

Exhibit A

LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT



CENTRAL YMCA HEADQUARTERS
19 S. LaSALLE STREET

**FINAL LANDMARK RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
ON CHICAGO LANDMARKS, ON NOVEMBER 6, 2025**



CITY OF CHICAGO
Brandon Johnson, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development
Ciere Boatright, Commissioner

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CENTRAL YMCA HEADQUARTERS

19 S. LaSalle Street

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: **1892-1893 (original building)**
 1913 (addition)

ARCHITECTS: **Jenney & Mundie (1893)**
 Mundie & Jensen (1913)

The Central YMCA Headquarters was completed in 1893 for the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), which occupied the building through the 1970s. The building was originally constructed as a 12-story structure consisting of a highly-ornamented tower at its west end culminating in a penthouse level with pyramidal roof facing LaSalle Street, and a second, two-story penthouse at the east end of the building. In 1913, the YMCA removed the penthouses and pyramidal roof above the 12th story and added four additional floors to the west tower and three additional floors to the east section of the building behind the tower.

The building's upper floors housed offices for the Chicago branch headquarters of the YMCA, the worldwide youth organization that aimed to instill young men and boys with Christian values through the healthy development of their "body, mind, and spirit." The lower floors of the building contained athletic and social spaces, including a pool, auditorium, two-story gymnasium, bowling alley, lecture hall, and reading room/library. When it was first completed in 1893, the national YMCA organization called the Chicago headquarters "the crowning glory of the building movement of our associations."

Chicago architects Jenney & Mundie designed the original 12-story building that was completed in 1893, and their successor firm Mundie & Jensen later designed the four-story addition that replaced the pyramidal-roof penthouse and rear penthouse levels. Firm principal and engineer William Le Baron Jenney was internationally known for his technological innovations in the development of tall buildings and today is widely regarded as the "father of



The Central YMCA Headquarters is located at 19 S. LaSalle Street, at the northeast corner of South LaSalle Street and West Arcade Place.

the skyscraper.” His design for the Central YMCA Headquarters with partner William Mundie reflects the growing interplay of Chicago-School structural expression and Classical ornamentation that became a hallmark of the firm’s work through the 1890s and early 1900s. While the original design of the building emphasized elements of the Romanesque Revival style, Mundie & Jensen’s 1913 addition brought the building’s overall design emphatically into the Classical Revival style that had become increasingly popular for office towers in the Loop after the turn of the 20th century.

The interior of the Central YMCA Headquarters was extensively altered through multiple renovations undertaken between the 1940s and 1990s, and very little historic interior fabric remains. However, despite changes at the ground floor and the 1942 removal of the substantial terra-cotta cornice, the building’s exterior remains mostly intact, with terra-cotta cladding and window openings dating from the original 1893 construction and 1913 addition.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Site

The Central YMCA Headquarters is located at 19 S. La Salle Street in Chicago's central business district. The building is a narrow, steel-frame structure with a flat roof and stone, glazed brick, and terra-cotta cladding. The west tower of the building is 16 stories tall, and the east section of the building behind the tower is 15 stories tall. A one-story penthouse near the center of the building, which originally housed handball courts, is set back from the south elevation and is not visible from the street. Its two-bay-wide principal façade faces west onto South LaSalle Street, and its secondary façade faces south onto Arcade Place (originally called Arcade Court), which runs east-west through the blocks on either side of South LaSalle Street between Madison and Monroe Streets. The building is surrounded on the north, south, east, and west by high-rise commercial buildings dating from the late nineteenth through the late twentieth centuries.

Exterior

The primary west and south facades of the Central YMCA Headquarters are clad in stone at the three-story base, with white-glazed brick and terra cotta on the upper stories. The west end of the building is comprised of a tower that includes the whole of the front (west) façade and the west two bays of the south façade. This tower originally featured a 13th-story penthouse level topped with a dramatic broach roof; the penthouse and roof were removed and replaced with a four-story, flat-roof addition with a substantial cornice in 1913. The facades of the tower are divided vertically into six sections, each with distinctive patterns of fenestration and ornamentation. The three-story base of the tower is clad in stone and is marked by a series of three-story round arched openings, which have been infilled with non-historic storefronts and stone above. The shaft of the tower, at the fourth through the ninth stories, is clad in buff face brick with minimal off-white terra-cotta detailing. Above the ninth story, the upper stories are divided into four sections that are heavily ornamented with Classical terra-cotta ornament. The terra-cotta cornice that topped the building, which was part of the 1913 addition, was removed in 1942 and replaced with a simple brick parapet.

The south elevation east of the tower is clad in buff glazed face brick, with stylized terra-cotta cornices continuing the line of the upper-story cornices on the west tower.

The alley-facing north and east elevations of the building are clad in common brick and are unornamented. A metal fire escape is located at the east end of the north elevation. Tertiary elevations facing the interior light wells on the north side of the building are clad in white glazed brick with no ornamentation. None of the secondary or tertiary elevations are visible from the street. All elevations are regularly fenestrated with non-historic aluminum windows set within original openings. Storefronts along the west and south elevations are also non-historic.



West and south elevations of the Central YMCA Headquarters, looking east.

aluminum replacements.

Interior

The interior of the Central YMCA Building originally contained multiple athletic and social spaces on the lower floors that supported the work of the YMCA, including a pool, auditorium, two-story gymnasium, lecture hall, and reading room/library. Space above the seventh floor was arranged for use as offices and has been altered through subsequent renovations dating from the 1940s through the early 2000s. The interior has been extensively altered through multiple renovations dating between the late 1940s and the early 2000s. The first floor of the building contains a lobby dating from the 1980s/1990s that extends along the south end of the floor and connects to the main elevator lobby at its west end and a secondary elevator lobby at its east end. The west end of the first floor, which originally contained the main lobby for the building at the northwest corner, was later remodeled as additional retail space. Two restaurant spaces are located east of the main lobby along the south end of the floor.

The upper floors of the building contain corridors and office suites of varying configurations, all of which were constructed after 1981. The ornate primary staircase is located at the northwest corner of the building. The staircase was originally open to all floors and was subsequently enclosed; the original first floor section of the stair at the original lobby has been removed and replaced with a non-historic enclosed stair, connecting to the historic stair at the second floor. A secondary staircase is also located near the center of the building and was likely installed around the time of the addition in 1913. Both staircases feature a mixture of historic and non-historic railings, newel posts, and finishes. The secondary stair has been altered.

HISTORY OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Founding and Evolution of the YMCA in the 19th Century

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) began in England in 1844 as an evangelical and social organization for young men involved in trade. George Williams (1821-1905), the group's founder, envisioned the YMCA as a more explicitly religious alternative to the variety of fraternal organizations and volunteer groups of the period; its stated mission was "the spiritual and mental improvement of young men by any means in accordance with the Scriptures." William's new organization grew rapidly, and within a year boasted 18 different groups in London. By the late 1840s, the YMCA had established a comfortably outfitted headquarters in the city to house its operations. The London YMCA "rooms," modeled after those held by other self-improvement groups in the city, included a series of reading rooms, a library, and classrooms for the study of classical languages, mathematics, history, and other subjects. In 1851, the YMCA held a small exhibit inside the Crystal Palace during the Great Exhibition in London, which helped expose the organization to international visitors.



Above: The Central YMCA Headquarters' two-story base is clad in granite and marked by double-height round-arch openings that reflect its original Romanesque Revival design.

Top: The 10th, 11th, and 12th stories of the original 1893 building and the 1913 addition, which comprises the top four floors of the building, are clad in glazed white brick and white terra cotta and ornamented with Classical-style moldings, cartouches, and rosettes.



While the building's west tower displays overt historicism, the south elevation facing Arcade Place exhibits little ornamentation, and is a clear expression of the building's underlying structure.

Left: The south elevation of the building shows the stark contrast between the design of the west tower and the east elevation along Arcade Place.

Below and Bottom: The unadorned piers and spandrels at the east end of the building's south elevation follow the grid of the building's steel skeleton frame.



The first American YMCA opened in Boston in 1854 and soon spread to other large cities in the Northeast and Midwest. As in London, YMCA chapters in the United States were formed as a strategic response to the rapidly evolving economic, political, and cultural landscape in America's burgeoning urban centers. Young men, who were moving in increasing numbers from rural, family-centered communities to cities, often found themselves "floating freely within a permissive, anonymous, and increasingly attractive environment" without oversight, family responsibility, or "respectable" outlets for their free time and energies. Working in low-paying entry-level jobs and living in crowded boarding-houses, these men found little support and plentiful access to "disreputable" past-times in saloons, billiard halls, and gambling parlors. Those devout young men looking to avoid temptation and find community had few options – they were often shunned by status-conscious urban Protestant congregations, although some formed social and religious connections by teaching at Sunday schools, which ministered to the children of the working poor.

While most social and fraternal organizations in the 19th century implicitly espoused traditional Protestant values, the YMCA was the only organization in most American cities that combined the social and recreational elements of those groups with an overt emphasis on Christianity. The association sought to mold their members into the ideal of Christian masculinity, while providing them access to respectable educational and leisure activities in a comfortable, domestic setting that could compete with the temptations of the saloon and billiard hall.

In the decades after the Civil War, the increasing anonymity and complexity of corporate capitalism, as well as the diversification of the labor force through emancipation and immigration, led the New York YMCA, the largest and most influential chapter in the country, to reinvent itself as a more secular and inclusive institution that focused less on shaping the religious character of individuals and more on creating a reliable and industrious group of young men who would succeed as middle-class, white-collar workers and consumers within this new economic landscape. Under the leadership of general secretary Robert McBurney and with the support of prominent businessmen like J. P. Morgan and William Early Dodge, who served as president of the chapter, the New York YMCA adopted an expanded mission – "The improvement of the spiritual, mental, social and *physical* condition of young men." This mission, which would later be known as the "fourfold program," was adopted by YMCA chapters across the country in the late 19th century. The YMCA's new focus on physical health was likely influenced by German Turnvereins, which combined athletics with educational and social programs "to support the well-rounded physical and mental development of its members." Although more conservative members of the YMCA voiced concerns about the respectability of athletics and sport, the New York Y's leadership argued that offering them would "attract young men who would then, it was hoped, be drawn to other, more respectable activities."

The New York YMCA's updated mission was reflected in its impressive new central headquarters, which was designed by James Renwick and completed in 1869. The building was

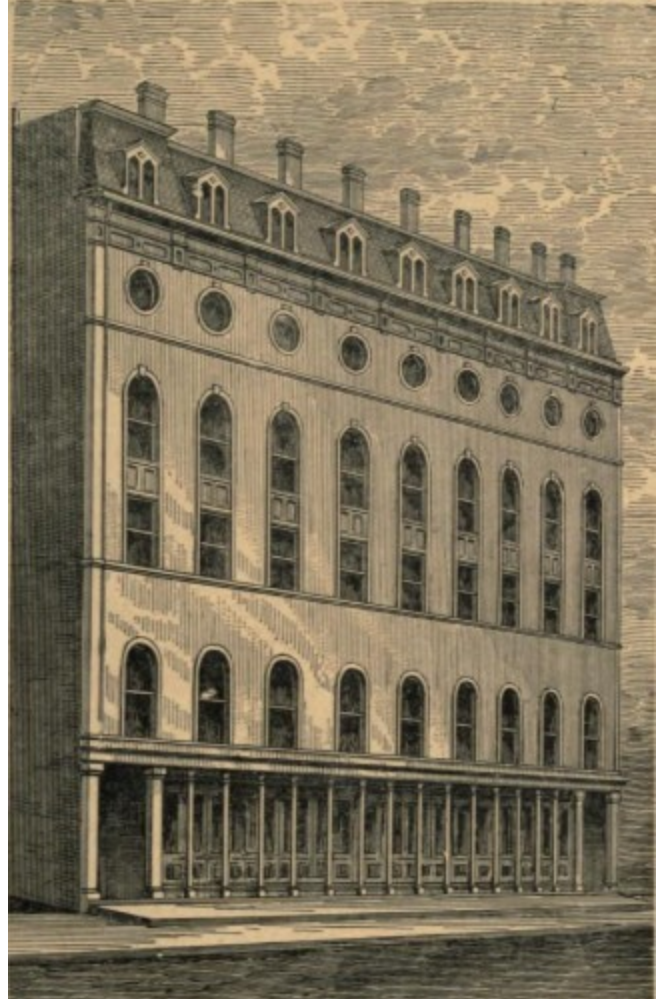
strategically located in New York City's busiest commercial district near Madison Square, and its elegant design, a blending of the Second Empire style with elements of Gothic Revival, was widely praised. The building's five floors contained a combination of rental spaces and programming for the YMCA. Retail storefronts took up the first floor of the building and rented artists' studios and a gallery were located on its fourth and fifth floors. These rental spaces brought in income to support operation of the building. The second and third floors of the building housed the YMCA spaces, which included a reception hall and reading room that was open to non-members, several parlors, a 1,400-seat lecture hall, classrooms, lecture rooms, and a double-story library. The newest addition to the YMCA program, the gymnasium, was located below the lecture hall. Robert McBurney initially hired circus performers to teach acrobatics in the gym, but by the late 1870s the YMCA had established a systematic athletics program based on German and Swedish gymnastics.

The New York YMCA's unique combination of religious and secular spaces and programming led many in the press to refer to it as "a Christian club." A reporter in *Harper's Weekly* deemed the new building "fairly entitled to be designated the handsomest club-house in the city. Clubhouse we call it, for such in fact it is. . . though consecrated to the cause of good moral, [and] of pure religion." The *New York Times* defended the YMCA leadership for designing the building with an eye toward amusement:

How far the new building shall partake of the character of a club is a question to which they have given grave study. The object, however, will in any event be to provide a place which shall present real attractions for young men, and do away with the idea any of them may have that the religious character of the Association must necessarily make it a sombre and forbidding place for the gay spirits of young. . . it is of the utmost importance that every legitimate attraction should be utilized to gain the end desired, and that then the young men will soon learn that at the Young Men's Christian Association they can pursue their favorite amusements with pleasanter surroundings than in the public places they now frequent, so often to the great injury of their morals, and that here, in this magnificent building, they will have unequalled opportunities for that social enjoyment and good-fellowship that is a necessity to their happiness.

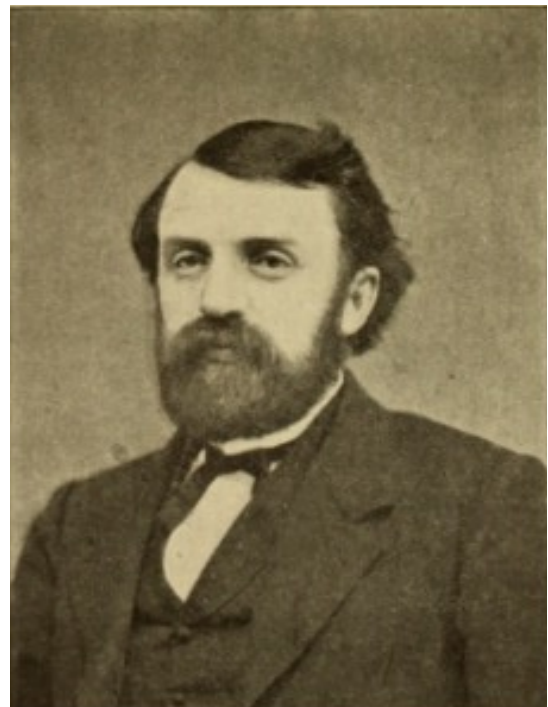
History of the Chicago YMCA

While the influence of the New York YMCA's updated mission spread through the 1870s and 1880s, the Chicago YMCA initially rejected this new vision for its own chapter of the organization, largely due to the influence of Dwight Lyman Moody (1837-1899) a celebrated evangelist who served as the association's president from 1865 to 1870. Moody was born in Northfield, Massachusetts and raised in the Unitarian Church. He moved to Boston to work in his uncle's shoe store at the age of 17 and began attending the Congregational Church of Mount Vernon. Influenced by his Sunday School teacher Edward Kimball, Moody converted to evangelical Christianity, which promoted the preaching and spreading of the Christian gospel. In 1856, Moody left Boston for Chicago, where he organized a small Sunday school in an abandoned building on North Wells Street.



The Chicago Chapter of the Young Men's Christian Association was founded in 1858 by the city's leading businessmen and philanthropists. In the mid-1850s, celebrated evangelist and Chicago YMCA president Dwight Lyman Moody (bottom right) led the organization in the construction of Farwell Hall on Madison Street (top right), the first purpose-built YMCA headquarters in the United States. The building was completed in 1867, but was destroyed by fire the following year. The Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed its replacement, and a third, scaled-down headquarters, called the Third Farwell Hall (top left) was completed on the site in 1874.

Sources: Top Left and Top Right Images, *Fifty-Five Years: the Young Men's Christian Association of Chicago, 1858-1913* (published 1913); Bottom Right Image, *The Life of Dwight L. Moody, by his son, William R. Moody* (published 1900).



While attending another Sunday school in the city, Moody met John V. Farwell (1825-1908), a successful merchant and member of the newly-reconstituted Chicago Chapter of the YMCA. Chicago's first YMCA had been organized in 1853 but was disbanded the following year after a cholera epidemic swept the city. A new group of business leaders and philanthropists had revived the organization in 1858, with a mission to "stimulate vital piety among young men resident in, or visiting this city or vicinity." The Chicago YMCA initially rented rooms in a building on Randolph Street before moving to the First Methodist Church Block, located at the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Clark Street in the city center. There the association had use of the church's library, reading room, and lecture hall, where they hosted prayer and bible study meetings.

Struck by his tireless devotion to mission work, Farwell encouraged Moody to join the Chicago YMCA. Newly elected as president of the organization, in 1861 Farwell arranged for Moody to serve as the association's librarian. Although Moody refused a salary for his position, Farwell financially supported the evangelist through other means, offering him free lodging in a block of apartments he had just built on the north side of the city.

Moody, Farwell, and the other leaders of the Chicago YMCA in the late 1850s and 1860s expanded the organization's initial mission of reaching young men to providing religious and material support to the city's broader population. The group organized the distribution of relief to the "worthy poor," conducted religious services at work camps and hospitals on the front lines during the Civil War, oversaw the North Market Mission Sunday School, and distributed thousands of religious tracts throughout the city. The Chicago Y's commitment to serve all members of the city was codified in its 1863 constitution, which stated that its mission was the "spiritual, intellectual, and social improvement of *all* within its reach, irrespective of age, sex, or condition."

The Chicago YMCA's evangelical mission was reflected in the design for its first purpose-built headquarters, called Farwell Hall in honor of John Farwell's work for the organization. Designed by Chicago architect W. W. Boyington and completed in 1867, Farwell Hall was the first large-scale YMCA headquarters of its kind in the world. Occupying a substantial lot at the intersection of Madison and LaSalle Streets, the five-story building was designed to resemble a large office block, with retail storefronts lining its ground floor. The interior of the building housed a reading room, library, and parlor for YMCA members, and office space on the upper floors were rented to the city's police, fire, and health departments, as well as to other missionary and temperance organizations. The building's fifth floor housed dormitories for up to 42 young men "who could not afford more ample accommodation." Although a small gymnasium was also located on this floor—the YMCA's building committee had included it based on the recommendations of the 1860 national conference—the association did not offer the space as an amenity for members, choosing instead to lease the gym to the Metropolitan Gymnastic Club. The bulk of the building was taken up by a 3,500-seat auditorium, which was one of the largest in the city at the time. Informally dubbed "Moody's Hall," the auditorium

often hosted the evangelist's popular revival meetings.

While Farwell Hall served as an early blueprint for the design of subsequent YMCA headquarters, its prominence was short-lived. The building was destroyed by a fire in 1868, and its reconstruction was overshadowed by the bold plans for the New York YMCA headquarters. When the second Farwell Hall was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, the Chicago YMCA was forced to construct a drastically scaled-down building for its third headquarters, which was completed on the site of the first and second buildings in 1874.

The Chicago YMCA's mission of relief and evangelical work established by Moody and Farwell continued through the 1870s and early 1880s. Although this put them at odds with most East Coast YMCAs, this mission continued to have support among the association's older, conservative leaders. Some concessions were made during this period to increase membership among the city's growing population of young men, including the addition of gymnasiums and baths to the third Farwell Hall building in the mid-1870s. However, the chapter warned its members in the March 7, 1880 edition of its *Weekly Bulletin* that "Even if our gymnasium is crowded, and our musical and literary entertainments are intensely interesting, unless souls are converted we fail in the great aim of our Association."

In the early 1880s, leadership of the Chicago YMCA gradually turned over to a new generation of the city's business community, including Cyrus McCormick, Jr., James Houghteling, and John Farwell, Jr. Looking to the East Coast chapters, these men sought to return to the YMCA's original mission of serving and guiding young men but found themselves hampered by the association's general secretary A. T. Hemingway, one of the last members of the organization's evangelical old guard. After a series of "teapot tempests" over the direction of the organization, Hemingway finally resigned from the position in 1888.

Following Hemingway's resignation, the Board of Managers called on Loring Wilbur Messer (1856-1923), who had worked as general secretary at the Peoria, Illinois and Cambridge, Massachusetts chapters, to become general secretary of Chicago's YMCA and help guide the organization in implementing the fourfold mission. One of Messer's first acts as general secretary was to draft a new constitution that placed the chapter's mission in line with those of other YMCAs. Under the new constitution, which was adopted in December 1888, the object of the association became "the spiritual, mental, social, and physical condition of young men," identical to that of the New York chapter. Voting membership in the organization was limited to men over the age of 16 who were members of evangelical churches, and associate membership to men over 16 "of good moral character." Messer also included a provision for the organization of the association under what became known as the "Metropolitan Plan," which permitted the chapter to establish, maintain, and provide general oversight to departments throughout the city while allowing them considerable scope for self-management.

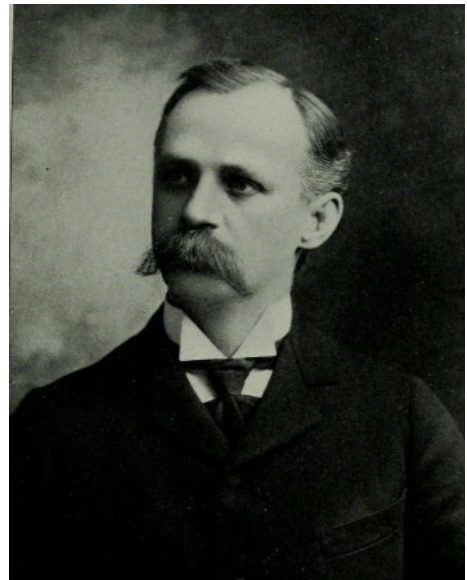
Also high on Messer's list of priorities was the construction of a new central headquarters for



By the late 1880s the Chicago YMCA was headed by a new generation of businessmen who returned to the YMCA's original mission of service to young men. These leaders embraced the "fourfold program" espoused by the national organization, which included supporting the physical health of its members as part of the organization's overall mission.

In 1888, the Chicago YMCA board hired Loring Wilbur Messer (bottom right) as its new general secretary. Under Messer's leadership, the Chicago YMCA commissioned Jenney & Mundie to design a new central headquarters on LaSalle Street. The building (top left) included the latest athletic and recreation facilities, including a gymnasium (bottom left), bowling alley, and swimming pool, as well as rental offices to offset the cost of construction. When the building was completed in 1893, it was the widely considered among the finest YMCA facilities in the country.

Sources: Top Left, *Inland Architect*, August 1892; Bottom Left, Cliff Smith YMCA Postcard Collection, Springfield College Archives and Special Collections; Bottom Right, *Historical Sketch of the Young Men's Christian Association of Chicago* (published 1898).



the Chicago YMCA. Erected with substantially diminished funds after the destruction of the second Farwell Hall in the mid-1870s, by the end of the 1880s the Madison Street building had become a source of embarrassment for the successful businessmen who served on the association's board. One member lamented that "Visitors to the Building from different parts of the country constantly expressed their surprise that citizens of Chicago have not shown their substantial appreciation of the great work accomplished and the opportunity of extension of the Association. . . by providing buildings worthy of the city and the Association." Board of Trustees member E. G. Keith, which had been advocating for a new building since 1881, called the building "a discredit to the Christian people of our city and a drawback to the work," and Cyrus McCormick Jr. agreed, claiming that he was "ashamed of the Chicago building after visiting all the principal Y buildings in the United States. The public expects better of us." Messer's recommendation to find a suitable site for a new building and begin fundraising was met with enthusiasm from the Board of Managers, and in January 1889, they announced their plans to build the new headquarters at the Y's annual dinner.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRAL YMCA HEADQUARTERS

The construction of a new central headquarters provided an opportunity for Chicago's YMCA to formally announce its full evolution from a strictly evangelical association to an organization that sought to guide young men within a Christian framework. A building committee, which included Houghteling, McCormick, and Farwell, was quickly formed, and in October 1889 the Board of Managers voted to use a \$50,000 bequest from merchant and philanthropist John Crerar as seed money for the building fund. Two friends of Crerar each donated an additional \$25,000 to match his endowment, and with \$100,000 in hand, the building committee began to plan for its new headquarters.

Their first act was to exchange the site of the existing headquarters for a long, narrow lot on LaSalle Street and Arcade Place, in the heart of Chicago's burgeoning financial district. Like the New York YMCA, the Chicago chapter sought a location that would be convenient for white collar workers and serve as a prominent reminder of the influence of the association. This prestigious new location raised the projected cost of the building to nearly \$1 million, only half of which was expected to come from contributions. To finance the construction, the association secured \$600,000 in bonds, which were secured by a mortgage on the property.

With a substantial percentage of the building's cost under mortgage, the association had to find a way for the building to pay for itself. Owen Aldis, a real estate specialist, and bankers Byron Smith and John J. Mitchel advised the committee to increase the office space in the building. After some consideration, the association decided to construct a 14-story building on the site, which would provide enough space for the YMCA's programming needs while leaving enough rental offices to offset the construction costs and ensure a steady income for the association.

The YMCA's Board of Managers initially commissioned Francis Whitehouse of Burling &

Whitehouse to design the building, but the architect later declined the job due to ill health. In 1892, the Chicago architecture firm Mundie & Jenney received the commission, likely based on partner William Le Baron Jenney's reputation as an innovator in the design and engineering of skyscrapers. To familiarize the firm with the association's programmatic needs, Messer accompanied Jenney on a tour of other YMCA buildings in cities throughout the East Coast and Great Lakes region, including Boston, Cambridge, Albany, Detroit, and Cleveland.

Jenney & Mundie's design for the Central YMCA building combined the overall massing and fenestration of the typical high-rise office building with a distinctive roofline and ornamentation on its most visually prominent facades. The west elevation and the two westernmost bays of the south elevation facing Arcade Place were composed to resemble a Romanesque "campanile" or bell tower, with round arches framing the windows on the lower three stories and heavy cornices and varied terra-cotta ornament delineating the upper levels of the tower. The tower culminated in a steeply-pitched broach roof set atop the 13th-story west penthouse, helping to further distinguish the YMCA building from the commercial office towers along LaSalle Street. East of the tower, the south elevation of the building facing Arcade Place was treated much more simply, with walls of glazed brick regularly fenestrated with simple window openings. A second penthouse with a flat roof was located above the 12th floor at the east end of the building, with a two-story west section and one-story east section.

While the interior of the original Farwell Hall had been organized around its large assembly hall, the new central headquarters building housed a wide array of recreational facilities, including bowling alleys, a swimming pool, woodworking shops, handball and tennis courts, and a small observatory tucked into the top of the west tower. The double-height gymnasium at the rear of the fifth and sixth floors was among the finest in the country, with a mezzanine-level running track and steel-truss roof. Directly below the gym were a labyrinthine system of lockers, showers, and dressing rooms. Also included were the club-like spaces that had also come to characterize the urban YMCA. The second and third floors of the building held a reading room, writing room, magazine room, library, and several parlors, as well as an auditorium that could accommodate up to 1,000. Classrooms were also provided at the rear of the seventh floor.

The remainder of the building—the front of the fourth through the seventh floors and the entire eighth through 13th floors—housed first-class office space with modern amenities. Office tenants were also allowed to use the Y's recreational facilities, which doubtless increased the building's appeal.

Construction of the new Central YMCA Headquarters began in mid-1892. The association had hoped to open the building in time for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, but construction delays brought on by the economic depression of 1893 delayed progress on the upper floors. When the building officially opened on November 11, 1893, the interiors of the ninth through twelfth floors and penthouses were still not completed. To finish these floors, the



The Chicago YMCA expanded rapidly in the early decades of the 20th century. To accommodate additional facilities for its Central department, the organization commissioned Mundie & Jensen to design an addition to the Central YMCA Headquarters (completed 1913) that replaced the existing penthouses and added four stories to the top of the building.

Source: Cliff Smith YMCA Postcard Collection, Springfield College Archives and Special Collections

YMCA board formed a series of outside syndicates that supplied funding, and the final level was completed in 1895.

The new Central YMCA Headquarters was glowingly reviewed in YMCA publications and the popular press. In his 1895 *Book of Young Men's Christian Association Buildings*, I. E. Brown called the building "the crowning glory of the building movement of our associations." *Harper's Weekly* proclaimed, "From whatever side we approach the magnificent edifice the Young Men's Christian Association has been rearing, we shall find it the most stately temple to the power and prowess of unsectarian Christianity erected in modern times." Illustrations and descriptions of the building were also featured in *Inland Architect*, *Engineering News* and *Architectural Reviewer*. The building has also been included in scholarly works on William Le Baron Jenney and on the history of the YMCA. In her definitive study on the architecture of the YMCA, published in 2010, architectural historian Paula Lupkin cites the Central YMCA Headquarters as an important interpretation of the "modern" YMCA facility in the late 19th century, which "presented the YMCA as a fusion of commercial and public interests."

1913 Addition

Membership at the chapter's Central Department increased substantially in the years following the completion of the headquarters building, and in 1904 staff petitioned the board to take over several of the building's office floors for new facilities, including a gym annex, boy's department, businessmen's club, and billiard room. Not wanting to sacrifice the rental income, the board refused to allow the association to expand into other parts of the building. The problem of lack of space continued through the decade, and in 1912 the Chicago YMCA commissioned Mundie & Jensen to design a four-story addition using the proceeds from its successful 1908 fundraising campaign, which corresponded with the 50th anniversary of the association's founding. Jenney & Mundie's addition replaced the existing penthouses and pyramidal roof and extended the height of the building to 16 stories. With its flat roof and oversized cornice, the addition transformed the original Romanesque design of the building into a more straightforward Classical-Revival skyscraper that blended seamlessly with other early 20th-century tall office towers in the Loop. Additional funds were also used to replace the building's locker rooms with "a more hygienic system of individual storage boxes and dressing rooms," which became standard in YMCA buildings throughout the country. This new system reduced the amount of space needed for storing clothes and equipment, allowing the association to install an auxiliary gymnasium to augment its existing facilities.

Educational Programming at the Central YMCA in the Early 20th Century

The 1908 fundraising effort allowed the Chicago YMCA to establish new departments and facilities under the Metropolitan Plan while also financing the organization's growing outreach and programming efforts. In the early 20th century, the Chicago Y offered English and citizenship classes to immigrant residents, opened departments to serve the city's Chinese, Japanese, and Black communities, and developed special programming and outdoor camps for



By the 1920s, the Chicago YMCA had constructed a wide array of buildings throughout Chicago., including the organization's first hotel (seen at center of illustration). With multiple departments spread among the city's neighborhoods, the Central YMCA Headquarters became a hub for the association's educational programming.

Source: YMCA of Metro Chicago Collection, Chicago History Museum (ICHi050345)

boys under the age of 16. In 1916, the association built its first hotel at 820-828 S. Wabash Avenue, providing safe and inexpensive lodging for new arrivals to the city, and constructed additional dormitories at its West Side facilities. A second major expansion program, called the "Greater Chicago Expansion Plan," was launched in the early 1920s, and resulted in new or expanded facilities in Hyde Park, Austin, Englewood, South Chicago, Roseland, Irving Park, Lincoln Park, and the West Side. In 1931, the Chicago YMCA capped nearly a decade of explosive growth with the opening of the Victor Lawson House YMCA, an elaborately appointed 25-story facility on Chicago Avenue, which contained a variety of recreational spaces and over 650 residence rooms. The building was named in memory of *Chicago Daily News* publisher Victor Lawson, who left the Chicago YMCA a bequest of over \$3.5 million dollars after his death in 1925.



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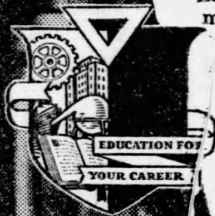
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The Chicago YMCA's educational programming expanded through the 1920s and 1930s, and included a secretarial school, "School of Commerce," evening and day high schools, junior college, and four-year college. This advertisement for the YMCA educational programs, organized under the name "Central YMCA College" and housed at the Central YMCA Headquarters, emphasized low tuition rates and flexible course schedules.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*, September 7, 1939

As the association expanded into more neighborhoods in the 1920s, the role of the Central YMCA Headquarters evolved. In addition to the city's neighborhood YMCA buildings, residents in Chicago had access to athletic and leisure activities from the city's growing public park system and from commercial recreation centers, movie palaces, and penny arcades, and the number of members using the building's gymnasium, pool, and bowling alley declined. At the same time, the YMCA's educational programs were expanding rapidly, and space within the headquarters was repurposed to accommodate the association's growing roster of classes.

Informal educational offerings had long been a part of the Chicago YMCA's programming – in the 19th century the association had offered commercial and technical courses to members, and an apprentice program established at the Central YMCA Headquarters, although short-lived, had led to the adoption of vocational education in Chicago Public Schools. In the early 20th century, the association established an evening high school and secretarial school, and by 1920 there were nearly 3,000 students enrolled in evening classes at the Central Y building. The following year, the association's high school received accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, as well as a charter for a "School of Commerce." In the early 1920s, the association's offerings expanded again to include a Junior College, which was accredited in 1924.

Demand for classroom space at the Central YMCA Headquarters increased exponentially in the early years of the Great Depression, as out-of-work men and women sought inexpensive educational opportunities. The Chicago Y opened a "day college" in the building in 1931, which "was immediately crowded with students." By the early 1930s, total enrollment in the YMCA schools was over 4,000, and in 1933 the association expanded the day college to a four-year college.

As the Central YMCA College attracted an increasing number of students through the 1940s, growing tensions emerged between the Chicago YMCA's leadership and the faculty and staff of the college over the independence of the school, pay for teachers, and admissions quotas based on race and religion. These tensions came to a head in 1945, when college president Dr. Edward James Sparling refused to comply with a request from the Board of Directors to institute a racial quota for the college, which had seen the number of Black students rise from four percent in 1939 to 26% in 1945. William P. Wiseman, chairman of the college's Board of Directors, denied that YMCA leadership restricted admission based on race, claiming "There is not now and never has been, any restriction upon student enrollment. . . . The college welcomes any scholastically qualified student, without regard to race, creed, or color." After a two-month period, during which Dr. Sparling and a group of Chicago businessmen tried to convince the board to allow the YMCA College to operate as an independent institution, Sparling and most of the college's faculty resigned. Sparling and his colleagues went on to establish Roosevelt College, which continues to operate in Chicago as Roosevelt University.



The Central YMCA Headquarters was designed by Jenney & Mundie. William Le Baron Jenney (top left), the firm's senior partner, had achieved international recognition for his pioneering work with iron and steel skeleton framing in tall buildings. Mundie (top center), who had joined the firm in 1884 as a draftsman, was promoted to junior partner in 1891. Among the firm's designs in Chicago were the Isabella Building at 21 E. Van Buren Street (top right, demolished), the New York Life Building at 37-43 S. LaSalle Street (bottom right), and the Ludington Building at 1104 S. Wabash Avenue (bottom left)

Sources: Ryerson & Burnham Art and Architecture Archive (top left, top center, top right, bottom left); Wikimedia Commons, credit - Beyond My Ken (bottom right)



Later History of the Central YMCA Headquarters

In the wake of the controversy surrounding Sparling's resignation, the Chicago YMCA dissolved the college and placed the high school and secretarial school under the management of the Central Department. While the association no longer offered formal adult education, it did continue a program of informal education for adults, called "Learning for Living," which included classes on a variety of subjects.

In the 1950s, the Chicago YMCA was renamed the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago to reflect the organizations' expansion into the surrounding suburbs, where dozens of modern facilities were constructed in the 1960s and 1970s to serve the growing population of families there. Although the Central YMCA Headquarters "became something of a relic" as the work of the association became more decentralized, the YMCA retained offices in the building through the 1970s. In 1980, the Chicago YMCA sold the building, and the following year it was redeveloped for use as a commercial office building.

ARCHITECTS OF THE CENTRAL YMCA HEADQUARTERS: JENNEY & MUNDIE (ORIGINAL 1893 BUILDING) AND MUNDIE & JENSEN (1913 ADDITION)

The Central YMCA Headquarters was designed by Chicago architecture firm Jenney & Mundie. At the time of the building's construction, senior partner William Le Baron Jenney (1832-1907) was internationally recognized for his innovative use of iron and steel skeletal framing in tall buildings, which helped to advance the development of the modern skyscraper. Although Jenney was best-known for his commercial work, his career was wide-ranging. His firm designed a variety of residential, religious, public, and institutional buildings in and around Chicago throughout the late 19th century, and his work with the West Park Commission in the 1870s and 1880s included plans for some of the city's most important public parks. Jenney was also one of five Chicago architects selected to serve on the architectural advisory committee for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

Jenney's partnership with William Bryce Mundie (1863-1939), as well as his work for the Columbian Exposition, influenced his later designs, which incorporated more historical and classical elements. Although Jenney & Mundie designed several tall office buildings in downtown Chicago during their 14-year partnership, the Central YMCA Headquarters and the New York Life Building at 37-43 S. LaSalle Street (1894) are the only remaining examples of the firm's work in the Loop.

William Le Baron Jenney

Jenney was born in Fairhaven, Massachusetts in 1832 and studied at Lawrence Scientific School before enrolling as an engineering student at the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in Paris in 1853. Jenney graduated with honors from the Ecole Centrale in 1856 and secured a position as an engineer with the Tehuantepec Railroad Company. He joined the



The 1913 addition to the Central YMCA Headquarters was designed by Mundie & Jensen. Elmer C. Jensen (top left) who joined the firm as a draftsman the same year as Mundie, was promoted to partner after Jenney's retirement in 1905. The firm designed numerous tall office buildings in Chicago, including the Lesner Building at 5 N. Wabash Avenue (top right) and the Consumers Building at 220 S. State Street (above left). The firm also designed numerous auto showrooms in the city's Motor Row district, including the Detroit and Cadillac Automobile Showrooms at 2412 and 2416 S. Michigan Avenue (above right).

Sources: Ryerson & Burnham Art and Architecture Archive (top left, top right, above, left); Commission on Chicago Landmarks (above right)

Union Army in 1861, serving as an aide-de-camp to General Ulysses S. Grant during the battles of Shiloh and Vicksburg. Jenney was later transferred to General William T. Sherman's staff and served as head of the Army's engineering department during Sherman's siege of Atlanta. He left the Army in 1866 with the rank of brevet Major and made his way to Chicago, where he established an architecture office in 1868. The following year, Jenney was appointed chief engineer for the newly-established West Park Commission and completed plans for Douglas, Garfield, and Humboldt Parks in the early 1870s. Jenney continued to work with the West Park Commission through the 1880s, designing the commission's headquarters in Union Park and the winter garden in Douglas Park, both completed in 1888.

Jenney's experimentation with metal-frame construction began in the late 1870s with his design for the First Leiter Building (demolished in 1972) at the northwest corner of Wells and Monroe streets in downtown Chicago. Commissioned by dry-goods merchant Levi Z. Leiter and completed in 1879, the First Leiter Building featured a structural system that combined internal cast-iron columns with load-bearing masonry walls and spandrels, which was similar to that of mill construction. Jenney likely employed this structural system to allow for larger window openings in the building, which would bring more natural light into its interior. The exterior of the building, with its lack of ornamentation and large window openings, was a foreshadowing of the straightforward expression of the structural frame that became a hallmark of later skyscraper design.

In his design for the Home Insurance Building (demolished in 1931) at the northeast corner of LaSalle and Adams streets, Jenney became the first architect to use metal skeleton-frame construction in the design of a tall building, designing an internal structural system of iron and steel that supported most of the weight of the building. The exterior masonry walls, no longer required to be load-bearing, instead functioned merely as a "curtain wall" that enveloped the frame. Jenney's technical innovations in the Home Insurance Building helped to pave the way for the modern skyscraper, and Jenney was widely celebrated for his contributions to the development of ever-taller buildings throughout the world. Writing on the architect's achievements in *The Chicago School of Architecture*, architectural historian Carl Condit called Jenney "perhaps the most original structural talent of the Chicago School. . . . As an engineer he had that kind of easy confidence in his ability that seldom led to self-questioning or to theoretical considerations. But Jenney knew what he was doing, and it had to be done before others could move on the greater heights."

In the decade following the completion of the Home Insurance building in 1884, Jenney received several important commissions for other tall buildings in Chicago, giving him further opportunities to refine his approach to skeleton-frame construction and to the skyscraper as a distinct architectural form. Jenney received the commission for the Second Leiter Building (also called the Leiter Store or Leiter II) in 1889 with instructions from Levi Leiter that the building "be one great retail store, as complete and perfect in all its appointments as the resources of modern science and art can make it." In his design for the building, which was completed in

1891, Jenney used the iron and steel structural frame to determine the overall pattern of the facade, which features a curtain-wall of light-gray granite with continuous horizontal spandrels intersected by vertical piers that express the underlying structure. Jenney's design for the Manhattan Building at 431 S. Dearborn Street, completed the same year as the Second Leiter Building, also employed a metal skeleton structure and rose to 16 stories, briefly making it the tallest building in the world. Both the Second Leiter Building and the Manhattan Building are designated Chicago landmarks.

Jenney & Mundie

The final years of William Le Baron Jenney's career were spent in partnership with architect William Bryce Mundie, who worked as chief draftsman in Jenney's office. Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Mundie was the son and grandson of architects. Although he had no formal architectural education, Mundie gained practical experience through a four-year apprenticeship under local builder Peter Brass before leaving Canada for the United States. Mundie relocated to Chicago on April 1, 1884, and that same day secured a position in Jenney's office as a draftsman. Mundie's talent for draftsmanship allowed him to move up rapidly within the firm, and in 1891 Jenney promoted him to junior partner.

That same year, William Mundie became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He later served as vice president for the national organization and was a member of the Chicago chapter of the AIA and the Illinois Society of Architects. Between 1898 and 1905, Mundie also served as architect of the Chicago Board of Education and designed a number of Chicago Public Schools during his tenure.

The buildings Jenney & Mundie designed during their partnership—including the Ludington Building at 1104 S. Wabash Avenue (1891, a designated Chicago Landmark), the Isabella Building at 21 E. Van Buren Street (1892, demolished in 2004), the New York Life Building at 37-43 S. LaSalle Street (1893-4, a designated Chicago Landmark), and the Morton Building at 538 S. Dearborn Street (1896, located within the Chicago Landmark Printing House Row District) show the interplay between Jenney's forward-thinking philosophy of functionalism and structure and Mundie's more conservative approach to design. They also show the influence of the firm's participation in the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Jenney was one of ten architects selected to serve on the fair's architectural advisory committee, and Jenney and Mundie were responsible for the design of the Horticultural Building at the fair. Jenney's participation in the fair led to a greater appreciation of Classical architecture, which can be seen in the firm's designs from the 1890s through the turn of the 20th century.

Mundie & Jensen

In 1905, William Le Baron Jenney retired from the firm. William Mundie promoted draftsman Elmer C. Jensen (1870-1955) to partner, and the firm was renamed Jenney, Mundie & Jensen. Upon Jenney's death in 1907, the name of the firm changed again to Mundie & Jensen.

Elmer Jensen was born in Chicago in 1870 to Danish immigrant parents. His father owned a successful construction company, and as a child Jensen displayed an intense interest in architecture. Jensen learned architectural drafting from William Jones, a neighbor who worked in Jenney's office, and in 1884 he was hired at the firm as an errand boy. Jensen continued to work at the firm while taking architectural drafting classes at the Institute of Chicago and was promoted to junior draftsman while still a teenager.

Like Mundie, Jensen received little formal education in architecture, but his innate talents and work ethic allowed him to have a successful career in the field. His dedication to the profession earned him the title "Dean of Chicago Architecture." Throughout his career, Jensen remained active in a variety of professional organizations, serving as Chair of the Chicago Housing Conference, Chair of the Illinois Society of Architects, President and Fellow of the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and National Director and Second Vice President of the American Institute of Architects, and President of the Chicago Building Congress.

In the years following Jenney's retirement, Mundie & Jensen continued to design office buildings in the Loop, including the Consumers Building at 220 S. State Street (completed 1913, a designated Chicago Landmark) and the Kesner Building at 5 N. Wabash Avenue (1910). The firm also expanded its work to the design of auto showrooms within the city's burgeoning Motor Row district south of the Loop. Between 1909 and 1917, the firm designed seven auto-related buildings within the district, which is a designated Chicago landmark district: the Locomobile Motor Company Showroom at 2000 S. Michigan Avenue (1909); the Cadillac Motor Car Showroom at 2412 S. Michigan Avenue (1909); the Detroit Electric Auto Company Showroom at 2416 S. Michigan Avenue (1909); the Pierce Arrow Auto Company Showroom at 2420 S. Michigan Avenue (1909); the Schillo Motor Sales Company Showroom at 2317 S. Michigan Avenue (1917); the Rambler Automobile Company Showroom at 2246-58 S. Indiana Avenue (1911); and the Packard Motor Company Warehouse Building at 2338-42 S. Indiana Avenue (1915).

Mundie and Jensen continued to work as partners through the mid-1930s, taking on two partners in 1936 and changing the name of the firm again to Mundie, Jensen, Bourke & Havens. After William Mundie's death in 1939, the firm continued under that name until 1944, when Bourke and Havens left the firm. As a show of respect for his former partner, Jensen renamed the firm Mundie & Jensen until additional partners were brought on. In 1953, the firm became Jensen & Halstead. After Jensen's death in 1955, the firm continued under that name and remains in operation today.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE CENTRAL YMCA HEADQUARTERS

The design of the Central YMCA Headquarters is a unique representation of the combined

talents and design philosophies of partners William Le Baron Jenney and William Mundie. With its steel skeleton frame and terra-cotta curtain walls, the building reflects the technological innovations of the tall office building pioneered by Jenney and widely adopted in the 1890s by other Chicago architects, but the historically-inspired detailing on the west tower of the building facing LaSalle Street shows Mundie's more traditional influence.

Faced with a long, narrow lot presenting only a small frontage along LaSalle Street, Jenney & Mundie recognized that designing a building with visual impact would be challenging. In an article on the building, *The Architectural Reviewer* described Jenney & Mundie's approach to this design problem:

The problem presented by the Y. M. C. A. Building was unique and difficult. Given a site of fifty feet front on the corner of Arcade Court and LaSalle Street, running back fifty feet in an L, extending north the full depth in front, while by far the greater part of the building was in the rear.

The idea presented itself for some separate treatment for this small section which, in reality, was the façade of a building of large area.

The Campanile was at once thought of, and after laying out sectional heights it was designed in clay, a rough sketch about three feet high. The building when completed, varied little from the model, and it proved a quick medium for roughing it out.

In his study of William Le Baron Jenney's career, architectural historian Theodore Turak posits that this process of conceiving the ornate Romanesque west tower "as a plastic mass to be considered from the outside" indicates that its design was likely "more the product of Mundie's mind than that of Jenney's," while the relative simplicity of the remainder of the building east of the tower reflects Jenney's emphasis on structure. The prominent, unadorned vertical piers that mark the middle stories of the tower above the three-story base accentuate the verticality of the building and express the underlying steel frame, but the lavish ornamentation at the base and upper stories—including the round-arch openings and temple-like window surround above the original entry, the banded rustication on the 11th and 12th stories, and the heavy cornices marking the divisions between the upper stories—are unapologetically historical.

The west tower of the Central YMCA Headquarters bears a striking resemblance to firm's design for the Isabella Building on East Van Buren Street, which had been completed the year before the Central YMCA. The street-facing end of the long, rectangular structure was treated as a Gothic tower, with a heavy stone base that belied its steel frame structure and prominent piers that extended above the base and emphasized the building's verticality. Like the Central YMCA tower, the Isabella tower also featured a profusion of terra-cotta ornamentation at its upper floors and a steeply-pitched pyramidal roof.

Jenney's influence on the design of the building can be most clearly seen on the south elevation of the building east of the tower, which faces Arcade Place and is minimally visible from

LaSalle Street. The building's underlying steel frame determines the overall grid-like pattern of brick vertical piers and spandrels on the elevation. Openings between this grid contain two or three windows separated by narrow terra-cotta mullions. Except for the terra-cotta lintels and simple cornices delineating the upper stories, the elevation features no ornamental detailing.

Although the contrast between the west tower and the east section of the Central YMCA Headquarters has been smoothed over somewhat with the unifying 1913 addition at the top of the building, the differences between the tower and the south elevation along Arcade Place are still striking and illustrate the negotiation Jenny and Mundie undertook during the design process.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (Section 2-120-690), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has the authority to make a recommendation of landmark designation for an area, district, place, building, structure, work of art, or other object within the City of Chicago if the Commission determines it meets two or more of the stated "criteria for landmark designation," as well as possesses sufficient integrity to convey its significance. The following should be considered by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in determining whether to recommend that the Central YMCA Headquarters be designated as a Chicago Landmark:

Criterion 1: Value as an Example of City, State, or National Heritage

Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States

- The Central YMCA Headquarters reflects the YMCA's growing presence and popularity in Chicago in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The design of the Central YMCA Headquarters, which included a combination of recreational, educational, and administrative spaces for the association, represents the evolution of the Chicago Chapter of the YMCA away from the evangelical mission promoted by early leaders Dwight H. Moody and John L. Farwell toward the "fourfold program" developed by East Coast YMCAs in the late 19th century and widely adopted by chapters nationwide, which emphasized athletics and recreational activities as a means to mold the character of young men.
- The Central YMCA Headquarters is a rare example of a YMCA facility that housed association programming within a high-rise commercial office building. While other YMCA chapters often included a small number of rental offices and dormitories to provide income, Chicago's Central YMCA boasted nearly 40,000 square feet of modern office space, which was needed to offset construction and operation costs in Chicago's expensive central business district.

- From the 1920s through the 1950s, the Central YMCA Headquarters served as the center for the Chicago association's educational programming, which included an accredited evening high school, a secretarial school, a junior college and a four-year college. The building's central location and abundance of classroom space made it the ideal facility for these programs.

Criterion 4: Exemplary Architecture

Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship.

- The Central YMCA Headquarters is an early example of a fireproof, steel-frame skyscraper in Chicago, and combines the exuberant historicism of late-19th century architecture with the growing influence of the Chicago School, which emphasized expression of structure and restrained ornamentation. The west tower of the building, both in its original form with Romanesque "campanile" and as redesigned in the Classical Revival style in 1913, presented a traditional face to LaSalle Street, while the stripped-down south elevation reflected Jenney's functional design philosophy.
- In her definitive study on the architecture of the YMCA, published in 2010, architectural historian Paula Lupkin cites the Central YMCA Headquarters as an important interpretation of the "modern" YMCA facility in the late 19th century, which "presented the YMCA as a fusion of commercial and public interests."

Criterion 5: Important Architect

Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.

- The 1893 Central YMCA Headquarters was designed by Chicago architectural firm Jenney & Mundie, with the 1913 addition designed by their successor firm Jenney, Mundie & Jensen. Founded by William Le Baron Jenney (1832-1907) and William Bryce Mundie (1864-1939), Jenney & Mundie designed some of Chicago's best-known early skyscrapers including the Manhattan Building (1891), Second Leiter Building (1891), Ludington Building (1892), and New York Life Insurance Building (1894), all extant and designated Chicago Landmarks.
- Together with the New York Life Building at 37-43 S. LaSalle, the Central YMCA

Headquarters represents the only remaining extant examples of the work of William Le Baron Jenney in the Loop.

- Widely recognized as the “father of the skyscraper,” senior partner William Le Baron Jenney developed the concept of skeleton-frame construction (also known as “Chicago construction”), whereby the weight of a building rests on an internal framework of iron or steel rather than its exterior walls. This technological advance revolutionized building construction throughout the world.
- The prominent west tower on the original 1893 design of the Central YMCA Headquarters reflected Mundie’s preference for historical styles and his growing influence in the firm, while the Classical Revival design of the Central YMCA’s 1913 addition illustrates the increasing popularity of Classical design in the years following the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893.

Integrity Criteria

The integrity of the proposed landmark must be preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and ability to express its historic community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value.

The Central YMCA Headquarters retains good integrity with its overall historic massing; stone, terra-cotta, and glazed brick exterior; and fenestration pattern. Though its ground level storefronts have been changed and its cornice has been removed, most of the changes to the building’s exterior appearance over its nearly 130-year life were made by the YMCA and express the association’s changing needs during the eight decades it occupied the building.

Significant Historical and Architectural Features

Whenever an area, district, place, building, structure, work of art, or other object is under consideration for landmark designation, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks is required to identify the “significant historical and architectural features” of the property. This is done to enable the owners and the public to understand which elements are considered most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

Based upon its evaluation of the Central YMCA Headquarters at 19 S. LaSalle Street, the Commission recommends that the significant features be identified as follows:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the building.

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The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose nine members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. The Commission is responsible for recommending to the City Council that individual building, sites, objects, or entire districts be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law. The Commission is staffed by the Chicago Department of Planning and Development, Bureau of Citywide Planning, Historic Preservation Division, City Hall, 121 North LaSalle Street, Room 905, Chicago, IL 60602; (312-744-3200); www.cityofchicago.org/landmarks

This Landmark Designation Report is subject to possible revision and amendment during the designation process. Only language contained within a designation ordinance adopted by the City Council should be regarded as final.

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