YWCA Administration Building

Local Historic Landmark #128
1201 Glade St., Winston-Salem
Construction Date: 1941-1942
Landmark Designation Date: 11/25/2013

The Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), established in 1908 by wives and daughters of the city’s elite executives and industrialists, saw a need to promote and facilitate women’s mental, physical, and social well-being. The (former) YWCA Administration Building on Glade Street was the home of the organization until it moved to South Main Street in 2007.

Originally, the local YWCA operated from the second floor of the Gilmer Building (416-424 W. 4th St.) in downtown Winston-Salem, primarily providing support for young women who were seeking employment in the city. A new building was constructed in 1917, on the southeast corner of First and Church Streets. This was the home of the local YWCA until the facility on Glade Street opened in 1942.

During its time on First Street, the YWCA opened a branch for African-American women on Chestnut Street. After a few years at that location, the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company donated funds toward the construction of a new facility, housing both the YWCA and YMCA for Winston-Salem’s African-Americans, on Patterson Avenue. In 1974, both branches of the YWCA integrated at the Glade Street site, and the next year, the first African-American executive director was appointed.

The Gray family donated land for the building and J.G. Hanes chaired the fundraising committee. Local brick-maker George Black (LHL #125, 111 Dellabrook Rd) constructed the Glade Street Administration Building using hand-molded bricks. Architect Harold Macklin specifically requested George Black’s services for the project.

The architect designed the building in the Colonial Revival style using Flemish bond brick pattern. Macklin utilized symmetrical massing and incorporated six-over-six wooden windows and a fanlighted door under a single-bay classical portico. From Glade Street, the building presents as a single-story façade, but a sloped grade allows for a two-story rear portion.

The YWCA Administration Building has been redeveloped into residential units.