

12. Describe the architecture and present condition of the structure, also including any outbuildings or other appurtenant features to be included in the designation. If the property has been restored, what were the dates of restoration and was the restoration done under the supervision of any historical group or in compliance with their requirements. If the property has not been restored, is any restoration planned for the property?
13. Is the property listed in any existing Historic Register or survey (i.e., the National Register of Historic Places or any other state or local history)? If so, please give the title of the listing.

In addition to the written application, the following materials must be submitted simultaneously:

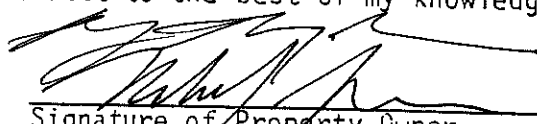
- a black and white, 8" x 10" overall photograph clearly depicting the property being designated.
- color slides showing all 4 sides of the building (may also include any architectural details, interior and exterior, which add to the property's significance)
- a map showing the location of the property, including any outbuildings and appurtenant features

(Please label the above materials with the name of the property owner)

APPLICATION FEE \$50.00 (Check payable to Forsyth County)

The following information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date 9/22/95


Signature of Property Owner

Mailing Address:

315 N. Spruce Street, #215

Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2764

Telephone: [REDACTED]

See continuation sheet.

Spruce Street YMCA, p. 3

2. Owner's Name and Address:

Lot 511A Horn & Stronach
315 N. Spruce St., #215
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2764

Lots William K. Pixley d/b/a Oldtown Properties
511B & H 7990-68 North Point Blvd., #117
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Lot 511D R. Kenneth Babb
1619 Thorncliff St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104-3232

Lot 511G Carroll L. & Kay L. Teeter
257 Ivy Circle
Advance, NC 27006-8504

Lot 512 Spruce Street Associates Ltd.
P. O. Box 12060
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

6. The building at 315 N. Spruce Street was built in 1927 for the Young Men's Christian Association. The building was used as the YMCA until 1973. Throughout those years and for more than a decade thereafter, the building remained largely unaltered. In 1985 the Adaron Group, Inc. substantially rehabilitated the interior of the building for adaptive re-use as offices and retail space on the main floor and as apartments on the basement and upper three floors. The exterior was left essentially in its original form. The gymnasiums, social rooms, reading room, and YMCA offices of the main floor were converted to open retail spaces connected by tile-floored halls leading from the two front entrances and transversing the building at midpoint. Since 1993, the retail spaces have been converted through the use of solid walls and moveable partitions to four suites of offices which retain such original features as hardwood gym floors, tiled fireplaces, molded plaster cornices, and paneled wainscots. The original pool, showers, locker rooms, and banquet hall of the basement gave way in the 1985 renovation to a central workout room, storage and mechanical rooms, and seven apartments. The 116 dormitory rooms and squash, racquetball, and handball courts of the upper three floors of the building were converted in 1985 to thirty-two one- and two-bedroom apartments surrounding a skylighted atrium with garden, glass elevator, and open-railed surrounding walkways.

7. The Spruce Street YMCA was designed by Winston-Salem architect Harold Macklin with the assistance of the national

Spruce Street YMCA, p. 4

YMCA's Building Bureau in New York. Macklin's plans are in possession of the Calloway, Johnson, Moore & West architectural firm in Winston-Salem. The building was constructed by the Northeastern Construction Company of New York. Hakan/Corley & Associates of Chapel Hill designed the 1985 renovations, and copies of those plans are held by Gwynne S. Taylor of Winston-Salem.

8. Photographs from the 1920s exist in the Frank Jones Photograph Collection of the Forsyth County Public Library.
9. In 1923 the YMCA purchased two lots, known as the Philips property and the Shepherd property, on the east side of N. Spruce Street between W. Fourth Street and Holly Avenue. (NR nomination)

On December 21, 1971, the YMCA sold the building to the Redevelopment Commission of Winston-Salem. (DB 1027, p. 369)

On December 28, 1984, the City of Winston-Salem sold the building to Adaron Group Inc. (DB 1469, p. 662) On the same day, Adaron Group Inc. transferred a portion of the property (newly created lot 511) to Adaron Winston-Salem Retail Inc. (DB 1469, p. 821) and the remaining portion (newly created lot 512) to Spruce Street Associates Ltd. (DB 1469, p. 744)

Since 1993 lot 511 has been subdivided several times. On June 24, 1993, Horn and Stronach purchased lot 511A. On July 7, 1993, William K. Pixley purchased lots 511B & C. On June 10, 1994, lot 511C was subdivided into lot 511D, which was acquired by R. Kenneth Babb, and lot 511E, which remained in Pixley's ownership. On October 24, 1994, lot 511E was subdivided into lot 511G, which was purchased by Carroll L. and Kay L. Teeter, and lot 511H, which Pixley retained. (Forsyth County Tax Records)

Spruce Street Associates Ltd., Horn and Stronach (marketing, advertising, and public relations), William K. Pixley (real estate), R. Kenneth Babb (attorney), and Carroll L. Teeter (attorney) and Kay L. Teeter remain the current owners of record.

10. The building served the various activities of Winston-Salem's Young Men's Christian Association from its construction in 1927 until 1976, when the new YMCA building was completed in the West End. (NR nomination) Since 1985 the Spruce Street building has been utilized as 39 apartments and several offices. The building has never been moved.
11. The former Spruce Street YMCA building is a significant example of 1920s civic architecture in Winston-Salem. The

Spruce Street YMCA, p. 5

handsome four-story Classic Revival structure was designed by prominent Winston-Salem architect Harold Macklin. Located in Winston Salem's central business district, the building served the men and boys of the community as the "Y" from its construction in 1927 until 1976, when the new West End YMCA building was completed. Additionally, for forty-nine years the Spruce Street YMCA served newcomers to Winston-Salem with its 116 dormitory rooms. The Spruce Street building represents the era of "Y" work in which a downtown location was emphasized to attract young men who were entering the business and professional world and who needed a place to stay until they obtained a financial foothold. The construction of the Spruce Street YMCA was part of the 1920s building boom in Winston-Salem when the tremendous wealth generated by tobacco, textiles, and other industries enabled businessmen and others to finance and build substantial civic and commercial buildings. From its founding in October, 1888, the Winston-Salem YMCA has garnered the financial and volunteer support of the business and civic leaders of the community, and the Spruce Street building stands as a reminder of the longevity and importance of the "Y" program and as evidence of the long-standing tradition of philanthropy in Winston-Salem. (For this and additional information on the significance and history of the former Spruce Street YMCA, refer to the accompanying NR nomination.)

12. The 1927 Spruce Street YMCA building is in excellent condition. It has not been restored, but in 1985 it underwent a sensitive adaptive re-use rehabilitation which converted the interior from 116 dormitory rooms and various recreational and social meeting rooms, gymnasiums, pool, and locker rooms to thirty-nine apartments, a central atrium, storage and recreation rooms, and several offices. Significant interior features which survive from the years when the building was the YMCA include doors and woodwork associated with the front entrances, molded plaster cornices and wood-paneled wainscots in the front offices, large tile-faced fireplaces at the north and south ends of the building, and hardwood gymnasium flooring at the rear of the building. All of these features are located on the main floor.

The Spruce Street YMCA is a four-story-plus-basement brick building with limestone trim. Exterior decorative features are focused on the facade, where Classical Revivalism reigns. The Flemish bond brickwork of the long facade forms a background of color and texture against the limestone detailing of the water table, string courses, cornice, corner quoins, central pilasters, classical entrances, and keystone windows. The rear and all but the front portions of the side elevations are severely plain, not originally

Spruce Street YMCA, p. 6

intended to be seen by the general public in an urban commercial setting.

The basement level of the interior features seven apartments and a large storage room which encircle a hallway and central workout room and elevator. Various mechanical and maintenance rooms are also found at this level. A pair of impressive classical entrances lead from the exterior to the main level of the building, which is composed of four office complexes. The former men's and boys' social rooms and reading room across the front of the building retain original molded plaster cornices, paneled wainscots, and large tiled fireplaces while they have been divided (in 1993) by a combination of solid walls and moveable partitions into offices, work spaces, and conference rooms. Across the rear of the main floor, where the gymnasiums originally were, walls and moveable partitions have created two suites of offices. Here the hardwood gym floors remain. The upper three floors are divided into thirty-two one- and two-bedroom apartments which surround a central atrium with a small garden and gazebo at the bottom, skylights across the top, and a glass elevator. Open walkways line the atrium at each floor level.

For additional information on the architectural character of the building, refer to the accompanying color slides, the accompanying NR nomination (section 7) and to question 6 of this form.

13. The Spruce Street YMCA building was included in the historic and architectural survey of Forsyth County, as published in Gwynne Stephens Taylor's From Frontier to Factory: An Architectural History of Forsyth County (1981). It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Spruce Street YMCA, p. 7

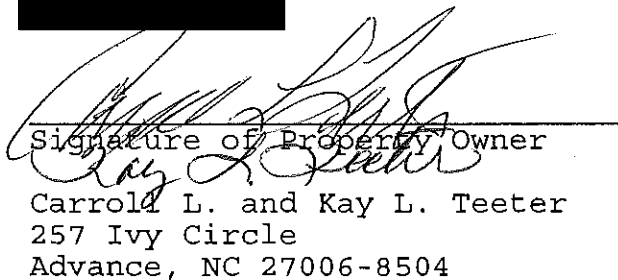
Signatures of Property Owners cont'd. --

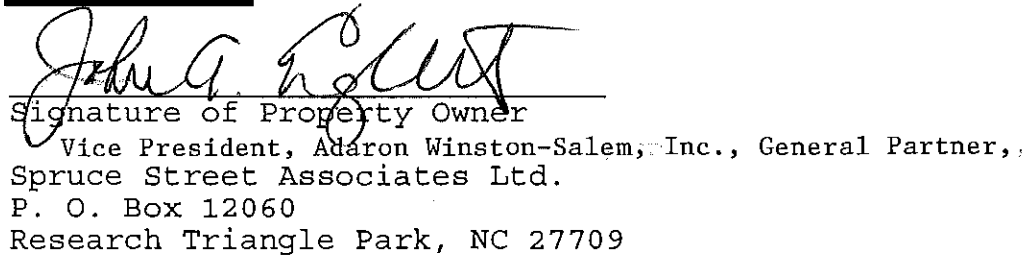

Signature of Property Owner

William K. Pixley
7990-68 North Point Blvd., #117
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
[REDACTED]


Signature of Property Owner

R. Kenneth Babb
1619 Thorncliff St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27104-3232
[REDACTED]


Signature of Property Owner
Carroll L. and Kay L. Teeter
257 Ivy Circle
Advance, NC 27006-8504
[REDACTED]


Signature of Property Owner
Vice President, Adaron Winston-Salem, Inc., General Partner,
Spruce Street Associates Ltd.
P. O. Box 12060
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709



225 3015 9-00 35 9

-8 40 48 -01 34 0900

SPRUCE STREET YMCA
315 N. SPRUCE ST.
WINSTON-SALEM
9/95, LAWY

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

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1. Name

historic (former) Spruce Street YMCA

and or common Spruce Street YMCA

2. Location

street & number 315 North Spruce Street not for publication

city, town Winston-Salem vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Forsyth code 067

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Winston-Salem

street & number Post Office Box 2511

city, town Winston-Salem vicinity of state North Carolina 27102

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Forsyth County Hall of Justice, Register of Deeds

street & number Main Street

city, town Winston-Salem state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

From Frontier to Factory, An Architectural
title History of Forsyth County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records N.C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Architecture -- YMCA

The former Young Men's Christian Association Building stands on the east side of Spruce Street near its intersection with Fourth Street in downtown Winston-Salem. The four-story brick and limestone structure with Classic Revival detailing served the men and boys of the community as the "Y" from 1927 until 1976.¹ The Spruce Street YMCA was designed by Harold Macklin, a Winston-Salem architect who also used the assistance of the national YMCA's Building Bureau in New York.² The building was constructed by the Northeastern Construction Company of New York.³ Macklin's design for the "Y" remained relatively unaltered throughout the forty-nine years of the building's use.

The exterior of the YMCA is brick and features Classic Revival limestone detailing. The center of the building is divided by limestone pilasters in the Corinthian order into three bays centered over the two main entrances. In addition, the limestone Classic Revival detail on the exterior of the YMCA includes angle quoins, a belt course between the first and second floors, and the Boys and Men's entrances. The entrances, which face Spruce Street, have arched openings with carved keystones flanked by fluted Corinthian pilasters which support a full entablature. On the frieze of the entablature in V-cut letters are the words "Men" and "Boys," and the cornice features bead and reel molding and dentil work. The limestone cornice above the arched entrance supports iron balconies with polished brass finials and rosettes and a central panel which bears the initials "YMCA" in intertwined ironwork. The bay between the Men's and Boys' entrances on the Spruce Street level is filled with a limestone area scored to resemble cut stone and defined by a three-part Palladian window. The building also features a limestone frieze which wraps around the building and supports a limestone cornice with dentil molding.

Fenestration in the Spruce Street "Y" consists of round-headed windows on the first floor and eight-over-eight sash windows on the upper floors. The round-headed windows feature carved limestone keystones at the head and a balustrade across the sill. In the central bays of the building over the entrances, the sash windows on the second floor level feature limestone surrounds and hoods, and the third floor windows feature keystone lintels of limestone. On the rest of the Spruce Street facade and on the corners of the north and south elevations, the windows of the upper floors have brick arches with limestone keystones. Under

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the arched Mens and Boys entrances, flights of granite steps lead to Palladian-style doors with arched transoms and sidelights. On the interior of the first floor is a Reading Room between the two entrances, and the Men's entrance leads directly into a lobby which features a Check Room and a semi-circular Attendant's desk. (This lobby area burned in January, 1984.) The lobby is lighted and ventilated by a skylight. To the right of the Men's entrance is the Men's Social Room with an oak-paneled dado and a fireplace featuring a tile surround and a tile hearth, and this room has direct access to the stairwell leading to the dormitories on the upper floors. Offices for the General Secretary, the Industrial Secretary, the Boys' Secretary and the Physical Director are placed in the center of the building. The Boys' entrance leads directly into a separate lobby where there is an attendant's counter, although it is smaller than the lobby which serves the Men's entrance. To the left of the Boys' entrance is a large oak-paneled room like the Men's Social Room which Macklin called the Young Boys Social Room. It also features a tile fireplace.

At the back of the building, behind both the Boys and Mens Social rooms and the offices of the "Y," are the main gymnasium and the auxiliary gym. The main gym featured an overhead track and basketball courts, and the auxiliary gym is an open area which was used for special classes. Underneath the main gymnasium, on the basement level, is the natatorium or swimming pool. It is twenty feet wide by sixty feet long and is lined with white tile. A spectator's section overlooks the pool and is separated from the deck of the pool by brass rails. The deck of the pool also features decorative tile. The heating, ventilating and swimming pool equipment was installed by the engineering firm of Wiley and Wilson from Lynchburg, Virginia, and the tile was provided by Wesley Soan of Philadelphia.⁴

The pool area is bordered on two sides of the basement level by showers, locker rooms, storage rooms, and drying rooms. There are separate showers and locker rooms for boys, "seniors," and "businessmen."⁵ The locker rooms lead into a basement lobby. Along the Spruce Street side of the building on the basement level is a banquet hall which is 82x22 feet and can seat 150 people. Adjoining the hall is a "perfectly and modernly equipped kitchen."⁶ The banquet hall features a fireplace with a tile surround, and "folding partitions" are "furnished so that five rooms can be made out of this hall."⁷

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The second, third and fourth floors are devoted to one-hundred sixteen dormitory rooms. The rooms contain two closets but feature no decorative woodwork. The floor plan of the upper floors contains a central corridor with rooms along the outside walls and one shower room, washroom and toilet for each floor on the inside wall. The hall is accented by a chairrail, and the door to each room is surmounted by a transom. Each floor also features a linen closet, a storage closet and trunk room. Parts of the third and fourth floors are occupied in the center by two squash and racquetball courts and the handball courts.

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Architectural Footnotes

¹Harold Macklin, "Building for Young Men's Christian Association, Winston-Salem, N.C.," architectural drawings in possession of Calloway, Johnson and Moore, architects, Winston-Salem, N.C., hereinafter cited as Macklin, drawings; author's interview with Whitfield B. East, Community Relations Director, Winston-Salem YMCA, February 9, 1984, hereinafter cited as East interview.

²Winston-Salem Journal, "Plans Completed for Building, A credit to the Community," September 10, 1924, hereinafter cited as Journal, "Plans Completed."

³Macklin, drawings; "General Contract, Winston-Salem YMCA, Northeastern Construction Company," contract in possession of Whitfield B. East, Winston-Salem Central YMCA.

⁴"Specifications, Heating, Ventilating and Swimming Pool Equipment to be installed in new YMCA Building Winston-Salem, N.C.," Wiley and Wilson, consulting engineers, contract in possession of Whitfield B. East, Winston-Salem Central YMCA.

⁵Macklin, drawings.

⁶Journal, "Plans Completed."

⁷Journal, "Plans Completed."

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 checked="" 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	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 1927 **Builder/Architect** Harold Macklin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significance Statement

Spruce Street YMCA

The former Spruce Street building of the Young Men's Christian Association in Winston-Salem is a four-story Classic Revival structure designed by Winston-Salem architect Harold Macklin.¹ It stands in the midst of the city's downtown business district, and it served the men and boys of the community as the "Y" from 1927 until 1976 when the new West End building was completed.² In addition, for forty-nine years the Spruce Street YMCA served newcomers to Winston-Salem with its one hundred and sixteen dormitory rooms. The Spruce Street building remains from an era of "Y" work in which a downtown location was emphasized to attract young men who were entering the business and professional world and who needed a place to stay until they obtained a financial foothold. The Spruce Street YMCA was built during the 1920s building boom in Winston-Salem when the tremendous wealth generated by tobacco, textiles and other industries enabled businessmen and others to finance and build substantial civic and commercial buildings. From its founding in October, 1888, the Winston-Salem YMCA has garnered the financial and volunteer support of the business and civic leaders of the community, and the Spruce Street building stands as a reminder of the longevity and importance of the "Y" program and as evidence of the long-standing tradition of philanthropy in Winston-Salem.³

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Criteria Assessment

A. The Spruce Street YMCA is associated with the boom period of the 1920s in Winston-Salem when the tremendous wealth generated by tobacco, textile and other industries enabled businessmen and others to finance and build substantial civic and commercial structures in the city.

B. The Spruce Street YMCA is associated with prominent 1920s business and civic leaders such as Thurmond Chatham, Rev. H. E. Rondthaler, Herbert A. Pfohl, B. F. Huntley, M. D. Stockton, Charles M. Norfleet and Robert M. Hanes.

C. The Spruce Street YMCA is the work of Winston-Salem architect Harold Macklin whose other work in Winston-Salem includes the YWCA, the Journal and Sentinel Building, and Montaldo's. Macklin also served as the local associate architect for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, designed by Boston architect, Ralph Adams Cram.

The Young Men's Christian Association began in London, and in 1851 the idea was transplanted to the United States. While there were many "reform" organizations in America at this time, none supplied the combination of Christian leadership, program and organization that the London YMCA exhibited.⁴ C. Howard Hopkins, in his book, The History of the Y.M.C.A. in North America, states that ". . . the American genius for promotion, fired by the motives of the evangelical revival, opened the continent to the new idea."⁵ The first successful YMCA in the United States was in Boston, and Hopkins states that following news of the success in Boston "within three years virtually every major city and many smaller ones had YMCAs."⁶

Winston-Salem's YMCA was organized on October 7, 1888, in a meeting at Centenary Methodist Church, and the Salem People's Press chronicled the event:

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At a meeting of the young men of the two towns (Winston and Salem) on Sunday last, a "Young Men's Christian Association" was organized . . . The meeting was opened by singing "What A Friend We Have In Jesus," and prayer by Rev. M. Davis. R. R. Crawford was elected chairman and W. A. Blair, secretary.⁷

R. R. Crawford was a businessman who operated a hardware store, and Professor W. A. Blair was the principal of Winston's Graded School.⁸ Both men served in a temporary capacity as "Y" officers until another organizational meeting on October 4, 1888, at First Baptist Church. At this meeting W. A. Blair was elected president and Madison D. Stockton, secretary.⁹ Stockton was president of the Huntley-Hill-Stockton Furniture Store.¹⁰

One hundred and thirty young men signed up at the October 7, 1888, meeting to become members of the new Association, and the first permanent meeting place became the Gray Block on Third Street.¹¹ After a few months, however, the YMCA membership expanded and the organization rented new quarters in the Buxton Building on Liberty Street.¹² In 1892 a fire destroyed this location, and the "Y" moved to the second floor of the Jacob's Block on the southeast corner of Third and Main Streets. By 1897 more space was again needed and the organization moved into Brown's Opera House at the corner of Fourth and Main.¹³

Brown's Opera House served the YMCA well until January 1906, when the Board of Directors authorized the planning of a new and permanent building for the Association.¹⁴ Nationally, the YMCA movement had begun to recognize the limitations of rented quarters, and structures designed specifically for "Y" work became more common.¹⁵ I. E. Brown's Book of YMCA Buildings (1895) promoted inclusion of dormitory rooms in YMCA buildings as "very satisfactory" sources of revenue, though stores and office were preferable.¹⁶ Brown's book with its many illustrations and floor plans helped to spread the idea of buildings specifically designed for "Y" use, and by the turn of the century the "greatest building movement in American Association history" had begun.¹⁷ On October 13, 1907, the cornerstone for Winston-Salem's first YMCA building was laid in the southwest corner of Fourth and Cherry Streets. The building included a gymnasium, a library, a reading room, classrooms, offices, a bowling alley, a game room, a swimming pool and thirty-six dormitory rooms.¹⁸ The YMCA Board of Directors was certain that the new structure would serve the community for at least fifty years.

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In 1923, however, it became apparent that the new YMCA would not serve the community for even twenty-five years, so when the opportunity arose to sell the land and the building, the Directors took it. At a meeting of the Board on May 25, 1923, a resolution authorizing the sale of the YMCA property located on Fourth and Cherry Streets was unanimously adopted.¹⁹ A new site committee had been appointed and it made the following report: "After looking over every conceivable location, both in person and on maps, the committee has come to the unanimous decision to recommend two lots on Spruce Street, known as the Philips property, and the Shepherd property, and recommends that these two lots be bought at approximately thirty-four thousand, 500 dollars."²⁰ The Board accepted this recommendation and authorized the president and secretary to sell the 1908 "Y" property to W. M. Nissen for \$225,000.²¹ Nissen built an 18-story skyscraper on the site.

In 1924 the Winston-Salem YMCA retained the services of architect Harold Macklin to design the new building for the Association. Macklin (1885-1948) was a native of Portland, England and was educated in the cathedral schools of Salisbury, England and the Architectural School of London. In 1919 he came to Winston-Salem and worked with the general contracting firm of Harry F. Hann and Company. Soon thereafter he started his own architectural practice. Macklin designed many buildings in Winston-Salem, among them the YWCA, the Journal and Sentinel Building and Mondaldo's. He also served as the associate architect for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, designed by Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram.²² In designing the YMCA, Macklin used the assistance of the "Y's" Building Bureau in New York.

The YMCA Convention of 1913 had established the Building Bureau, but its duties were largely in the fund raising category until 1915 when an architectural resources department was added. With the Bureau's help, YMCAs across the country began to feature stately entrances and grand lobbies which "were calculated to class the new Association facilities with the communities' major downtown headquarters of business or government."²⁴ The idea of renting ground-floor space faded, and in its place rose stories of dormitories -- "homes away from home and income-producing endowment."²⁵ Other features which became standard were the gymnasium, a swimming pool, abundant class rooms, and increased space for boys' facilities. This increased emphasis on boys was reflected in special entrances and equipment for the younger set.²⁶

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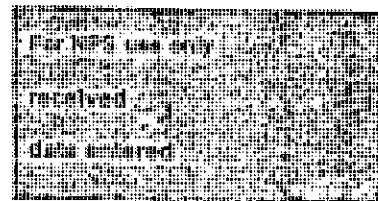
In his 1924 plans for the Spruce Street YMCA Harold Macklin provided separate Men's and Boys' entrances and separate "departments" on the interior. He also provided more than three times the number of dormitory rooms the 1908 "Y" had featured. A 1924 newspaper article reported that "While the rooms are not large, they are neat, compact and will be furnished most attractively and in a homelike manner. On each dormitory floor there will be wash room and toilet facilities. The wash rooms are equipped with shower baths."²⁷ The Men's Department and Boys' Department in the new structure would be entirely separate, "though communicative."²⁸ The separate entrances were to feature arched openings with full classical entablatures of limestone. "Entering the men's door, the visitor to the building will climb a short flight of steps, and enter upon a handsomely fitted lobby, which, though considerably smaller than the lobby in the present building, will be ample for the needs."²⁹ The lobby was to be flanked by the Men's Reading Room and a Men's Social Room, and would contain access to both the basement and the dormitories. The Boys' Department would feature large Social Rooms for both older and younger boys. Plans for both the Men's and Boys' Social Rooms contained fireplaces and oak paneling.

The main gymnasium in the Spruce Street structure would feature a track which could also be used as a spectators' balcony for events. In addition to this gymnasium, handball, squash and racquetball courts were planned. On the basement level there would be the swimming pool or "natatorium" as it was sometimes called. The pool's dimensions were 20 feet wide by 60 feet long, and it was to be equipped with all the latest sanitizing and ventilation equipment. The basement level also would contain a banquet hall which could seat 150 people and was adjoined by a fully equipped kitchen. The banquet hall could be divided into smaller classrooms when the need arose.³⁰

The building committee in charge of the Spruce Street YMCA building consisted of Charles M. Norfleet, chairman, B. F. Huntley, F. F. Bahnson, R. C. Norfleet, H. A. Pfohl, R. M. Hanes, and George W. Fisher, the general secretary of the "Y."³¹ Charles M. Norfleet was the vice-president and treasurer of Froeber-Norfleet, Inc., a wholesale fruits and produce business.³² In addition to chairing the building committee for the new "Y," Norfleet was also in charge of

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the fund raising campaign committee. Early in the campaign, a gift of \$50,000 was secured from the estate of R. J. Reynolds, illustrating the support which the "Y" program enjoyed among the most prominent citizens of Winston-Salem.³³ Reynolds had also contributed to the 1908 YMCA building campaign.

The cornerstone for the Spruce Street building was laid on May 15, 1927, in a ceremony in which Dr. Howard E. Rondthaler, president of Salem Academy and College, gave the principal address. Thurmond Chatham, president of the Winston-Salem YMCA actually swung the cornerstone into place, and Robert M. Hanes announced to the crowd the list of items entombed in the cornerstone. These items included all of those which had been in the cornerstone of the 1908 building with the addition of many items related to the 1927 building campaign and the work of the "Y." Rondthaler said in his address that, "This building, purchased by the gifts of the people of the city secured without campaign is a living monument to community spirit."³⁴ The community spirit of which Rondthaler spoke had resulted in the necessary \$425,000 to build the Spruce Street "Y" and was part of the building boom of the late 1920s in Winston-Salem.³⁵

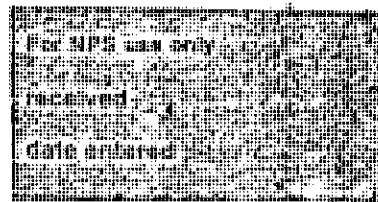
Winston-Salem had a banner building year in 1927. In his address to the Home Moravian Church congregation, Rev. Edward Rondthaler said:

The year 1927 has surpassed all previous years in the building enterprises of Winston-Salem. They have totaled in all types of construction \$6,800,000.³⁶

Among the buildings in downtown Winston-Salem which recently had been completed or were under construction were the City Hall, County Courthouse, Mercantile Building, Carolina Hotel, and the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company Building.³⁷

On a national level, the YMCA organization noted that demand for "Y" buildings reached a fever pitch after 1920. In his History of the YMCA, Hopkins states:

The demand grew for buildings with more space, more varied and better facilities, and hence with a large investment per building . . . The actual

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building investment after 1920 passed all previous records. In the final years before the depression of 1929, amounts annually spent exceeded 9, 11, and 12 millions of dollars. The aggregate property of the American Associations reached an investment of 250 millions in 1920.³⁸

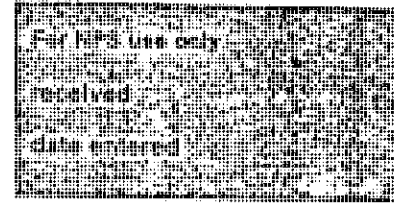
Included in these new buildings were YMCAs for special interest groups such as the armed services, railroads and blacks.³⁹

When the Spruce Street YMCA was built it was thought to be "the finest of its kind in the state, and among the finest in the entire country."⁴⁰ It was also anticipated that the building would serve the Winston-Salem community for many years to come. The Spruce Street "Y" did serve thousands of young men and boys in several capacities. In 1944 membership had grown to 2,000 from the 130 subscribers who began the Winston-Salem "Y" in 1888.⁴¹ Whitfield B. East who joined the staff of the "Y" in 1937 said in a 1962 interview that he had taught approximately 5,000 people to swim in the pool of the Spruce Street building and had counseled or otherwise guided approximately 5,000 boys.⁴² By 1965, however, it became obvious that the trend of moving to the suburbs was affecting the downtown YMCA. Richard E. Shore, president of the "Y" in 1964, said that, "The 'Y' is vitally interested in meeting the community's needs in recreation and leisure-time activities, but as we look ahead we can see that our present downtown facilities don't fulfill our mission."⁴³ The dormitory renters had begun to change in character as early as the 1950s when the national economy boomed after World War II and men no longer needed to turn to the "Y" for a place to stay while they began their careers. According to W. B. East, "They began to find that small rooms with no kitchens and no women allowed were less acceptable than they were to men during the Depression."⁴⁴ In addition, companies started contracting with hotel and motel chains for accommodations for their traveling salespeople, and transient dormitory renters reduced in number.

The Spruce Street YMCA deteriorated rapidly in the late 1960s and early 1970s and these conditions made it even more difficult to fill the dormitory rooms with satisfactory tenants. In 1971, an editorial in the Winston-Salem Journal called for a new "Y" and said that, ". . . the grimy, decaying old YMCA on Spruce Street is wholly inadequate . . . Though opened after the era of the electric light bulb, few striding its gloomy corridors would guess it."⁴⁵ Since 1968 the YMCA had been hoping to find a new downtown site on which to build a modern structure. In 1972, after considering several sites, the YMCA finally purchased a four and

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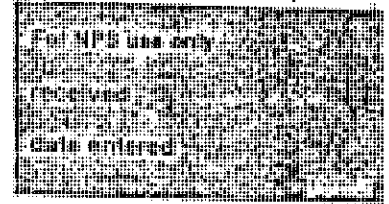
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one-half acre tract of land on Glade Street between West End Boulevard and Sunset Drive, and it sold the Spruce Street building to the City of Winston-Salem's Redevelopment Commission for use in the city's "downtown renewal" plan.⁴⁶ The YMCA decided to build its third building on the Glade Street property close to Hanes Park. In October, 1973, ground was broken for the Central YMCA building which serves Winston-Salem today.⁴⁷

Even though the Spruce Street YMCA no longer serves its original purpose, the building stands as a reminder of a period when "downtown" was the prime location for recreational, relaxation and religious activities. As Dr. Rondthaler stated in 1927, "This building . . . is a living monument to community spirit." The Spruce Street YMCA is a monument to the philanthropic spirit of the citizens of Winston-Salem -- a spirit which will revive the center city and continue to make the Twin City a special place to live.

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Significance Footnotes

¹Harold Macklin, "Building for Young Men's Christian Association, Winston-Salem, N.C.," architectural drawings in possession of Calloway, Johnson and Moore, architects, Winston-Salem, N.C., hereinafter cited as Macklin drawings.

²Author's interview with Whitfield B. East, Community Relations Director, Winston-Salem Y.M.C.A. February 9, 1984, hereinafter cited as East interview.

³People's Press, Salem, N.C., "Y.M.C.A. Organized," October 11, 1888, hereinafter cited as People's Press, "Y.M.C.A."

⁴C. Howard Hopkins, History of the Y.M.C.A. In North America (New York: Association Press, 1951), 15, hereinafter cited as Hopkins, History.

⁵Hopkins, History, 15.

⁶Hopkins, History, 15.

⁷People's Press, "Y.M.C.A."

⁸Winston-Salem City Directory, 1888, hereinafter cited as City Directory with appropriate date.

⁹Winston-Salem Journal, "Y.M.C.A. Celebrates Birthday by Working," June 6, 1944, hereinafter cited as Journal, "Y.M.C.A. Celebrates."

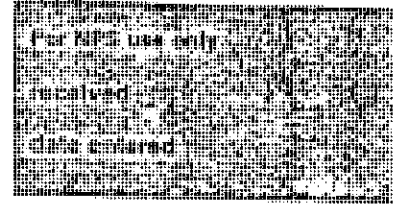
¹⁰City Directory, 1926.

¹¹People's Press, "Y.M.C.A.;" Journal, "Y.M.C.A. Celebrates."

¹²Journal, "Y.M.C.A. Celebrates."

¹³Twin City Sentinel, "Do You Remember . . .," December 22, 1961, hereinafter cited as Sentinel, December 22, 1961.

¹⁴"Winston-Salem Y.M.C.A. Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow," unpublished manuscript in possession of Whitfield B. East, Winston-Salem Central Y.M.C.A., 1955, hereinafter cited as "Winston-Salem Y.M.C.A. Yesterday."

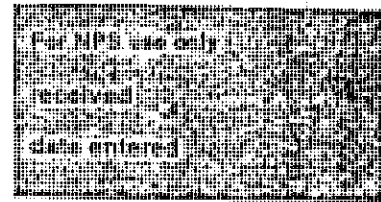
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- 15 Hopkins, History, 148.
- 16 Hopkins, History, 155.
- 17 Hopkins, History, 456.
- 18 Winston-Salem Journal, "Laying of the YMCA Cornerstone," October 13, 1907.
- 19 "Winston-Salem Y.M.C.A. Yesterday," 7.
- 20 "Winston-Salem Y.M.C.A. Yesterday," 7.
- 21 "Winston-Salem U.M.C.A. Yesterday," 7.
- 22 Winston-Salem Section of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Architectural Guide Winston-Salem Forsyth County (Winston-Salem: Winston-Salem Section NCAIA, 1978), 90, 184, hereinafter cited as AIA Guide; Winston-Salem, N.C.; City Directory, 1920.
- 23 Winston-Salem Journal, "Plans Completed for Building, A Credit to the Community," September 10, 1924, hereinafter cited as Journal, "Plans Completed."
- 24 Hopkins, History, 456.
- 25 Hopkins, History, 456-457.
- 26 Hopkins, History, 457.
- 27 Journal, "Plans Completed."
- 28 Journal, "Plans Completed."
- 29 Journal, "Plans Completed."
- 30 Journal, "Plans Completed."
- 31 Journal, "Plans Completed."
- 32 Winston-Salem, N.C., City Directory, 1926.
- 33 "Winston-Salem Y.M.C.A. Yesterday," 7.
- 34 Winston-Salem Journal, "Rondthaler Pays Tribute to Work of Local Y.M.C.A.," May 16, 1927, hereinafter cited as Journal, "Rondthaler Pays."

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35 Journal, "Plans Completed."

36 Rt. Rev. Edward Rondthaler, The Memorabilia of Fifty Years (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Company, 1928), 489, hereinafter cited as Rondthaler, Memorabilia.

37 Gwynne S. Taylor, From Frontier to Factory, (Winston-Salem: City-County Planning Board, second edition, 1982), 57, 58.

38 Hopkins, History, 576.

39 Hopkins, History, 576.

40 Journal, "Plans Completed."

41 People's Press, "Y.M.C.A.;" Journal, "Y.M.C.A. Celebrates."

42 Twin City Sentinel, "Whit East Prefers 'Y' Work," September 3, 1962, hereinafter cited as Sentinel, "Whit East."

43 Winston-Salem Journal, "Possibility of Expanding 'Y' Facilities Discussed," April 23, 1964, hereinafter cited as Journal, "Expanding."

44 Twin City Sentinel, "Soon There'll Be No Rooms at the 'Y'," January 9, 1972, hereinafter cited as Sentinel, "No Rooms."

45 Winston-Salem Journal, "New 'Y' Still Needed," February 19, 1971.

46 Twin City Sentinel, "'Y' Tells Plans for New Building in West End," January 2, 1972, hereinafter cited as Sentinel, "New Building."

47 Winston-Salem Journal, "Ground Broken For New Y.M.C.A.," October 22, 1973.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Winston-Salem East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 17 567630 3594780
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Block 79, Lots 103 and 104, Forsyth County Tax Maps

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gwynne S. Taylor

organization Preservation Consultant date 2/28/84

street & number 827 Westover Avenue telephone

city or town Winston-Salem state N.C. 27104

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 William S. Taylor, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 12, 1984

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

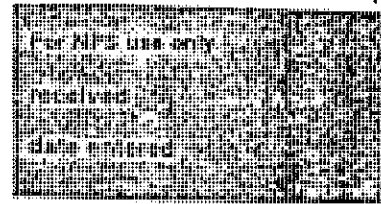
Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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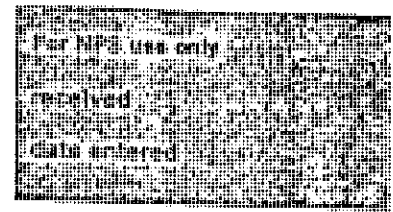
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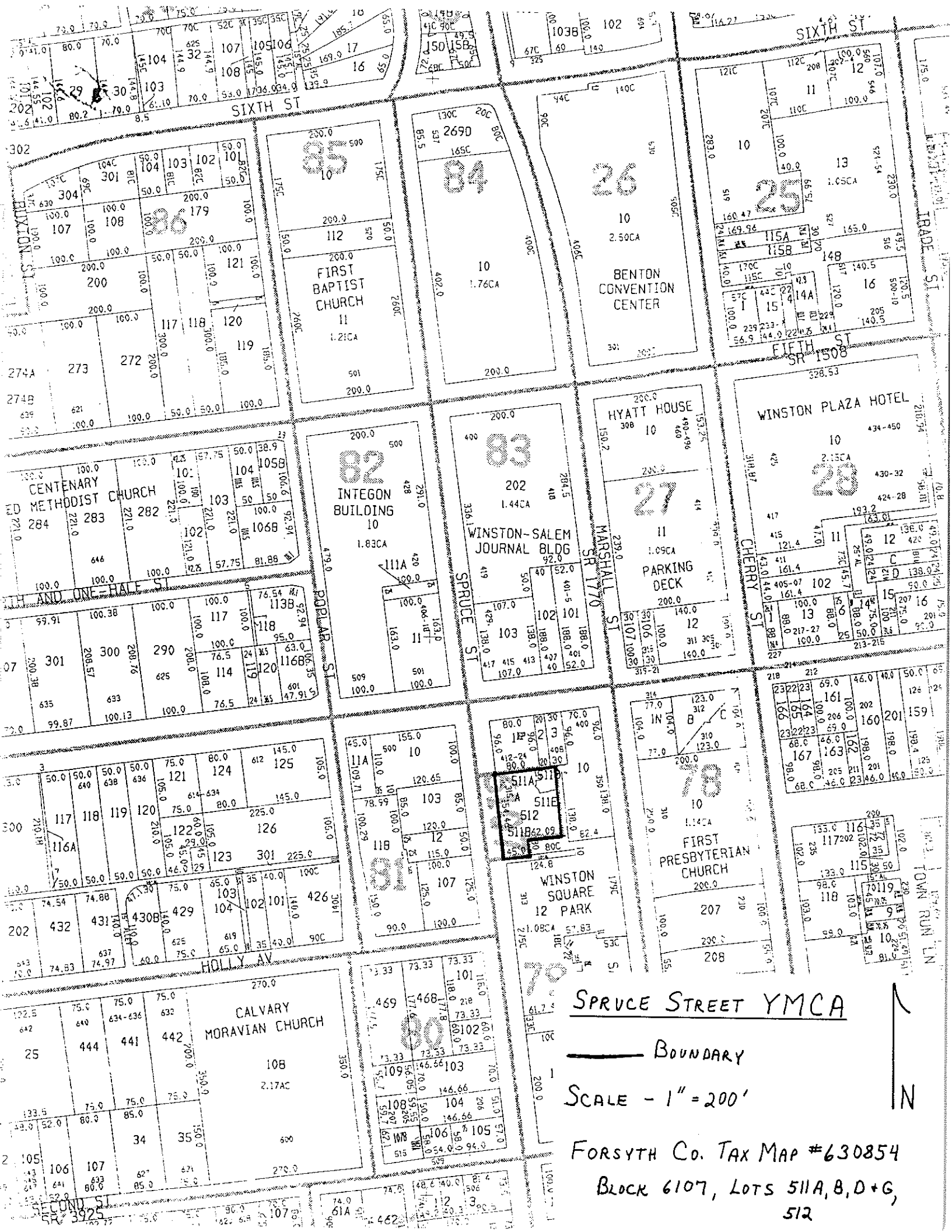
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SPRUCE STREET YMCA

BOUNDARY

SCALE - 1" = 200'

FORSYTH Co. TAX MAP #630854

BLOCK 6107, LOTS 511A, B, D+G, 512

IN