 4 of 42. Western portion of north elevation. Camera facing south.





Photograph 5 of 42. Central portion of north elevation. Camera facing south.



Photograph 6 of 42. Eastern portion of north elevation. Camera facing south.





Photograph 7 of 42. North elevation. Camera facing southwest.





Photograph 8 of 42. South elevation. Camera facing northeast.





Photograph 9 of 42. South elevation. Camera facing northwest.





Photograph 10 of 42. East elevation. Camera facing west.





Photograph 11 of 42. Lobby. Camera facing west.



Photograph 12 of 42. Detail of the archway in lobby. Camera facing south.



Photograph 13 of 42. Hallway. Camera facing west towards entrance on the west elevation.





Photograph 14 of 42. Detail of the door and vestibule accessed via the entrance on the west elevation, originally the main entrance to the building.





Photograph 15 of 42. Detail of the original reception desk. Camera facing southwest.



Photograph 16 of 42. Meeting room in the northwest corner of the first floor. Camera facing southeast.



Photograph 17 of 42. Typical doorways in the 1928 section of the building. Camera facing north.





Photograph 18 of 42. Typical classroom in the 1928 section of the building. Camera facing east.



Photograph 19 of 42. Pre-school in converted women's social room. Camera facing southwest.





Photograph 20 of 42. Basketball court. Camera facing northeast.





Photograph 21 of 42. Fitness center in converted gymnasium. Camera facing northwest.



Photograph 22 of 42. Six-lane pool. Camera facing northwest.





Photograph 23 of 42. Three-lane pool. Camera facing southeast.





Photograph 24 of 42. Typical renovated locker room. Camera facing north.



Photograph 25 of 42. Typical renovated locker room. Camera facing northwest



Photograph 26 of 42. Typical shower room with original materials. Camera facing southeast.





Photograph 27 of 42. Typical renovated shower room. Camera facing southwest.



Photograph 28 of 42. Typical locker room door. Camera facing east.



Photograph 29 of 42. Whirlpool room. Camera facing west.





Photograph 30 of 42. Steam room interior. Camera facing south.



Photograph 31 of 42. Sauna entrance. Camera facing north.





Photograph 32 of 42. Corridor originally used as the log cabin club room. Camera facing east.





Photograph 33 of 42. Daycare. Camera facing east.



Photograph 34 of 42. Typical modernized hallway. Camera facing west.



Photograph 35 of 42. Hallway of second floor dormitories. Camera facing north.





Photograph 36 of 42. Hallway of third floor dormitories. Camera facing north.



Photograph 37 of 42. Typical dormitory room. Camera facing southeast.



Photograph 38 of 42. Typical dormitory room. Camera facing northwest.





Photograph 39 of 42. Typical racquetball court. Camera facing southeast.



Photograph 40 of 42. Detail of stairwell in the center of the 1928 section of the building. Camera facing northwest.



Photograph 41 of 42. Typical hallway door in the 1972 addition to the building. Camera facing northeast.





Photograph 42 of 42. Typical stairwell in the 1972 addition to the building. Camera facing southwest.