

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

REFNUM 82001491

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered 11/4/82

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

1. Name

historic The Young Women's Christian Association

and/or common Akron YWCA Building

2. Location

street & number 146 South High Street

not for publication

city, town Akron

vicinity of 14
(John Seiberling)

state Ohio 44308

code 039

county Summit

code 153

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name R C Properties (Anthony Rodriguez & Steven S. Cohen)

street & number 1655 West Market Street

city, town Akron

vicinity of

state Ohio 44313

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Summit County Recorder's Office

street & number 175 South Main Street

city, town Akron

state Ohio 44308

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Akron Historic Landmark Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July-September, 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Department of Planning and Urban Development

city, town Akron

state Ohio 44308

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The ten-storey building of the Young Women's Christian Association is essentially Art Deco in style, but shows strong Neoclassic Revival influence. It is of ivory brick laid in common bond, and is divided visually into four horizontal sections by three sill courses: at the third floor, one at the seventh, and another at the tenth. The piano nobile (encompassing two floors) is of limestone, with an emphasized water table, from which rises a colossal round arch entry with five bas-relief panels set at intervals in the voussoirs. The entry doors and spandrel, however, have been drastically altered in recent modernizations. The entry is flanked on either side by six aligned windows, three each on the first and second floors. To the far right of the entry are three fan-lighted colossal windows, illuminating a 500-seat auditorium. Two series of out-size windows, spanning three floors, are positioned above these, the first for a 25' x 60' swimming pool, the other for a gymnasium. The three involved spandrels contain symbolic terra-cotta medallions. The architects' intent for these related windows has been diminished somewhat by the replacement of the pool openings with glass block.

The prominent terra-cotta sill course at the seventh floor employs a strong geometric design and perhaps symbolizes that the seventh floor and above are residence halls, while the six floors below are for public use. A lesser but stylistically related course is used at the tenth floor, and a pronounced but complementary terra-cotta cornice is found at the parapet. The third-floor sill course is of limestone and caps the stone facing of the piano nobile. Decorative terra-cotta lintels define the third-floor windows; escutcheoned lunettes dress the tenth-floor windows, except for trabeated lintels at the ends.

The YWCA, set on a corner lot, faces east on a major north-south artery, now one-way south-bound, and is unusual in that all four elevations are in finished materials with matching detailing. Although less elaborate, the rear and formerly partly obstructed north side utilize the same brick and carry the same sill courses as the corner elevations. On the facade, corner side, and rear, wrought iron suggesting balconies was used at paired windows on the first, sixth, and ninth floors, all of it having been removed in recent years. There is a prominent two-storey penthouse with hipped barrel-tile roof above the tenth floor which houses a laundry as well as machinery.

The south elevation, completely exposed to the intersecting side street, features in the piano nobile a pair of two-storey bay windows sheathed in cast aluminum with symbolic emblems in both spandrels. The southwest corner of the building, somewhat less than a right angle, is boldly rounded, emphasized by vertical indentations at the adjoining walls. Because of the extreme slope of Bowery Street, an additional exposed floor is gained at the rear. The rounded corner on this extra floor embraces an entryway formerly leading to a coffee shop.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1930-1931 **Builder/Architect** Clemmer-Noah Construction Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Fichter & Brooker, Architects

The Akron YWCA Building is significant for its association, both architecturally and socially, with the period of greatest development in downtown Akron, the "rubber boom" years from 1910-1930. Architecturally, the building displays elements of the Art Deco style in its setbacks, ornamental geometric design terra cotta barding lintels and medallions. Through this style, the building serves as a vital component within downtown Akron, reflecting and complimenting the other major buildings built in this period in the area (YMCA, 1931; Mayflower Hotel, 1931; First National Tower, 1931) Socially, the YWCA Building is a physical manesfestation of the humanitarian concerns of the mercantile interests developing in the growing city of Akron. At this time, the city increased in population from 65,000 to over 230,000 people. This growth produced a desire among businessmen to provide a location for organized religious meetings, recreation & accomadation for women with the growing urban area. The YWCA Building continues to largely define the visual character of the downtown Akron today, while at the same time physically linking the present downtown to the most important period in its development.

Organized on March 29, 1901, the YWCA occupied rented rooms until 1907, when it moved into the Grace House at 22 South High Street. The tremendous growth in Akron's population from 1910 and into the 1920's made Grace House increasingly unable to meet the YWCA's expanding program needs. The Akron YMCA was experiencing the same pressures, and in 1929 the YWCA and YMCA mounted a joint fund raising drive to raise \$2,400,000 to erect new homes for both organizations. Seven thousand people subscribed, and in only ten days a total of \$2,100,897 had been pledged. Work began on both buildings in 1930. The new YWCA building was built two blocks south of Grace House, on a site purchased in 1922. It was designed by Fichter and Brooker (J. Adam Fichter and Harry A. Brooker), a leading Akron architectural firm of the period and is the largest structure ever designed by the company. The Clemmer-Noah Construction Company received the construction contract for the building. Work began on February 7, 1930, and the building was dedicated on January 28, 1931. The cost was \$857,000. A little over a month later, on March 10, the YMCA opened its doors to its new facility on Bowery Street.

9. Major Bibliographical References

AKRON AND SUMMIT COUNTY, Karl H. Grismer (1952), pp 431-434, p 619
Akron Historic Landmark Survey (1978), #SUM 380-16 (Michael H. Adams)
"Akron Topics" Magazine (December, 1929), p 5
Original Working Drawings, Fichter & Brooker, Architects (1929)
~~Interview with George Fichter, Son of I. Adam Fichter~~

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/3 (14,300 sq. ft.)

Quadrangle name Akron West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	4	5	6	5	2	0	4	5	4	7	6	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #6, 7, 8, & 9 (King Allotment), 143' x 100'

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James A. Pahlau and James Strider

organization N/A date August 1980

street & number 465 South Portage Path telephone 1/216/535-1120

city or town Akron state Ohio 44320

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature W. Ray Luce

title SHPO date 9/23/82

For NPS use only

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

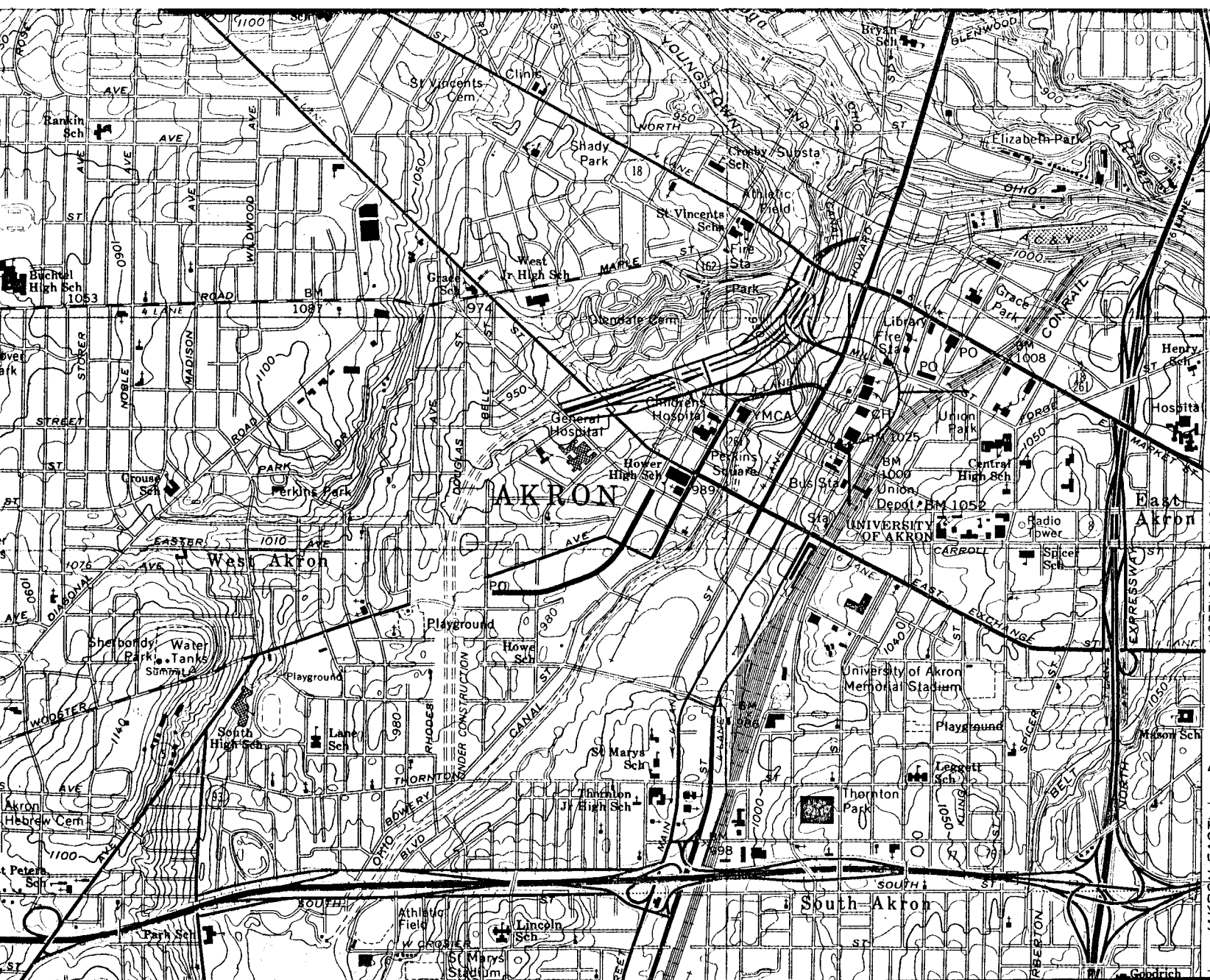
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Akron YWCA Building
Akron, Summit County
17 456/520 East
4547/680 North

4548
5'
NORTH CANTON 16 MI.
4546
T 2 N
(AKRON EAST)
4766 III SW
YOUNGSTOWN 40 MI.

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

November 26, 1982

Mr. Anthony Rodriquez

R.C. Properties

~~1655 West Market Street~~

Akron, Ohio 44313

*Suite 600
146 So High St*

Dear Mr. Rodriquez:

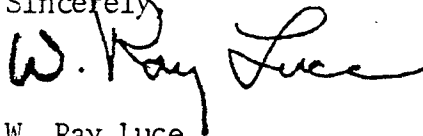
I am pleased to inform you that the Young Women's Christian Association has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

146 South High Street
Akron, Ohio

Sincerely,



W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL:dd

enclosure

X.c: Roy L. Ray, Mayor
Summit County Historical Society
NEFCO
Senator Oliver Ocasek
Representative Crossland
Jeffrey Brown

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Young Women's Christian Association

County: Summit

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photograph(s)

Photograph(s) (copies)

USGS map(s)

USGS map(s) (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other _____
