

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club

other names/site number Buffalo Tennis Club

2. Location

street & number 314 Elmwood Avenue [] not for publication

city or town Buffalo [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Erie code 029 zip code 14222

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ruth J. Perpent
Signature of certifying official/Title

D81HPO

10/22/08
Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [] entered in the National Register
[] see continuation sheet
[] determined eligible for the National Register
[] see continuation sheet
[] determined not eligible for the National Register

[] removed from the National Register

[] other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ Clubhouse

RECREATION & CULTURE/ Sports Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/ Clubhouse

RECREATION & CULTURE/ Sports Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Stucco & Brick, Hollowed Tile

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club
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Narrative Description of Property

The Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club is located in the central area of the city of Buffalo at 314 Elmwood Avenue. Elmwood serves as a main thoroughfare for one of the city's most notable late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century districts and is characterized by the mixed use of residential and commercial buildings that serve the surrounding neighborhoods. The Club is located on the west side of Elmwood, just north of Summer Street and flanked by two commercial properties.

Standing at two and half stories, the classically styled building is in strict symmetry, with hipped roofs and a large skylight in the rear. The building today maintains its original appearance to a remarkable degree. A description by the architects and published in the *American Architect* for November 22, 1916, is still valid for most of the structure. This description, with additional commentary and notices of modifications that have taken place since their publications are indicated in brackets, is as follows:

The clubhouse is situated on a city lot 125 ft. front and 200 ft. deep, the building being 121 ft. in width, covering within four feet of the full frontage of the lot, and is 112 ft. in depth.

It is constructed entirely of hollow tile. The main building has stuccoed walls with brick quoins at the corners [Quoins obscured by the 1926 squash expansion. See below] and white window trim with green blinds at the windows, and has at the sides two wings. In the elevation of these wings the necessary absence of windows is made a feature by a series of brick arches and pilasters enclosing plain plastered panels.

[The recessed main entrance is framed by Tuscan pilasters supporting an entablature, above which rises a semi-circular arch flanked by urns. There are floral plaster relief panels above the entrance and first-floor windows. The original wooden panel shutters feature cut-outs of a potted tree, an Arts and Crafts motif.]

The determining factor in the arrangement of the plan was the placing of the club rooms so that they would overlook both the tennis court and the squash courts and yet have them open on the street front. This result was achieved by planning the clubhouse with a central club building, in which are located the locker rooms and toilets on the first floor and the clubrooms on the second floor, with a wing on either side containing three squash courts. At the rear across the full width of the center building and its wings is the indoor tennis court.

Entering the broad hall through a white paneled vestibule, at one side stairs lead directly up to the main lounging room on the second floor, and at right and left respectively are the entrances to the men's and women's locker rooms, with attached toilet rooms and showers. [The locker rooms have been remodeled in a recent vintage.] At the left just inside the main entrance are the office and coatroom. Directly ahead is a passage to the tennis court . . .

On the second floor are placed the main lounging room, with broad expanse of casements extending the full length of one side of the room and overlooking the tennis court. [This room features a cove vaulted ceiling

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with five transverse arches.] *At either side and between this room and the front of the building are the men's and women's lounging rooms, from which a view may be had into the squash courts as well as onto the street. [The squash court windows in the women's lounging room have been removed.] These three rooms may all be used together for small entertainments or be separated by folding accordion doors. The main lounging room, while entirely an interior room, is brilliantly though indirectly lighted by the skylights over the squash and tennis courts. This room and the men's room are finished in dark woodwork and [painted] plastered walls, with floors of wide oak boards stained to harmonize with the woodwork. The women's room is finished in enameled white wood [and] plastered walls. Between the men's and women's rooms and at the front of the building are a small service kitchen and pantry, connected to the bedrooms and bath for the servants located on the floor above.*

The tennis court is 52 ft. wide and 118 ft. long, giving a clear space beyond the doubles court of 8 ft. at the sides and 21 ft. at the ends, with a clear height to the underside of the trusses of 30 ft. This court is lighted by a skylight approximately the size of the singles court, providing ample light for play on any ordinary day... The walls of the court are painted dark green to a height of about 10 ft. above the floor; above this line the walls and the underside of the roof are painted white . . .

The six squash courts, alike in every particular, are accessible through small halls at the sides of the locker rooms. They are 17 ft. wide and 32½ ft. long, with a clear height of 18 ft., and are lighted by skylights with an area about half that of the court

All the significant alterations and additions were undertaken by the original architects and their successors. The original design of 1915 featured four squash courts and a handball court, but the latter was converted into two additional squash courts in 1916. In 1920, the regulation size of squash court was widened from 17 ft. to 18½ ft.; in 1926, Bley & Lyman expanded all the squash courts at this club to meet this new official width by moving the successive interior walls eastward towards Elmwood Avenue. This complicated operation included the construction of new foundations for the eastern exterior walls of the wings, which now project beyond the central section by about two feet. Two of the squash courts now are used for a weight room and storage, though they retain their historic appearance.

In 1929, Bley & Lyman added two doubles squash courts, at the west side of the indoor tennis court. These new courts, which are reached through an entrance in the center of the west wall of the main tennis court, are oriented north and south and are separated by a passageway leading from the indoor tennis court to the outdoor tennis court at the rear of the property. Above this passageway are tiered rows of viewing benches overlooking the new courts. Like the original building, this addition is constructed of hollow tile covered with stucco.

In 1968, Duane Lyman & Associates added a second indoor tennis court to newly acquired property directly to the south of the doubles squash courts. This non-historic freestanding addition is of concrete block construction and is connected with the south wall of the original indoor tennis by a walkway.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave
- ☐ **D** a cemetery
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by historic American Building Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Entertainment/ Recreation

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1916- 1929

Significant Dates:

1916, 1926, 1929, 1968

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Lansing, Bley, & Lyman (1916), Bley &

Lyman (1926, 1929), Lyman & Assoc. (1968)

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Description of Significance

The Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club at 314 Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo, New York is architecturally significant as a well preserved example of an early twentieth-century indoor tennis and squash club in the Classical Revival style. Designed by the noted Buffalo architectural firm of Lansing, Bley, and Lyman, the work has been identified as the early work of the firm's partner, Duane Lyman, who in later years would assume the mantle of the "dean of Buffalo architects." Additionally the Club has been identified for the information it provides regarding the progressive era of sporting associations formed by members of the city's prosperous "mansion families."

The Rise of Tennis and Squash in America in the Late Nineteenth Century

Although we know that in the seventeenth century early Dutch colonists played tennis in the city of New Amsterdam (the present New York), the game did not become a truly popular sport in the America until the nineteenth century (Whitman, 57). In the last half of the nineteenth century, inspired by the example of Victorian England, Americans came to value the importance of physical culture. Sports of all sort gained popularity, with golf and tennis acquiring special favor with the more well-to-do classes of society. Tennis had existed since the Renaissance, when it was played at the court of Henry VIII and other European royal courts. The game started as an indoor sport and only later, in the nineteenth century, became popular as an outdoor sport.

The game of squash, or squash racquets, as it was originally called, began in England in the early nineteenth century when it was first played at Harrow, one of the renowned British public schools. Employing a soft or squeezable ball and racquets, players hit the ball against all four walls of the surrounding court. Squash shortly gained popularity among the most prestigious school in England and became particularly fashionable at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The game came to America toward the end of the nineteenth century. The squash court at St. Paul's School, an Episcopal prep school in Concord, New Hampshire, constructed in 1884 is generally considered the birthplace of the game on this side of the Atlantic. By 1904, the United States Squash Racquets Association was formed in Philadelphia and rules and court dimensions were codified.

A number of factors contributed in the late nineteenth century to the rise in America of the popularity of tennis and squash. Wealthy families of the Gilded Age constructed indoor courts in imitation of European royalty of old on the large private estates that were the visible manifestation of wealth. Stanford White's elegant, French Baroque style recreational pavilion with metal-and-glass-ceilinged tennis and squash courts that he designed in 1902 for John Jacob Astor IV on the grounds of Ferncliff, the Astor estate at Rhinebeck, New York, was certainly one of the first and finest of such structures. Twenty-two years earlier, McKim, Mead & White had planned the celebrated Newport Casino at Newport, Rhode Island, [(1880-81) National Historic Landmark 1987] a multi-purpose club building that incorporated a lawn tennis court. By the 1890's, America's first generation of great wealth had embraced vigorous leisure exercise as a key aspect of its style of life. Tennis, especially--an individual sport suitable for men and women and played in dashing attire in genteel surroundings--came to epitomize this new ideal of physical well being. John Singer Sargent's portrait of *Mr.*

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and Mrs. I. N. Phelps Stokes (1897, Metropolitan Museum of Art), which depicts the casually elegant husband in summer whites and his hale and hearty wife in the long white skirt, grey tailored blouse, and short dark jacket that fashionable women wore on the tennis court, signaled the acceptance of the game among the American upper class. And when Theodore Roosevelt built a tennis court on the grounds of the White House [(1792-1800) NHL Listed 1960], the game can be said to have truly come of age in American culture.

Tennis in Buffalo before 1915

In the late nineteenth century, Buffalo, with thirty millionaires in residence, was one of America's most prosperous cities. Tennis, among the money class enjoyed nascent popularity. The present Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club had its origin in an early organization founded in 1885/1886 known as the Buffalo Lawn Tennis Club. Members of two prominent local families, George F. Laverack and Frank R. Keating, served as president and vice-president of the new association. The club apparently met with immediate success, and, in 1887, its members erected a frame clubhouse on property it had purchased at the northeast corner of Summer Street and Norwood Avenue. At the time, this part of town was rapidly developing into a prime residential neighborhood. The rapid growth of the area for fine residences forced the club to sell its property (which was subdivided for the several dwellings that stand there today) and move to a new location north of Ferry Street, behind Public School No. 56 on the east side of Elmwood Avenue.

The Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club

The present Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club came into being in 1915 as the Buffalo Tennis Club. (By the following years, the members had decided to change the name to the Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club.) Arnold Brooks Watson, son-in-law to Charles W. Goodyear, a local lumber tycoon, took the lead in establishing the new club. Watson, who was president for the first years of the club's existence, had a previous association with the firm of Lansing, Bley & Lyman, who had been engaged by Watson in 1912 to design his own mansion at 180 Bryant Street. The firm was hired to construct the new club at 314 Elmwood Avenue, two blocks in either direction from Watson's residence and the famed Millionaires Row on Delaware Avenue, a street that at the time was considered one of America's grand residential addresses and was home to many of the club's future members. Other officers and members signaled the privileged makeup of the new organization. They included John J. Albright (industrialist and donor of the Albright Art Gallery [1904; Albright-Knox Art Gallery-NR Listed 1970]), Lyman Bass (son of Grover Cleveland's former law partner), Edward H. Butler (owner of the *Buffalo Evening Express*), and William H. Gratwick (son of the lake steamer entrepreneur whose nearby home on Delaware Avenue had been the last building designed by H. H. Richardson (DEMOLISHED 1919), A. Conger Goodyear (future first president of the Museum of Modern Art), and William J. Donovan (future first head of the Office of Strategic Services).

As far as Buffalo was concerned, the tennis club's Elmwood Avenue site—away from the working class and industrial areas of the city—was comparable to the Park Avenue setting of New York City's Racquet and Tennis Club (NR Listed 1979). In both instances, the clubs' locations asserted the select status of their constituencies. And like the Racquet and Tennis Club, the Newport Casino, and other early high-class sporting

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facilities, the Buffalo clubhouse provided its members with a comfortable environment that was an extension of the gracious lifestyle they would have known at home. However, the Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club was designed to accommodate both male and female players, an unusual practice even for early twentieth-century standards.

The architects were at work on the plans for the clubhouse by April 1915 and were writing specifications the following month. The fact that the office draftsmen for the project were supervised by Duane Lyman, who was also a member of the club, suggests that he was the chief architect from the firm in charge of the commission. The two-and-one-half story building in a dignified Neo-Classical design was clearly planned to be sympathetic in scale, style, and external materials (light colored stucco trimmed with red brick), with the comfortable residences surrounding it. In June 1915, the club contracted with Charles Berrick's Sons to do the masonry work (the load bearing walls of the building are built of hollow tile construction) and with Stokes Brothers to do all carpentry. Both were locally well known Buffalo building contractors.

The club opened in 1916. For its athletic functions, the first floor of the club held a tennis court, four squash courts, handball court, and locker rooms. Because of the popularity squash had by then outstripped that of handball, the members choose by the end of the year to convert the single handball court into two squash courts. To accommodate the social functions of the club, the second floor of the club was arranged around a central coved-ceiling reception room that overlooked the main tennis and squash courts, where members could socialize, dine, or take-in a game. Off of the reception room, on either side of a small kitchen, two lounges were designed with an elegant woman's lounge and the snug, men's 'Dutch' grill.

The Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club provided its affluent members with the year-round pleasure of playing "court tennis" once enjoyed only by European aristocracy (as opposed to lawn tennis which was played outside). Due to the nature of the surface on which it is played, court tennis is regarded as a faster game than tennis played on lawns or clay surfaces.

The Club attracted national attention for the high quality of its design. In November 1916, the *American Architect*, a leading American architectural periodical of its day, published an illustrated article about the new structure. It recommended the building to its readers as "a very interesting and instructive example of a house designed and built for a specific athletic sport." Praising the building for "certain novel and interesting features," the journal singled out the architects' clever disposition of spaces for particular commendation.

The determining factor in the arrangement of the plan was the placing of the club rooms so that they would overlook both the tennis court and the squash courts and yet have them open on the street front. This result was achieved by planning the clubhouse with a central club building, in which are located the locker rooms and toilets on the first floor and the clubrooms on the second floor, with a wing on either side containing three squash courts. At the rear across the full width of the center building and its wings is the indoor tennis court. ("Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club," 327-328).

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The magazine also praised the lighting in the tennis court. "This court is lighted by a skylight . . . providing ample light for play on any ordinary day without eye strain," stated the unnamed author of the article. "The walls of the court," the writer continued, describing the color scheme that still prevails, "are painted dark green to a height of about 10 ft. above the floor; above this line the walls and the underside of the roof are painted white" Today members still enjoy the advantage of playing in this well conceived space.

The Buffalo clubhouse soon became host to local, statewide, and national amateur tennis events. On opening day, four national indoor champions from California, Boston, and New York inaugurated the new tennis court. In February 1923, the club staged its first annual indoor tennis tournament. "In a match replete with sensational features, Manuel Alonso, Spain, today defeated R. Lindley Murray of Niagara Falls, former national champion," reported the New York Times on the first day of the tournament. The winner of the event, however, was William T. Tilden, the most well-known tennis player of his day. Tilden had come to the club from Philadelphia with his protégé, Sandy Wiener, another player who would achieve fame in the annals of American tennis in the early twentieth century ("Tilden and Wiener").¹ After this auspicious beginning, the club held its annual amateur tournament that drew players from around the country until the mid-1970s.

Twentieth Century Squash and the Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club

During the first quarter of the twentieth century, squash evolved from a game played mainly by youthful scholars of means to a sport that was popular with all classes of people across America and around the world. Clubs for this physically demanding sport—the English composer and playwright Noël Coward said "Squash—that's not exercise, its flagellation"—sprung up in many major cities, including Buffalo. "Squash reached a tipping point in the twenties," states James Zug, a well known historian of the game. "No longer an obscure pastime for schoolboys," notes Zug, "it had national championships and league play and standard rules" (Zug, "8 Chapters," 6). The establishment of the Lapham Cup in 1922 marked the beginning of international amateur competition in the sport. Squash earned formal recognition as a professional sport in 1928 when a group of full time squash instructors formed the United States Professional Squash Racquets Association (the present World professional Squash Association).

Together with the increasing popularity of the singles game of squash (played by two contestants), doubles squash (played by two teams of two players each) grew in popularity throughout the twentieth century. The doubles version of the game began at the Racquet Club of Philadelphia [(1906-07) NR Listed 1978] which, erected a forty-five feet by twenty-five feet court to accommodate the expanded sport. By the 1930s, many clubs across the United States followed Philadelphia's example. Doubles squash, played equally by men and

¹ Perhaps playing here contributed to the negative opinion that Tilden (a Davis Cup and Wimbledon contender) eventually formed of indoor tennis courts. He frankly disliked them for the quality of the playing surface. (The Buffalo clubhouse court floor consisted of linoleum laid over a pine floor supported on wooden joists.) "Canvas, linoleum, and wood are the indoor surfaces," Tilden later observed that . . . "guarantee a perfect bound, but put such a premium on speed that in practice they have produced a crop of slugging players with little finesse and practically no defense." (Tilden, 183-184).

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women, spawned a number of amateur tournaments that circulated many talented players among the new constellation of clubs possessing doubles courts. By the 1970s, professional doubles had also acquired its professional practitioners in the United States. In 2000, they formed the International Squash Doubles Association. Prize money for winners of professional tournaments can reach as high as \$150,000.

The Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club played an important role in the evolution of squash locally and nationally. In 1929, in order to answer the growing popularity of squash doubles play, the club constructed two doubles courts on the west side of the sky lighted tennis court. According to Nelson Graves, Jr., the local historian of squash, the Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club had the only two doubles court in Buffalo until the early 1990s. The club continues to play host to the second oldest annual doubles tournament in North America and has welcomed to its courts most of the top names in the game. The Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club Invitational Doubles Tournament, initiated in 1954 with the help of Seymour Knox, an avid squash player and the second benefactor of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, continues to be one of the premier events of the club's annual calendar. The tournament is considered one of the most important doubles events in the United States. The club also hosts the Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club Gold Juniors event each January. Players between the ages of nine and eighteen compete in various age groups in a tournament that has drawn national attention to the city. The Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club was also host to national singles tournaments in 1942, 1953, and 1962.

The Architectural Firm of Lansing, Bley & Lyman and its Successors.

The firm of Lansing, Bley & Lyman began its roots in 1889 when Williams Lansing (1860-1920) formed his first solo practice after leaving the firm of Green & Wicks of Buffalo. In 1892, he was joined by another former Green & Wicks associate, Max G. Beierl, and formed Lansing and Beierl in 1892. Together the partnership was responsible for the C.W. Miller Livery Stable [(1892-1894) NR Listed 2007], the Lafayette Presbyterian Church (1894), Connecticut Street Armory [(1898) NR Listed 1994], and numerous residential and other ecclesiastical designs.

In 1910, the partnership dissolved and Lansing formed in the same year a new partnership with Lawrence H. Bley (1884-1939), an assistant in the previous firm, and Duane S. Lyman (1886-1966), a recent graduate of Yale University's Sheffield Scientific School. For the next seven years the new firm enjoyed considerable success in Buffalo. Working primarily in the Classical Revival styles, some of their more important surviving buildings erected around the time of the Tennis Club include the Children's Hospital Nursing Home (1911), Notre Dame de Lourdes School (1913), and the Delaware Court Building (1916). Of their more significant extant residential work for prominent Buffalo families are the David Gunsberg House (1911-1912) at 152 Lincoln Parkway; the Ralph Sidway house (1912) on Grand Island (presently on the grounds of Beaver Island State Park); and additions to the house of A. Conger Goodyear at 160 Bryant Street. The firm was also responsible for the Yale University Armory (1916-1917), New Haven, Connecticut, and the Curtiss Aeroplane Company Office and Laboratory Building (1917) in Garden City, Long Island.

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In 1919, Lansing left the firm, which henceforth became Bley & Lyman. During the affluent 1920s, Bley & Lyman assumed the role of one of Buffalo's leading local architectural firms. Among their works from this period were the Buffalo's Saturn Club [(1922) NR Listed 2005], 800 West Ferry St. (1929), commissioned by Darwin R. Martin, son of Larkin executive Darwin D. Martin, the Edwin M. & Emily S. Johnston House [(1934) NR Listed 1997], the Buffalo Federal Court House (1936), and Cazenovia NY's Old Trees [(1937) NR Listed 1991]. Throughout their work together, the firm demonstrated the ability to switch between the Rival styles so popular in the early-twentieth century to the emerging Art Deco and Art Moderne styles.

After Bley's Death in 1939, Lyman continued to design under Duane Lyman & Associates. His range and flexibility to adapt to the emerging styles and tastes of his clients is evident in his body of work from the recent past. Some of his finer works include the Art Deco Christ the King Chapel at Canisius College (1949), the Classic Revival/Deco Williamsville High School [(1949-1951) NR Listed 2008], the Praire-esque House at 8 Berkley Drive in Lockport, NY (1957), the numerous International style buildings for the University of Buffalo, and the Post-Modern design of the M&T Bank Plaza (1964-1966), which he assisted Minoru Yamasaki, designer of the World Trade Center (1960) in New York City. After his death in 1966, local newspapers hailed him as the Dean of Western New York Architects.

Closing Statement

The Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club continues to serve in the same capacity as when it opened its doors to members in 1916. Serving as a tangible reminder of the city's early twentieth-century prosperity, it is significant for the information it provides about the City of Buffalo's private clubs and development of competitive and recreational tennis and squash in the region. It maintains the architectural integrity of it period of construction and is a representative example of one of the area's leading architect's of the period.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club

Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

"Squash Racquets Play Starts Today. National Title to be at Stake on Buffalo Courts—Tennis Tourney Also Listed," *New York Times*, February 21, 1925, 35.

"Tennis and Squash Club, Buffalo, N.Y. Lansing, Bley & Lyman, Architects," *American Architect and Building News*, 110(November 22, 1916), 327-329; plates.

"Tennis Club in New Home," *Buffalo Express*, February 27, 1916, 46.

Tennyson, Charles. "They Taught the World to Play," *Victorian Studies*, 2(March 1959), 211-222.

Tilden, William T. *My Story: A Champion's Memoirs*. New York: Hellman, Williams & Co., 1948.

"Tilden and Wiener Beaten at Tennis. Lose to Lawrence and Dorham Dell in Indoor Tourney of Buffalo Club," *New York Times*, February 11, 1923.

"Tilden is Defeated by Manuel Alonso. Spanish Star Wins Five-Set Match from Champion at Buffalo," *New York Times*, February 25, 1924.

"U.S. Amateur Squash Racquets Tourney Set for Feb. 21, 22, 23," *New York Times*, January 21, 1925, 17.

US Squash Racquets Association 32nd National Doubles, March 17-19, 1967. Buffalo: Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club, 1967.

Whitman, Malcolm. *Tennis: Origins and Mysteries*. Detroit: Singing Press, 1968.

"Williams Beats Murray. Tennis Cracks Open New Indoor Courts at Buffalo Club," *New York Times*, February 27, 1916

Zug, James. *Squash: A History of the Game*. New York: Scribners, 2003.

_____. "Squash: A History of the Game; The History of Squash in 8 Chapters," *US Squash* [online periodical] undated, www.us-squash.org.

Original plans and blue prints are in the possession of the club.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club
Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State

Geographical Data:

Boundary Description:

1915 - Original property

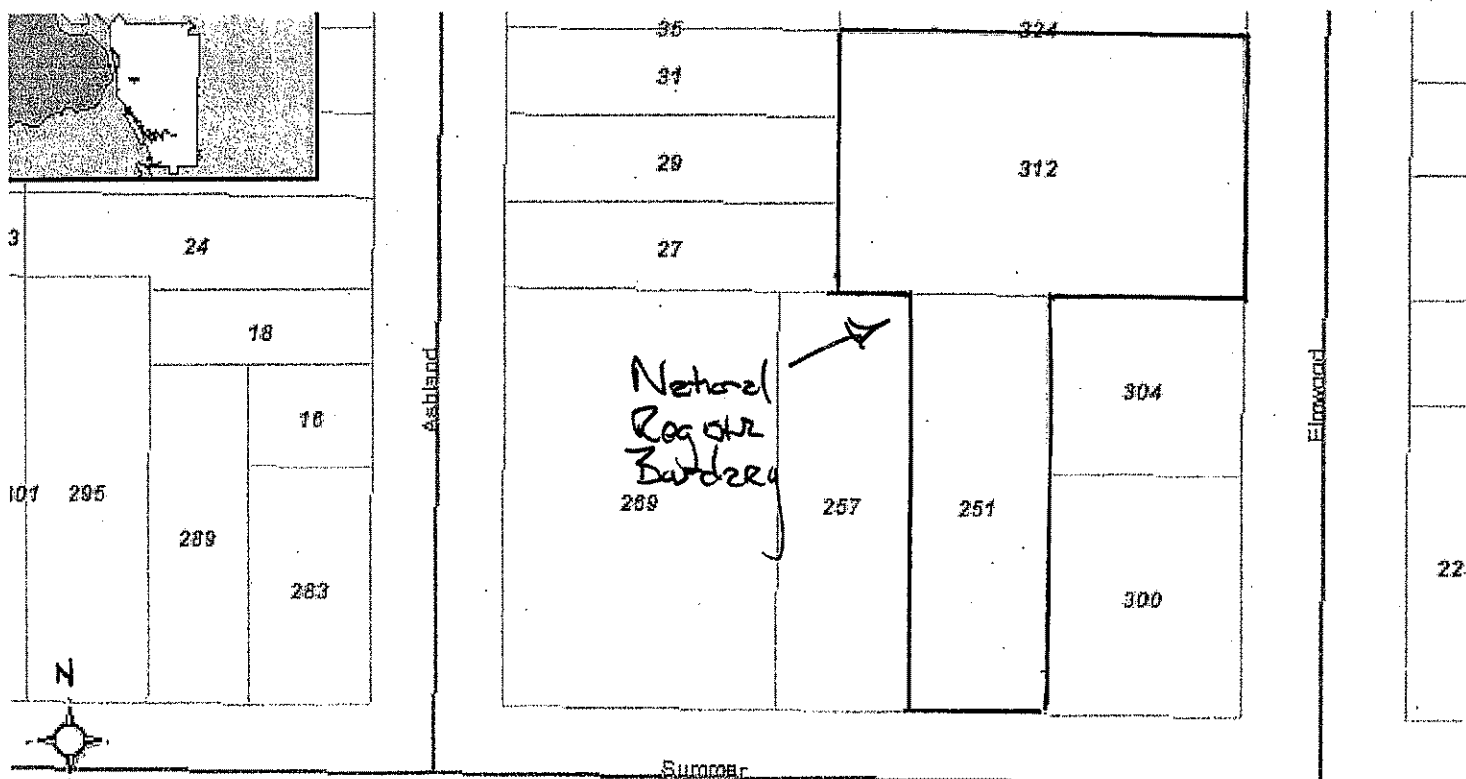
Beginning at a point in the westerly line of Elmwood Avenue 200 feet north of the northerly line of Summer Street; running thence westerly parallel with Summer Street 200 feet; running thence northerly parallel with Elmwood Avenue 125 feet; thence easterly parallel with Summer Street 200 feet; thence southerly along the westerly line of Elmwood Avenue 125 feet to the place of beginning.

1967 - New lot for tennis court addition

Beginning at a point in the northerly line of Summer Street 95.02 feet westerly from its intersection with the westerly line of Elmwood Avenue; running thence westerly along said northerly line of Summer Street 69 feet; thence northerly parallel with Elmwood Avenue 200 feet; thence easterly parallel with Summer Street 69 feet; thence southerly parallel with Elmwood Avenue 200 feet to the northerly line of Summer Street at the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the land historically associated with the property and the 1967 land acquisition by the Club, including the court addition designed by the building's original architect. The boundary is indicated by the heavy line on the map



Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club
Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 Acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 8 1 8 3 4 5 2 4 7 5 7 6 0 6
Zone Easting Northing

3 1 8 1 8 3 4 5 2 4 7 5 7 6 0 6
Zone Easting Northing

2 1 8 1 8 3 4 5 2 4 7 5 7 6 0 6
Zone Easting Northing

4 1 8 1 8 3 4 5 2 4 7 5 7 6 0 6
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank R. Kowsky [Edited: Daniel McEneny-NYSHPO]

organization date 7.14.2008

street & number 62 Niagara Falls Blvd telephone 716.836.6069

city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14214

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Buffalo Tennis & Squash Club

street & number 314 Elmwood Ave telephone 716.884.6048

city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14222

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 1

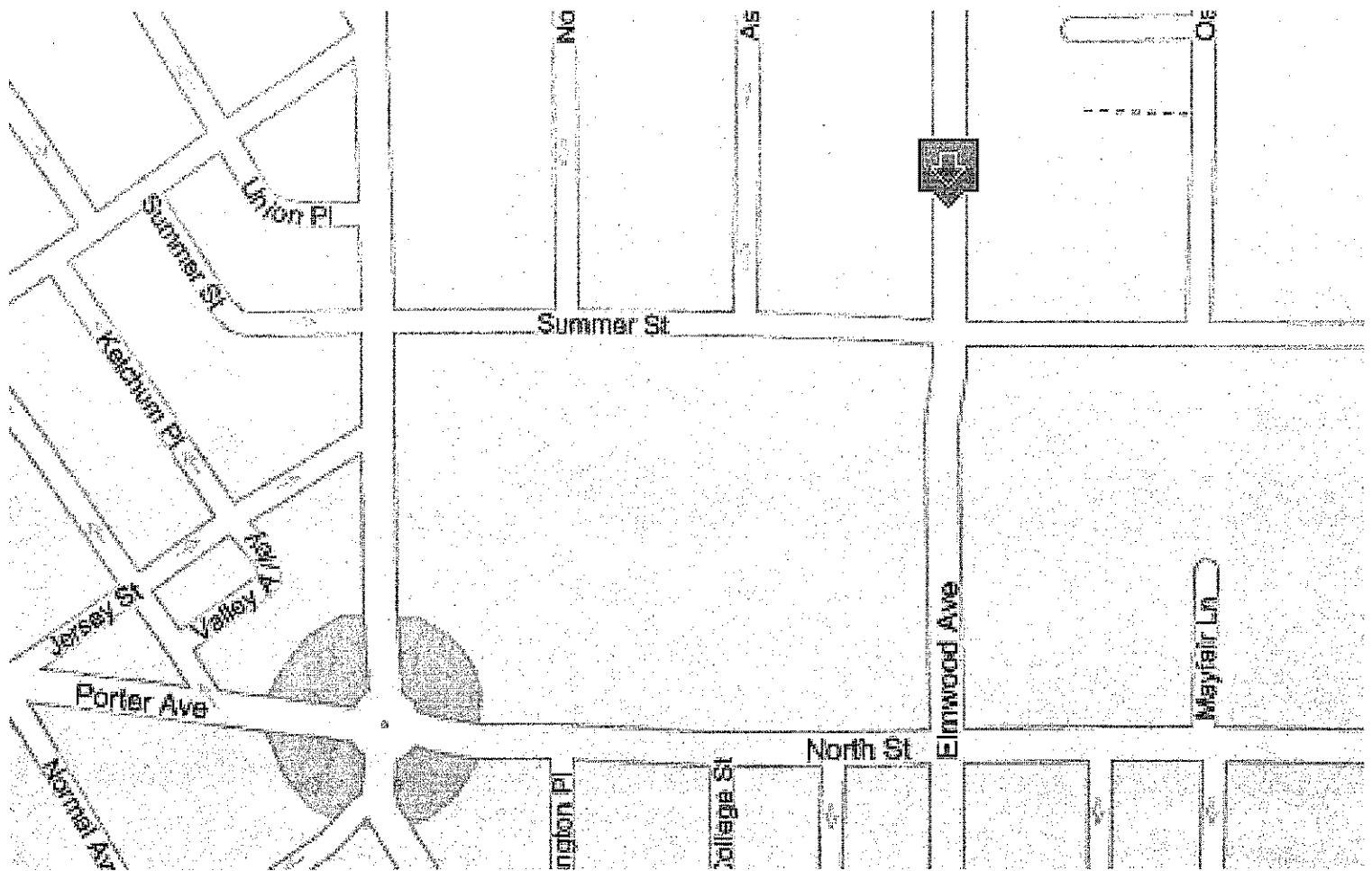
Buffalo Tennis and Squash Club
Name of Property
Erie County, New York
County and State

Photo Key-

Photos: Daniel McEneny 2008

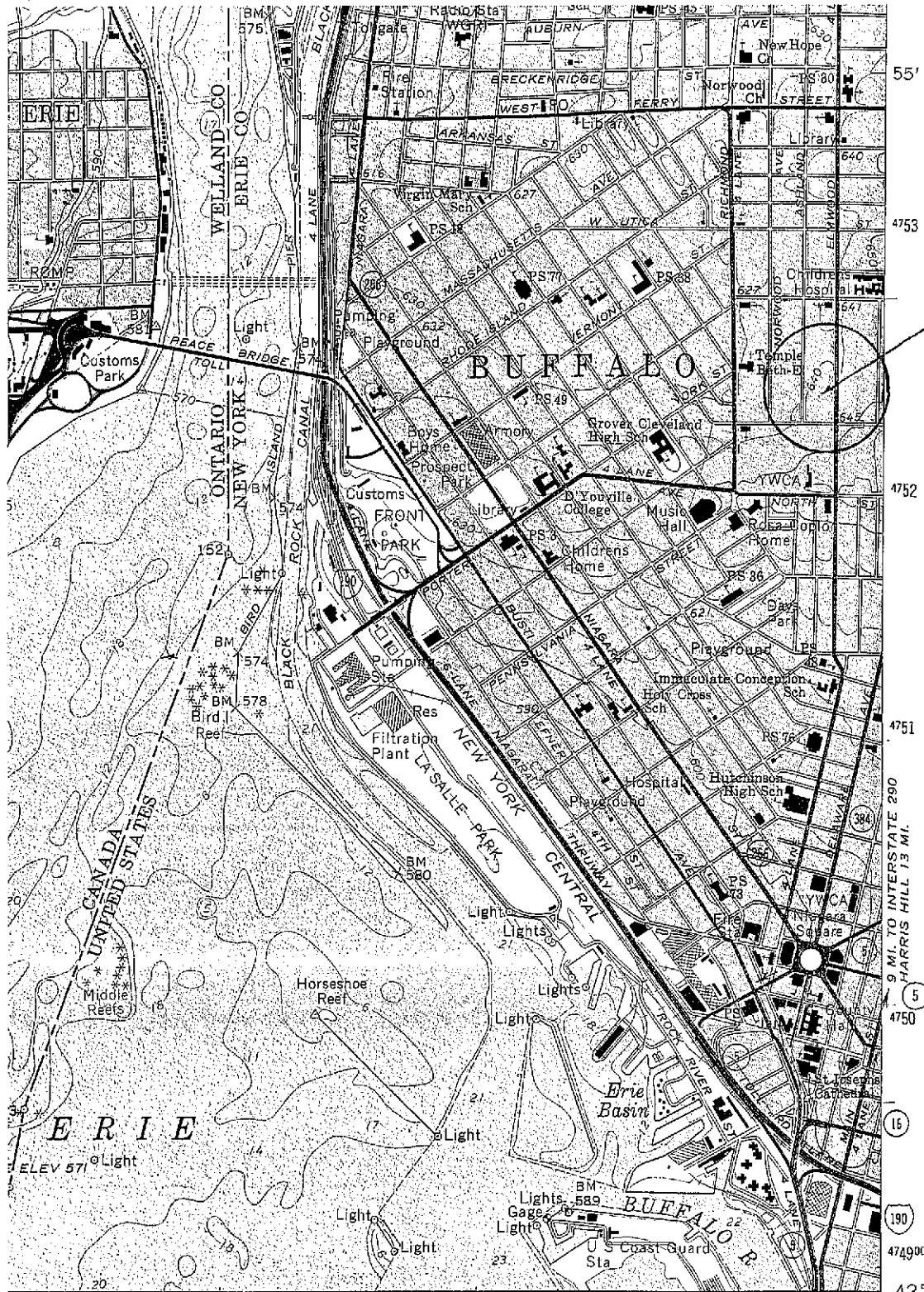
Digital Photos Archived: New York State Office of Park, Recreation, & Historic Preservation: Peebles Island,
Waterford, NY 12188

1. Principal Façade on Elmwood Avenue
2. Front Entrance on Elwood Avenue
3. Main Tennis Court and skylight
4. 2nd floor Main Lounge overlooking the Main Tennis Court
5. Men's Lounge (aka Dutch Grill)



314 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York,
Erie County





Buffalo Tennis +
 Squash Club
 Buffalo, NY
 Erie Co.
 Zone 18
 E 183452
 N 4757606
 Buffalo NW Quad

5' 571000m.E. 42°52'30" 78°52'30" (BUFFALO SE) LACKAWANNA 4.3 MI. 5269 IV SE MT. VERNON 9 MI.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty Light-duty
 Medium-duty Unimproved dirt

() Interstate Route () State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BUFFALO NW, N.Y.—ONT.

NW/4 BUFFALO 15' QUADRANGLE
 N4252.5—W7852.5/7.5

1965

AMS 5269 IV NW—SERIES V821

