

Young Men's Institute ^[1]

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Young Men's Institute, built 1892. Image courtesy of D. H. Ramsey Library, Special Collections, University of North Carolina at

by Raymond Gavins, 2006 Asheville.

The Young Men's Institute ^[2] in Asheville ^[3], backed by businessman and philanthropist George W. Vanderbilt ^[4], opened in 1893 as a community center for black construction workers at his Biltmore House and Asheville's increasingly segregated African American ^[5] citizens. By 1906 a black-led supervisory committee had assumed ownership of the center's building. The large brick structure provided blacks with space for a wide variety of business, civic, educational, religious, and social activities until 1977, when it closed. The Young Men's Institute building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places ^[6].

References:

Catherine W. Bishir, Michael T. Southern, and Jennifer F. Martin, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (1999).

H. G. Jones, *North Carolina Illustrated, 1524-1984* (1983).

Sydney Nathans, *The Quest for Progress: The Way We Lived in North Carolina, 1870-1920* (1983).

Additional Resources:

Waters, Darin J. "Philanthropic Experimentation: George Vanderbilt, the YMI, and Racial Uplift Ideology in Asheville, North Carolina, 1892-1906." *The North Carolina Historical Review* 95, no. 3 (2018): 313–39. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45184943> ^[7].

Young Men's Institute, NC Historical Marker P-88, NC Office of Archives & History: <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=Markers&k=Markers&sv=P-88> ^[2]

Young Men's Institute, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/asheville/you.htm> ^[8]

Young Men's Institute, Western North Carolina Heritage Center: <#>

Image of the building, NCSU Libraries: <http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/catalog/buch0052> ^[9]

Richard Sharp Smith, Designer of Building, NCSU Libraries: <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000100> ^[10]

YMI Building, Image Collection, NCSU Libraries: <http://images.lib.ncsu.edu/luna/servlet/view/all/what/Young+Men%27s+Institute+%28Asheville,+N.C.%29/where/United+States+-+North+Carolina+---+Buncombe+County+---+Asheville?os=0&pgs=50&sort=Division%2BSequence%2BNumber%252CPageSequenceNumber%252CFilename%252CTitle> ^[11]

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Young Men's Institute, built 1892. Image courtesy of D. H. Ramsey Library, Special Collections, University of North Carolina at Asheville. Available from # (accessed August 29, 2012).

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Black and African American People [12]

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Authors:

Gavins, Raymond [15]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. [16]

1 January 2006 | Gavins, Raymond

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Links

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