

Poletown Historic District
Industrial Women's Service Center
2431 E. Grand Boulevard
Detroit
Wayne
MI

HABS No. MI-275-10

HABS
MICH
82-DET-20
36-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON DC, 20240

STATE Michigan	COUNTY Wayne	TOWN OR VICINITY Detroit
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Poletown Historic District Industrial Women's Service Center (City Directory)		HABS NO. MI-275-10 NXXA.
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE YWCA (1928-1952), Edgar A. Guest Boys Club (1952-1974), Goodwill Community Chapel (1974-1980).		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 2431 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1919 (City Directory)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Original: Unknown. 1952 Renovation: Giffels and Vallet, Inc. (Architect's plans)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The building is historically significant for its role in Detroit's early labor movement. It was built to serve as a hostel and recreation center for the large female labor force, particularly those working in the cigar industry.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Masonry wall construction.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPT Refer to attached floor plans on Page 3.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The brick walls of the building are decorated with intermittantly spaced fleur-de-lis tiles.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) The building contains a gymnasium, locker rooms, stage and activities room.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES In 1952. Facade redecoration and interior renovation was completed. The architectural firm employed was Giffels and Vallet, Inc. L. Rossetti was the architect in charge.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The most recent occupant of the building was the Goodwill Community Chapel, which was under the direction of the pastor, Reverend Carol Hayes. The building is presently scheduled for demolition.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) (SEE ATTACHED SHEET)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Theron Francis, William Kessler and Associates, Inc.	DATE July 20, 1981	

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

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HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE: Industrial Women's Service Center

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

I. Book

1. Babson, Steve and Elsila, Dave, Union Town: A Labor History Guide to Detroit. Detroit: Workers Education Local 189. N.D.

II. Manuscript and Document

1. Johnson, Christopher H., "A Forgotten World: The Women Cigar Workers of Detroit's Central Industrial Park." (Unpublished manuscript) N.D.
2. Environmental Impact Statement, Central Industrial Park, City of Detroit Community and Economic Development Department, 1980.

III. Reference Material

1. City Directory, Detroit; R. L. Polk and Company (Vols. 1915-1974).

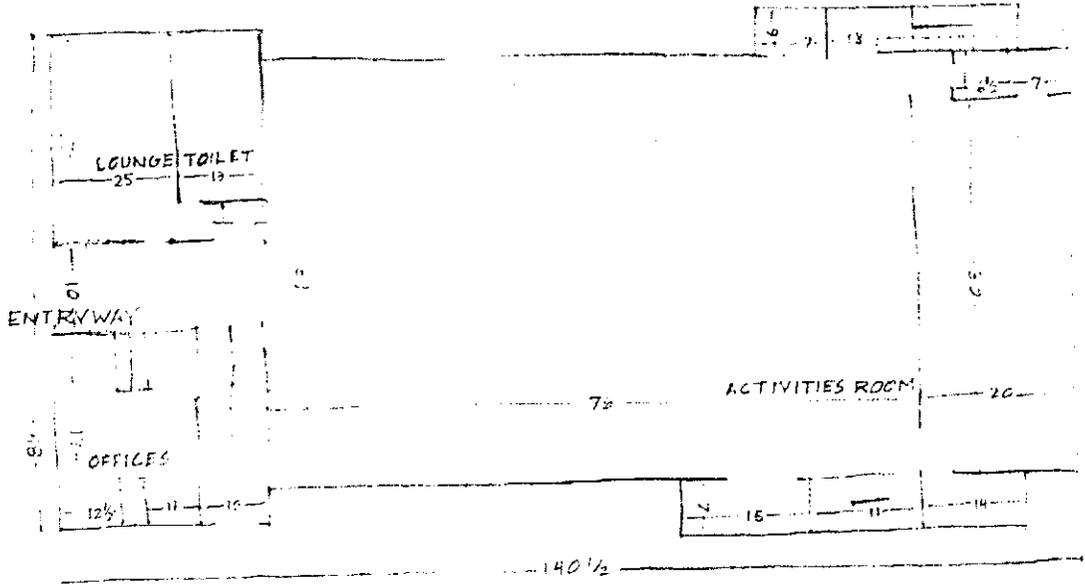
IV. Architectural Drawings

1. Architectural Renovations for the Edward A. Guest Boys Club. Giffels and Vallet, Inc.

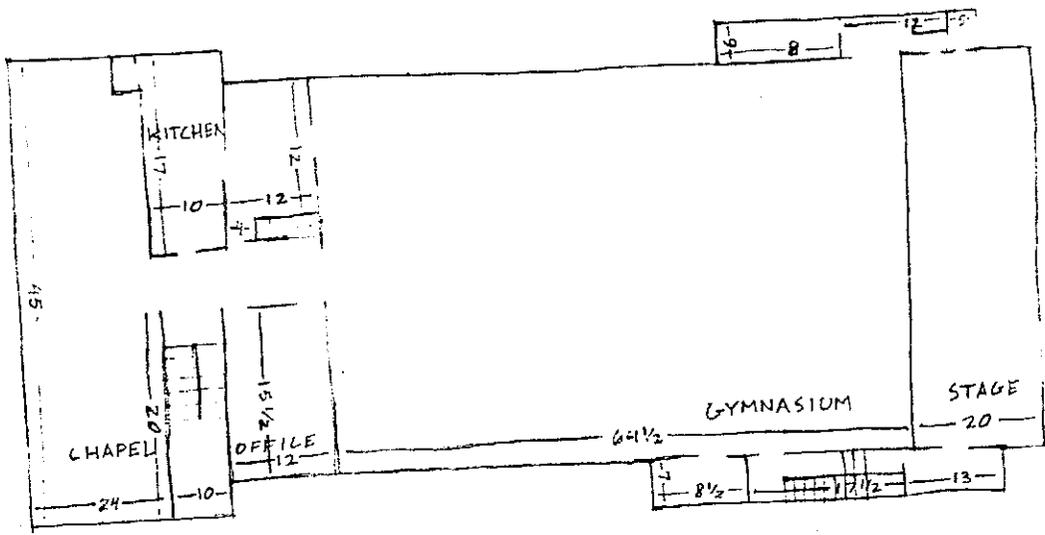
V. Interview

1. Rev. Carol Hayes, Pastor, Goodwill Community Chapel.

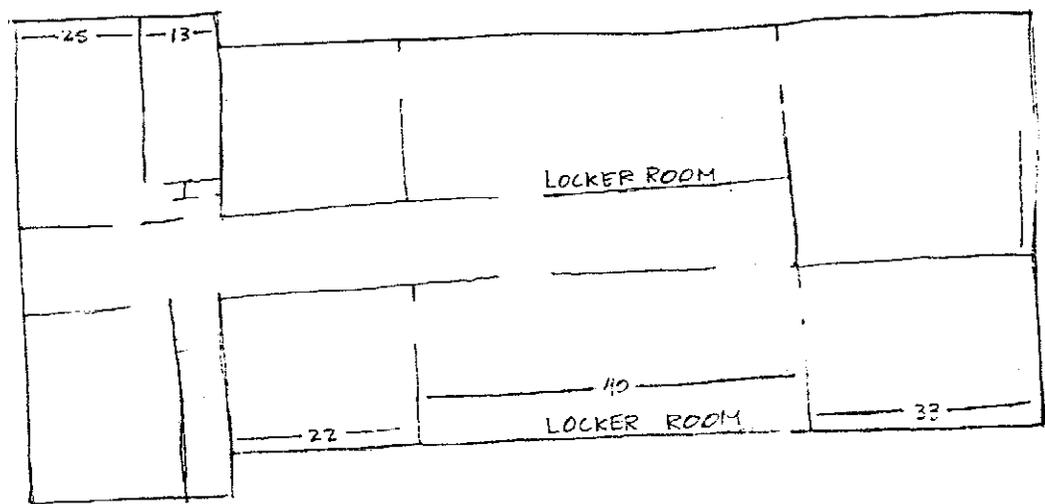
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1ST FLOOR



2ND FLOOR



BASEMENT

1. Property Name

Goodwill Community Chapel

2. Location

Street Address: 2431 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan

The Goodwill Community Chapel is located on the south side of East Grand Boulevard. It is situated south of Detroit's Central Industrial Park and north of the Ford Freeway (I-94).

3. Classification

Building

4. Ownership

City of Detroit - Community and Economic Development Department

5. Representation on Existing Surveys

None

6. Description

The Goodwill Community Chapel is typical of pre-World War I commercial architecture. The only unique aspects which the building displays are the tile fleur-de-lis that are sporadically placed, covering the sides of the front section and the buttresses at each corner. It is a two-story brick structure on a rectangular plan. The structure has a cafeteria, gymnasium, chapel, activities room, and other accommodations. To the east and west of the structure are commercial buildings, and to the south are residential buildings.

7. Significance

The Goodwill Community Chapel is significant historically for its connection to the women laborers of Detroit's Central Industrial Park. The structure was founded through the funds of a wealthy, local philanthropist, and was to serve as a dormitory and an activities building for the homeless women laborers who worked at the local cigar factories. The building was named the Industrial Women's Service Center. The Women's hostel was the focal point of several strikes that occurred

during the late 1930's. When the cigar factories closed in the late 1930's, the Industrial Women's Service Center ceased to serve a function, and thus it also closed. In 1936, the building was converted into a YWCA and the International Center Cafeteria. Later it was made the Edward A. Guest Boys Club. The Goodwill Community Chapel began occupancy of the building in 1968, and remained there until 1980.