

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 4 1986

date entered MAR 6 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic POMONA YMCA BUILDING

and/or common POMONA YMCA BUILDING

2. Location

street & number 350 N. Garey Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Pomona

N/A vicinity of

state California

code 06

county Los Angeles

code 037

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Young Mens Christian Association

street & number 350 N. Garey Avenue

city, town Pomona

N/A vicinity of

state California

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Los Angeles County Regional Assessors Office

street & number 1517 West Garvey Avenue North

city, town West Covina

state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date N/A

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A

state N/A

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Large and imposing, this 50,000 square foot brick building is one of Pomona's most prominent landmarks. It retains its architectural integrity with few alterations visible from the front. Built in 1920-22, it was constructed in a "U" shape, with the wings projecting toward the back. The building is three stories high across the front with the wings being two stories high. A partial basement containing a swimming pool runs beneath the building. The hip roof is clad in red clay tile. The dark red brick which forms the walls is accented by rows of cream-colored terra cotta trim and cream-colored wood window frames. Nine arches, two stories high, form a repetitive pattern across the front facade. Three on each side contain windows while the three in the center form the original entry porch with a balcony above. The building occupies a city block along Garey Avenue, Pomona's major north-south thoroughfare. The setting and landscaping contribute to the visibility and character of the structure. The YMCA is a busy center of constant activity and will be an important visual reminder of Pomona's rich architectural heritage for years to come.

Clad in red clay tile, the roof has a hipped section on each end, connected by a gabled section. The center section is stepped back by the presence of a balcony in the center. Each roof ridge is accented by a row of tile and rounded caps at the corners. The front facade is divided into thirds, with the centered balcony open to the sky.

The third story of the front facade is crowned by a heavy cornice of cream-colored terra cotta emphasized by a row of large dentil trim. A frieze of red brick is trimmed with a band of the same brick along the bottom. Double-hung windows, in sections of two and three, punctuate the front of the third story. All sections of windows are trimmed with two rows of narrow brick and a terra cotta YMCA symbol at the corners. Single double-hung windows, trimmed in the same manner, ring the centered balcony. Two belt courses of cream-colored terra cotta molding, placed a foot apart, form a pattern below the third floor windows. The first and second story windows are set in nine large arches which form a pattern across the front facade. All are trimmed with inset bands of brick and the window frames are further recessed in the brick facade. The three arches in the center have a recessed balcony on the second floor with three entrance arches below. The two first floor windows on each side of the center entrance have been glassed-in to create office space. The metal and glass front doors are at the back of the deeply-recessed center section. The doors are not original, but are in the same position and are of the same size as the original. The glassed-in sections on each side, although an intrusion, are not particularly noticeable. The fabric around the windows is still intact, including the original brick railing with a terra cotta cap. The balcony above, with its three arches, contains some original hanging light fixtures. Each of these three arches is topped with a cream-colored terra cotta keystone. The keystone in the center is taller, continuing up to the top of the cornice. It performs the function of a base for the flagpole which once graced the center of the third floor balcony.

On each side of the center arch is a large terra cotta medallion, featuring the YMCA emblem, which is worked in red and cream. The wide concrete steps which lead to the main entrance are flanked by solid red brick railings topped with cream-colored glazed terra cotta slabs.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates Built 1920–1922 **Builder/Architect** Robert Orr

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pomona Valley YMCA is significant to the community for its architecture, its service to the community, and its connection with the lives of many residents of the local community. Moreover, the "Y" has served not only Pomona, but also all of the communities in the eastern portion of Los Angeles County. Built in 1920–22, it radiates strength and permanence. All age groups have been involved in Y activities. Since 1923, women have been allowed to have their own "pool days". The swimming pool, original to the building, has been used for children's swim classes since 1922. That program, along with the "Y" Indian guides, also founded around 50 years ago, results in fond memories for children of the past and present. The impetus for constructing this building was the return of servicemen from the First World War. The citizens who planned the building were given two choices by architect Robert H. Orr: a utilitarian building for \$75,000 or a first class building with all of the trimmings for \$110,000. Pomona, with its typical "let's go first class" attitude, voted unanimously for the latter. From 1919 to 1922 the Building Committee of the YMCA raised over \$273,000 for the land, construction, landscaping, and equipment.

The Pomona YMCA, first organized in 1884, has served the community in a variety of capacities. Its earliest project was a religious reading room stocked with approximately 100 books donated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. As early as 1886, the membership sponsored an employment program for valley youth. Another pre-turn-of-the-century program was the care of the sick and elderly. However, the "Y" did not really begin to gain its tremendous significance to the community until 1919, when it began to plan this building.

In the spring of 1919, D. C. Crookshank, prominent local builder, called together a small group of men and said, "Men, now is the time to build a YMCA in Pomona. The war is over, and let us build this as a memorial to the World War veterans." (R. D. Williams.)

The men in this group were all prominent and influential citizens with a record of community involvement. If it had not been for the enthusiastic efforts of this dedicated group, the "Y" building would not exist.

Within a few days, ex-senator Currier indicated his willingness to sell his land on North Garey for \$30,000, donating \$15,000 back to the Building Fund. \$45,000 was pledged by three men and the campaign was in full swing.

The first Board of Building Directors was made up of 11 men selected from a list of 25 selected by Harry Hill, State Secretary of the YMCA. He made his choices from a list of 25 men who had received the highest number of votes from the 1,400 subscribers to the Building Fund. E. J. Nichols was chairman of this first drive, which raised \$130,000. This illustrates the wide community support and participation for the erection of this building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property (400' x 415') 3.81 acres

Quadrangle name Ontario

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	1	4	3	0	9	0	0	3	7	6	8	8	6	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

The boundary is drawn on historic lot lines encompassing the YMCA building. Property occupies a 400' x 415' lot at the northeast corner of Monterey and N. Garey.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diann Marsh

organization N/A date June 1, 1984

street & number 321 N. Philadelphia telephone (714) 635-9249

city or town Anaheim state CA 92805

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 *Kathryn Guethrie*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/28/86

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

James M. McPherson
for Keeper of the National Register date 3/6/86

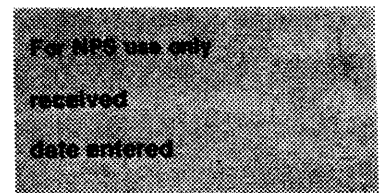
Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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The two sets of three large, arched windows on each side of the central section are the same size, but each set has a different configuration. Those at the south end are divided in three parts horizontally. The top section is centered with an arched window rimmed with a row of smaller radiating windows. The four-foot-wide center sections contain recessed wood panels. The bottom (or first floor) section features a picture window flanked by narrow multi-paned casement windows. The three arched windows in the northern end of the front facade also have an arched window edged in radiating windows at the second floor level. A narrow section of wood molding separates the top section from the center section. A large picture window, flanked by multi-paned casement windows, occupies this portion. A smaller picture window, also flanked by the same style casement window, is used in the bottom section. This denotes the ceiling/floor height of this split-level section of the building. A beltcourse of cream-colored glazed terra cotta runs below the windows and forms a wainscoting of red brick which is 4-1/2 feet high. A base of terra cotta, forming a beltcourse, runs around the entire building. There are a few double-hung windows in the wainscot section of the front facade. They are also accented with the glazed tile YMCA symbol at the corners, matching those on the third floor.

The south (side) facade matches the front in materials, cornice, frieze, beltcourses, and window treatment. The front one-third of this facade is three stories high while the remainder is two-story. A metal fire escape is reached by metal balconies on the second and third floors. The large side entrance, reached by a wide 12-step concrete stairway, features double doors with a transom above. These metal-framed doors replace the original wood-framed ones. Wide piers, topped by terra cotta slabs, are of red brick and flank the prominent stairway. A large four-paned stationary window is located to the west of the entrance. The two narrow bands of cream-colored terra cotta continue from the three-story section in the front to the two-story section at the back and form the cornice for the flat-roofed wing. A row of large double-hung windows, set high in the wall, in sets of two, denotes the location of the smaller gymnasium. Large square transoms are used above these windows. Below the wide beltcourse, in the wainscoting, a row of mullioned windows shows the location of the basement level swimming pool. An eight-inch high concrete loading platform runs from the entrance steps to the rear of the building.

The north (side) facade is similar to the front and south facades and has the same materials, cornice, frieze, beltcourses and window treatment. The front one-third of the facade is three-story while the wing extending to the rear is two-story, with a flat roof. The two narrow bands of the cornice at the top are a continuation of those at the bottom of the third story. Single, double-hung windows are interspersed at four different heights, indicating the presence of a stairway. The balcony of the fire escape leads from a graceful brick arch attached to the side of the third floor, to two wrought iron balconies below. The entrance is equipped with metal-framed double doors. The originals were wood-framed. A slightly-recessed brick arch rises above the doors.

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This entrance is close to the ground and interrupts the terra cotta ledge at the top of the wainscoting. The two-story wing stretching to the rear contains the large auditorium/gymnasium. Four matching two-story high arched windows feature richly-colored stained glass. The center arched window is set in a heavy frame with a row of radiating mullioned windows across the top and down the sides. A recessed brick rectangle below the window to the east indicates that a door was once located there. Four wide graduated steps are still in place at ground level. Brick infill above the small window to the east of the former doorway indicated that this opening once contained a tall narrow window.

The rear of the north wing continues the use of the two bands of narrow terra cotta at the top, the terra cotta ledge, and base. A large arched window in the center has been removed and replaced with brick infill. A stairway leads to a loading area in the basement below. A block wall surrounds this stairway and landing, but is not attached to the building.

All of the additions have been placed in the center of the original "U" shape of the building. A single-story addition of brick connects the original building with the three-story addition in the center. This allows the four large arched stained glass windows, which match those in the north facade, to remain. The center addition is a three-story high rectangle of red brick, punctuated with metal-framed, multi-paned windows. The brick is newer than the brick used in the original building, but does blend well. The addition is not visible from the front and has a flat roof. It contains handball courts with residential living quarters above. A grey stucco addition is attached to the back (east) of the brick addition and contains handball courts. It is not visible from the front and is rather unobtrusive. The back of the original building on the south end of the rear facade has matching terra cotta trim as the rest of the building. No windows are used here, except below the wainscoting. The blank wall above is the end of the small gym, and a door has been added to the inside (north) corner. Metal stairs lead to the doorway. Another set leads down into a well leading to the basement. A wooden fence blocks the view of these stairs.

The interior of the building maintains much of its original integrity. Few structural changes have been made. A large room at the front, which once contained pool tables, has been divided with a wall. However, the original cornice and columns are still in place. The heavy cornice is constructed of wood molding. The wainscoting in the lower portion has a molded top and rectangular vertical panels above a molded terra cotta baseboard. The original fireplace is clad in black tile with a heavy wood mantle. Marble steps lead to the smaller gym. Glazed brick walls and hardwood floors are original. The trusses are visible in the ceiling. Four steam radiators form a row approximately eight feet off of the floor. Below the small gym is the swimming pool. It still has the original white tile surfaces. A tile fence has been removed and structural reinforcing installed, but basically the pool remains the same as it was when the building was built. Various locker rooms fill out the rest of the basement.

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The first floor lounge at the north end of the building is accented with a heavy cornice of varnished wood. The original restrooms feature marble stalls, white tile walls, and hexagonal floor tiles.

The main stairway also uses the small white hexagonal tiles on the landings. The railing and balustrade are constructed of panels containing spoles radiating from a center rosette. Large square newel posts are used at the bottom.

The large gym, formerly the auditorium or chapel, still retains its basic form. However, a running track has been built as a continuation of the balcony and extends several feet from each side of the room. The stained-glass windows are still visible on both the north and south sides of the room.

The rooms that face front on the second floor are particularly pleasant. Large arched windows let in a lot of light and provide a view of the street and front lawn. The rooms overlooking the covered balcony have large double-hung windows. A kitchen, located at the back of the second floor, retains some of its original equipment. An elevator shaft is all that remains of the original elevator system.

The third floor contains newly-refurbished sleeping rooms, now being rented to college students. These rooms have large windows and retain their original integrity.

The Pomona YMCA building is an important landmark which expresses the quality of leadership and the ability of a group of citizens to work together, as part of a community-wide campaign, to produce a fine, substantial building. Its strong classical lines and prominent setting bring back fond memories to Pomona Valley residents of all ages, faiths, economic circumstances, and ethnic background.

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Description of Boy Scout House

Built ca. 1920, this rectangular, single-storied building measures approximately 55 by 20, with the length running parallel to the side-street, Monterey, facing south. The hip roof is ringed by exposed rafter ends. The original medium-width clapboard siding has been covered with stucco. The pairs of casement windows along the front and sides have been replaced with aluminum windows and flanked by full-length shutters. Slab doors now replace the two original doors leading from the street. Metal hoods have been added above the windows and doors. A plaque beside the door says "Remodeled by Pomona Kiwanis Club, 1962". The property is owned by the YMCA and the land forms an "ell" from the back of the rectangle which the YMCA building stands upon. The stucco, aluminum windows, shutters, and metal canopies constitute a rather substantial alteration that is not likely to be reversed. Because it is across the parking lot from the main building, faces the side street, and bears no resemblance to the YMCA, it is not identifiable with the YMCA, and is only mentioned here because of ownership. The building is now occupied by a Montessori School. It is not included as part of the nomination.

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Dr. E. E. Kelly was the charter President. Ralph Smedley of San Francisco was hired as the Building Secretary. A Building Committee of five was selected to work with Mr. Robert Orr, the architect. Mr. Orr already had an excellent reputation, having built several large homes in Pomona.

On July 7, 1919, two types of buildings were presented by architect Orr. One was a functional building to cost \$75,000, while the other was much larger and more elaborate, costing \$110,000. The larger and more elaborate building won the unanimous vote. Mr. Crookshank was so elated that he donated an additional \$10,000. On July 21, 1919, at a special meeting, a plan was presented by Finance Chairman Kennedy to start an endowment fund with which to secure the additional \$20,000 to erect the building. Soon after, revised figures showed a price tag of \$160,000. On December 16, the Board of Directors, at a public meeting, were instructed to proceed with the building, with hopes of raising the additional \$70,000 at a later date. Thus, did the community show its faith in the project. The contractors, Crookshank and Somers, offered to build the building at only 3% of the total cost. The cornerstone was laid on June 15, 1920.

As costs rose, the building became an object of controversy. A professional fundraiser, Charles Brown of Lynn, Massachusetts was hired. Later a Mr. Mogie was hired to run a third fundraising campaign. By now the cost of the project and equipment, plus the interest on loans, was up to \$273,135. On November 23, 1921, it was reported that \$129,000 in pledges, from 2,144 people, had been raised.

This amount, along with the amounts already raised, put the campaign \$9,500 over the top.

On April 18, 1922, the building was dedicated at a grand celebration. Former Governor Stephens addressed the crowd.

The most popular attraction, by far, was the indoor swimming pool. Children's classes were inaugurated immediately, but it was 1923 before women were granted the use of the pool on a part-time, segregated basis. Day camps, after school programs, "Y" Indian guides were all programs started in the 1920s. They have touched the lives of thousands and thousands of children. Howard Eels remembers the active boxing and sports programs which he attended in the 1930s. He also remembers hearing Admiral Byrd speak on his adventures in Antarctica at a meeting held in the auditorium.

Extensive use was made of the building during World War II. Soldiers camped at the nearby Los Angeles Fairgrounds and used the "Y" as their "home away from home." Cots were set up in the gymnasium. The recreational facilities included the pool, reading room, pool room, and weight room. Soldiers from all over the country were stationed in Pomona.

In 1949 women were granted full membership in the "Y". In 1950 the Business Men's Club and steam room were added. In 1958, a \$300,000 addition was made to the rear of the building to house handball courts, locker rooms, craft room, shower room, boxing room,

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and gymnastics room. In 1966, this building became the headquarters for expansion into Claremont, San Dimas, La Verne, Walnut and Diamond Bar. The "Y" now offers a full range of programs for all ages from toddler to senior citizen, and covers all areas of eastern Los Angeles County.

If it had not been for the enthusiastic and productive efforts of Pomona's business community, this building would not exist. Faced with many obstacles, this group still managed to build a first class building which has had a tremendous impact upon the eastern section of Los Angeles County.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The integrity of the Pomona YMCA building is expressed in its fine Neo-Classical design, its original location and setting, the superior workmanship and materials used, the attention to detail, and as an example of Pomona's "everything first class" attitude. It is probably the best example of the work of the architect, Robert Orr, in the City of Pomona. Mr. Orr designed several prominent residences there and moved to Los Angeles. The three sets of graceful arches across the front lend a symmetrical appearance. The architect has managed to create a classically styled building with a balanced facade, while in reality the building is split-level, with the floors in the center and southerly section containing three floors and a basement and the northerly section containing four floors and a foundation crawl space.* The tasteful use of classical detailing in the stained-glass windows and terra cotta trim adds an elegance to the facade. The contrast of brick, wood, and terra cotta lends strength to the design. Terra cotta squares, centered with the "Y" symbol, accent the corners of the window trim and are used between the entrance arches in the center of the front facade. The building still occupies the whole block frontage between E. Center and East Monterey, along Garey Avenue, and creates an impressive picture from each direction. Given a choice between a cheaper, more utilitarian building and a more impressive and expensive building, Pomona's leading citizens decided on the more prestigious design of this plan. With the few changes to the front facade, the building appears much as it did during the 1920s. The interior retains most of its integrity, with only the addition to the back having a contemporary theme. The Pomona YMCA is a fine example of a substantial Neo-Classical building.

*The center and southerly section of the front facade has a basement with swimming pool, first floor which reaches to the horizontal wood section below the arch, a second floor with the arch starting at the floor, and a third floor with sleeping rooms. The northerly section has a first floor which is four steps down from the rest of the building (a crawl space runs under this room), a second floor which is divided by the lowest horizontal wood section, a third floor with its floor at the level of the upper horizontal wood section, and a fourth floor sleeping quarters above the beltcourse.

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Interview with Howard Eels, May 1984 (Mr. Eels was a member of the "Y" as a teenager in the 1930s and has continued to be active ever since).

Celebrating 100 Years of YMCA Achievement 1984 - Published by the Public Relations Department of General Dynamics of Pomona, California on the occasion of the 100th birthday of the Pomona YMCA.

History of the Building of the YMCA of Pomona 1947 - Unpublished document from the YMCA files, written by R. D. Williams. Mr. Williams was present at the meetings of the Building Committee and participated in fundraising activities. He served as Executive Secretary, a salaried position, from 1923 until 1947.

A-3437H

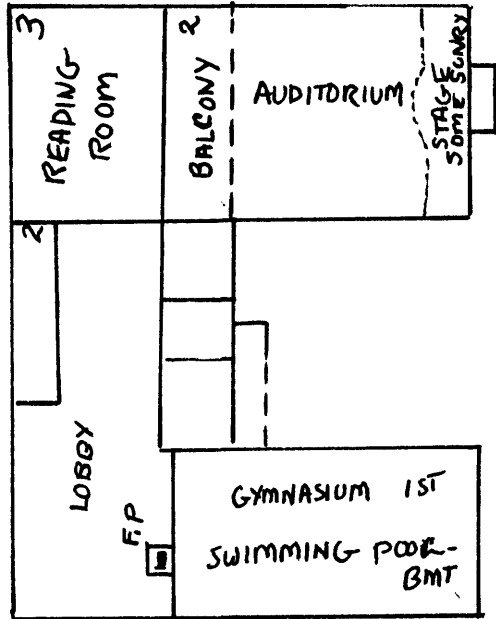
POMONA Y. M. C. A. BUILDING
350 North Garey Avenue
Pomona, Los Angeles County, California



NORTH GAREY AVE.

415'

EAST CENTER STREET



400'

EAST MONTEREY STREET

1922 AND 1928
SANBORN MAPS

POMONA Y. M. C. A. BUILDING

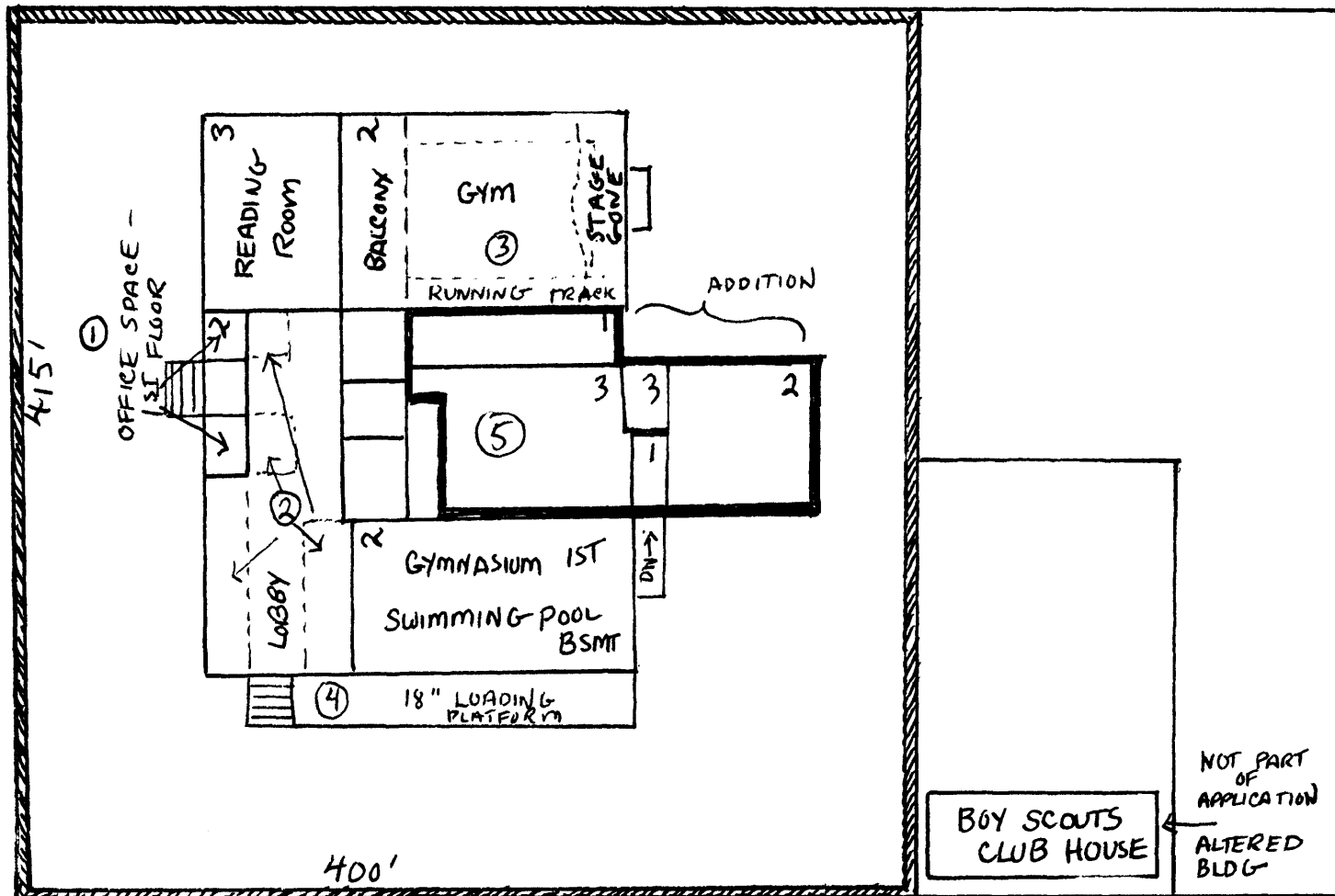
350 North Garey Avenue

Pomona, Los Angeles County, California



EAST CENTER STREET

NORTH GAREY AVE.



① OFFICE SPACE ADDED ON EACH
SIDE OF ENTRY PORCH

② WALLS ADDED IN LOBBY
ALL COLUMNS, CORNICE, WAINSCOTING INTACT

③ GYM MADE FROM AUDITORIUM (1940)
RUNNING TRACK INSTALLED

④ LOADING PLATFORM (18\"

⑤ ADDITIONS TO REAR (1958)

1984
(INCLUDING CHANGES)

100'
SCALE 1\"

REGISTER
PROPERTY
BOUNDARY

POMONA Y. M. C. A. BUILDING

350 North Garey Avenue

Pomona, Los Angeles County, California

