

Brooklyn McCrorey Branch YMCA

334 South Caldwell Street (also identified as 416 East 3rd Street)
Charlotte North Carolina



The Brooklyn McCrorey Branch YMCA (c. 1951) played a central role in the daily lives of African American Charlotteans from 1951 until 1969, providing education, recreation, and business-development resources for the vibrant Brooklyn community during the Jim Crow era. The building, one of the few buildings remaining in its original historic Brooklyn location following the city's urban renewal programs of the 1960s and 1970s, is among the earliest African American branches of the Young Men's Christian Association network in the Carolinas. The facility promoted Charlotte's early Civil Rights movement by providing community programs and forums to promote social equity. Designed by local architectural firm Louis Asbury and Son, the building is a rare iteration of the PWA Moderne or Federal Moderne Style, representing the progressive, forward-thinking beliefs of the Black community served by the Brooklyn McCrorey Branch YMCA. Today, surrounded by rapid commercial development and new construction and demolition along the Caldwell Street corridor, the building is at risk of continued significant intrusions.

