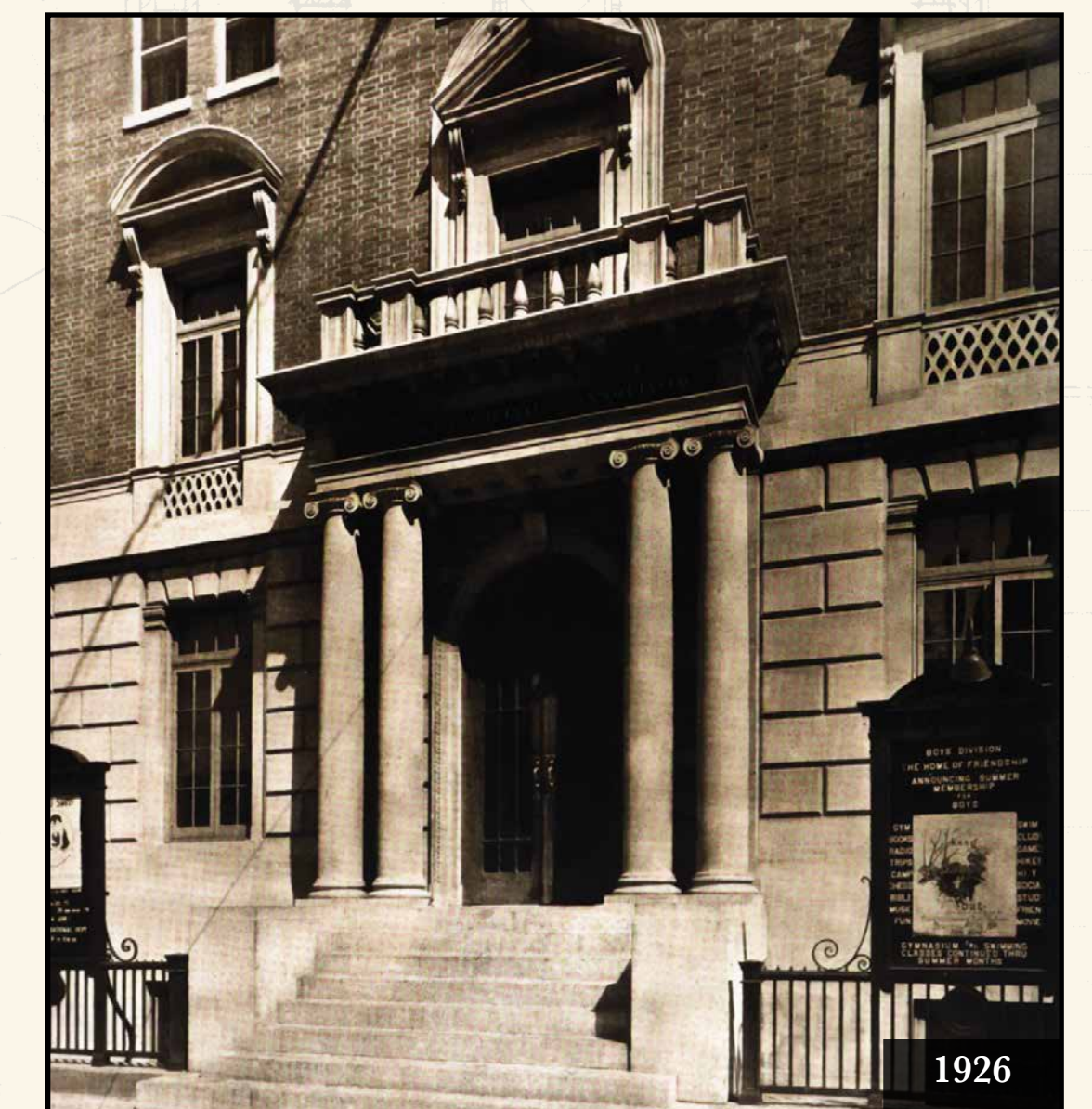




THE HISTORIC JERSEY CITY “Y”

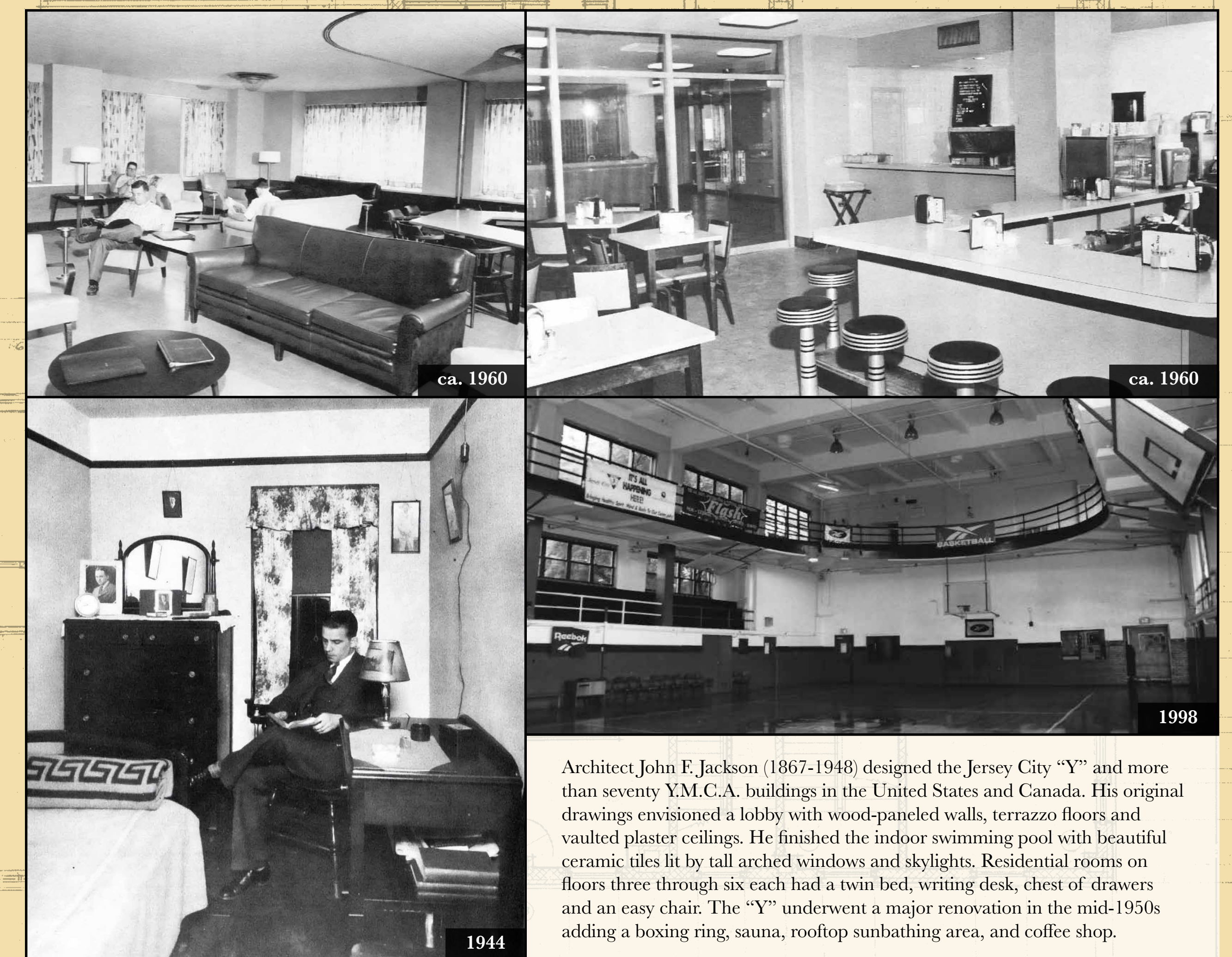
Before Bergenview Apartments, this building was known as the Jersey City Young Men’s Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.). When it opened in 1924, the “Y” was a state-of-the-art facility with reading and meeting rooms, classrooms, a cafeteria, bowling alley, billiard room, over 200 private dormitory rooms, and a gym and indoor swimming pool to its rear. The “Y”

offered young men a safe, healthful place for socializing and adapting to life in the city. In many instances, the men came from farms, small towns or places overseas looking for jobs in Jersey City’s factories, offices or docks. For seven decades, the “Y” played an important role in the lives of thousands of people through a core mission of nurturing the “mind, body and spirit.”



WORTHY OF PRESERVATION

In 1999, the “Y” received the honor of being listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. It was recognized for its significance in architecture and social history. In 2022, owner and developer The Community Builders, Inc. undertook a rehabilitation project that preserved many of the “Y” building’s historic features.



Architect John F. Jackson (1867-1948) designed the Jersey City “Y” and more than seventy Y.M.C.A. buildings in the United States and Canada. His original drawings envisioned a lobby with wood-paneled walls, terrazzo floors and vaulted plaster ceilings. He finished the indoor swimming pool with beautiful ceramic tiles lit by tall arched windows and skylights. Residential rooms on floors three through six each had a twin bed, writing desk, chest of drawers and an easy chair. The “Y” underwent a major renovation in the mid-1950s adding a boxing ring, sauna, rooftop sunbathing area, and coffee shop.

THE HISTORIC JERSEY CITY “Y”

Next door to Fairview Heights is the historic Jersey City Young Men’s Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.), now known as Bergenview Apartments. When it opened in 1924, the “Y” was a state-of-the-art facility with reading and meeting rooms, classrooms, a cafeteria, bowling alley, billiard room, private dormitory rooms, and a gym and indoor swimming pool at

its rear. The “Y” offered young men a safe, healthful place for socializing and adapting to life in the city. In many instances, the men came from farms, small towns or places overseas looking for jobs in Jersey City’s factories, offices or docks. For seven decades, the “Y” played an important role in the lives of thousands of people.



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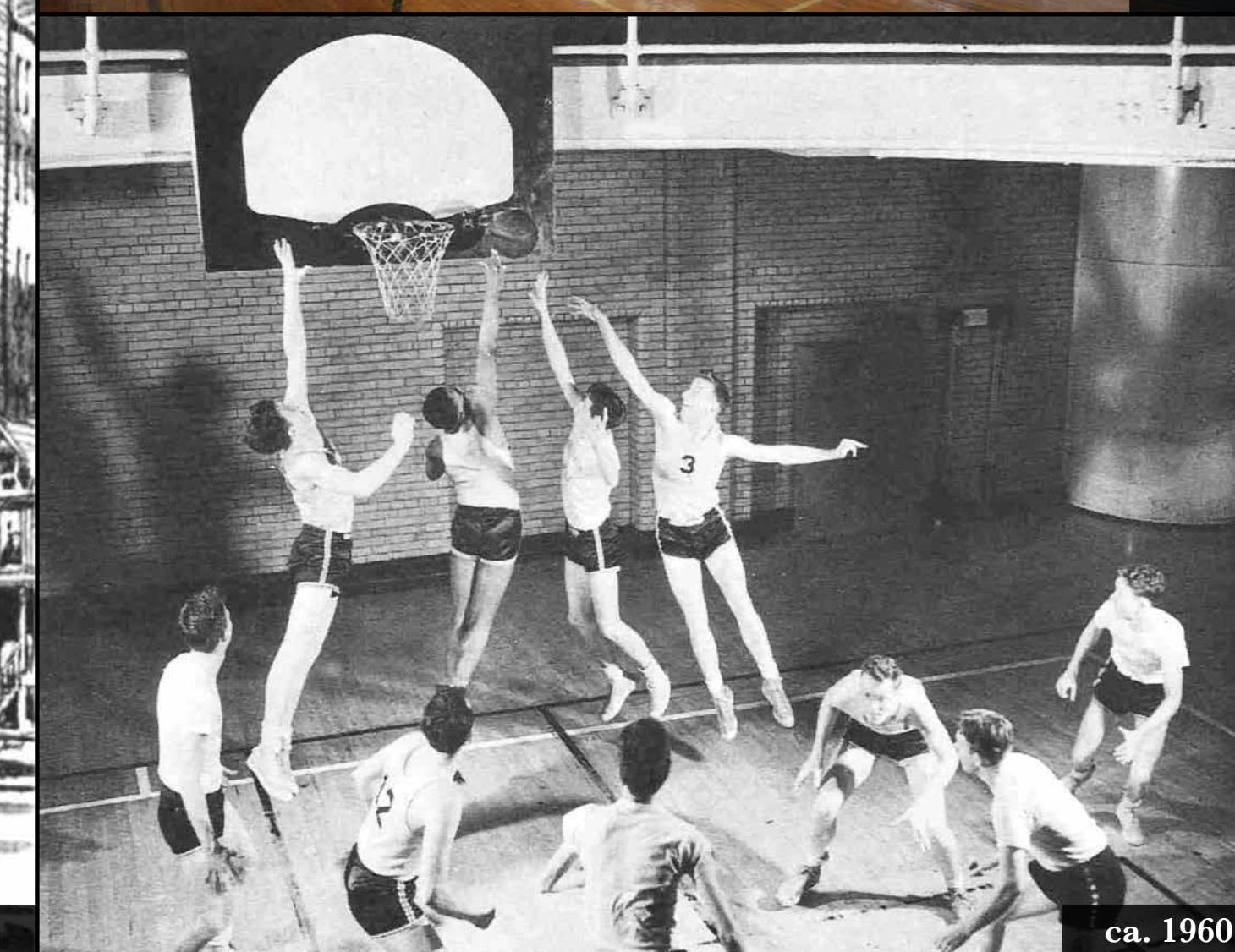
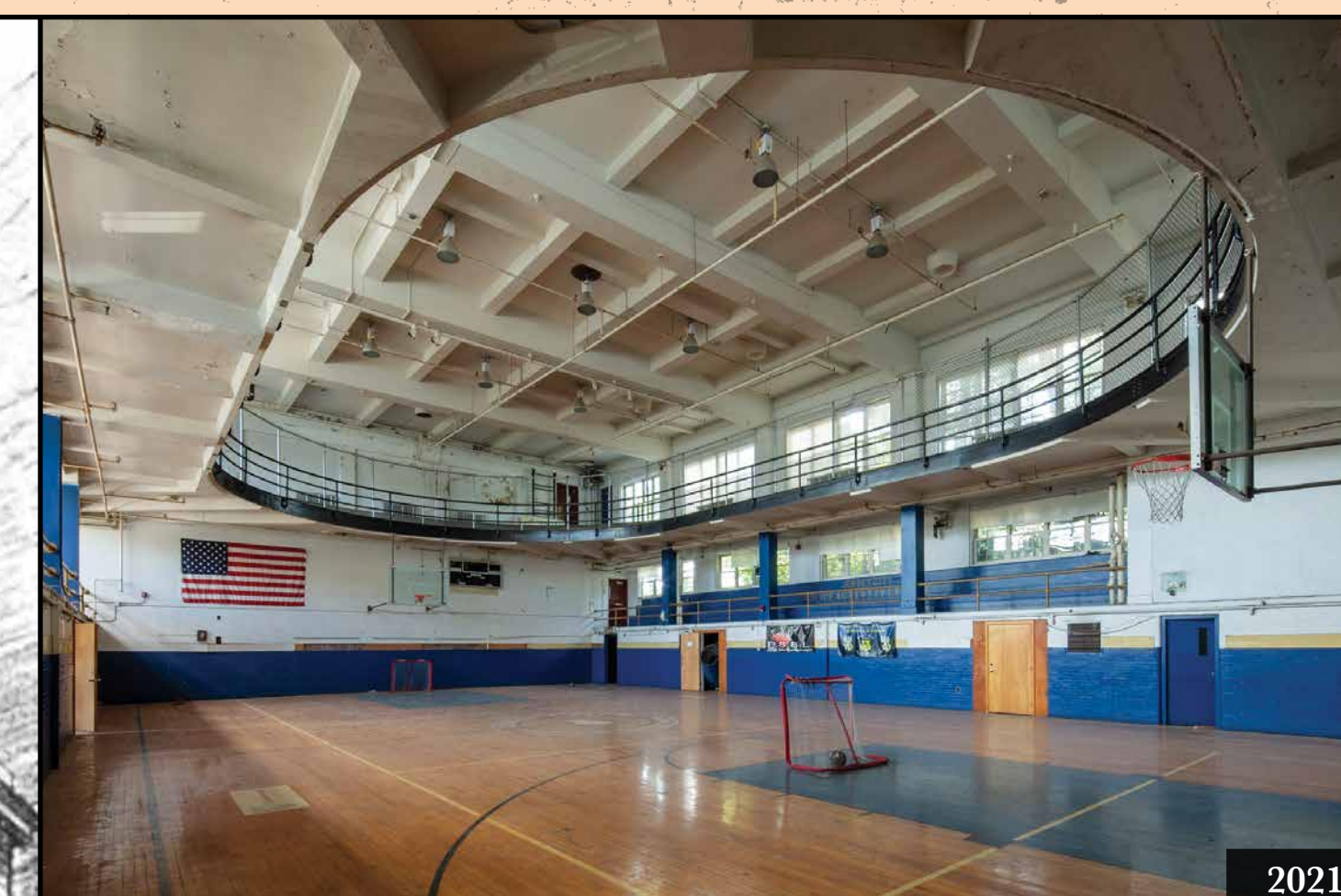
CHANGING TIMES

The “Y” underwent a full renovation of both its facilities and policies in 1956. Programing expanded to include boxing and wrestling, bookkeeping and accounting, technical courses in mechanical drawing and blueprint reading, chess club and photography club, bible club and personal counseling.



The “Y” began offering women “associate” memberships in 1956, granting access to classes and recreational facilities. About 20 years later, the “Y” completed its transformation into a “family Y” with full memberships for women and a new emphasis on activities for children of all ages. In 1978, the first women moved into the dormitories. To accommodate mothers, the “Y” offered a daycare program and babysitting.

Declining membership and rising costs caused the “Y” to declare bankruptcy in 1992 and lose its Y.M.C.A. affiliation in 1995. The Community Builders, Inc. recognized the historic building’s potential for reuse as supportive housing. A recently completed renovation consists of new apartments, community spaces and recreational facilities.



QUITE A CARD!

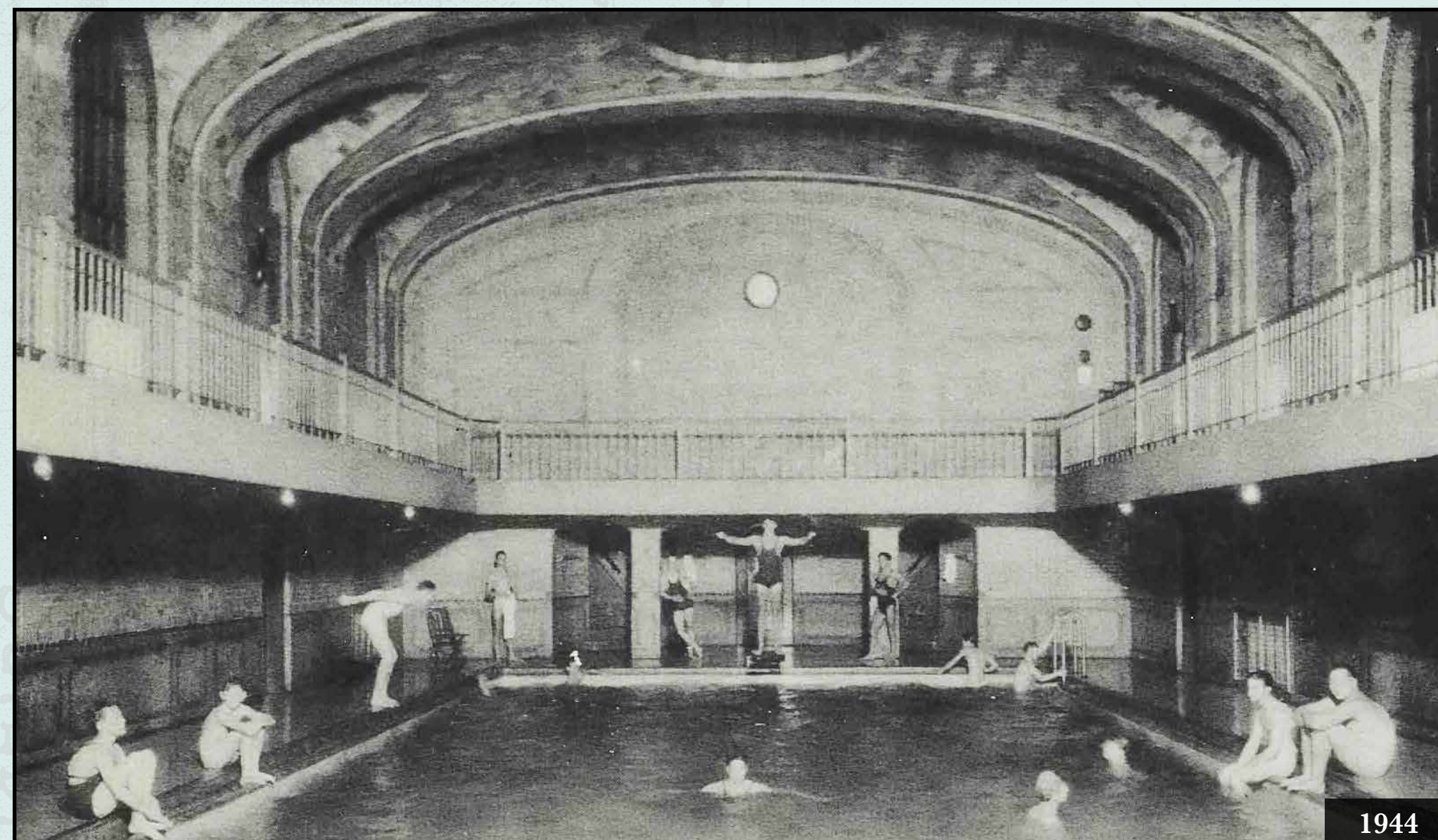
This Guy Has Just Joined The Jersey City YMCA. He's Hilarious About The Terrific Deal He's Getting With His Membership Card!

654 BERGEN AVE.
HEnderson 4-3211

ASK FOR BIXBY!
THE YMCA IS FOR YOU TOO!

1955

NATATORIUM OF THE JERSEY CITY Y.M.C.A.



Don't be fooled by this building's modest and utilitarian appearance. With all of its interior finishes intact, the natatorium or indoor swimming pool is a spectacle of architectural aesthetics and design.

A Pool Fit for Kings

Inside is a long rectangular space under a beautiful, vaulted, ceramic-tile ceiling designed by New York's world-famous Guastavino company. Surrounding the interior are arched window openings and an

observational balcony with a decorative iron balustrade. Below is a large pool bordered by an intricately tiled floor, patterned tile wainscoting and buff-colored brickwork. At the pool's far end are three archways and a rotunda.

Worthy of Preservation

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SWIMMING LESSONS FOR CITY PEOPLE

The Jersey City "Y" built the pool in 1924 as part of its new six-story headquarters on Bergen Avenue. The pool and a gymnasium, the latter now gone, originally connected to the rear of the headquarters, which now goes by the name Bergenvue Apartments. John F. Jackson, an architect who specialized in Y.M.C.A. projects, designed the entire complex. He paid extra attention to the pool, making it an architectural showplace.

The "Y" undertook yearly "Learn to Swim" campaigns providing water safety courses for men and boys. The pool became very popular during the 1950s with new coed and family programs. Hundreds of local residents attended "splash parties" and Friday night family swim.

