

# MEMO

**To:** File – Brooklyn McCrorey Branch YMCA  
**From:** HLC Staff  
**Date:** August 23, 2021

**Re:** Comments from State Historic Preservation Office on Designation Report for the Brooklyn McCrorey Branch YMCA, Charlotte

By email dated July 28, 2021, SHPO staff provided feedback based on their review of the Designation Report for the Brooklyn McCrorey Branch YMCA. In summary, the issues raised included the following:

- Consider additional information concerning the building's interior; and
- Consider additional discussion concerning the architectural significance of the building's PWA Moderne or Federal Moderne design, given the possibility of other similar architectural examples in the Charlotte region.

Following review of the Designation Report and the SHPO feedback, the HLC staff determined that further revision was unnecessary. As the recommended designation focuses solely on the building's exterior, and interior access was unavailable to both the author of the designation report and HLC staff, the report appropriately focuses on the building's exterior. With respect to architectural design, the report already discusses how, despite the existence of important examples of Moderne architecture in Charlotte, the city has few extent examples of that design associated with the African-American community, the most significant being Charlotte's Excelsior Club. The Excelsior Club was remodeled in the Moderne Style in 1951, but its scale and vernacular design differentiate it from the institutional design of the Brooklyn McCrorey Branch YMCA, which benefits from the added distinction of having been created by the regionally renowned firm of Louis Asbury and Son. As the designation report already addresses those issues, as well as the historical significance of the Brooklyn McCrorey Branch YMCA, no further revision is deemed necessary to demonstrate the appropriateness of designating the building as a local historic landmark.