

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Westminster College Gymnasium

AND/OR COMMON

Westminster College Gymnasium

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Westminster Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Fulton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

9th

STATE

Missouri

CODE

COUNTY

Callaway

CODE

027

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

### ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER Gymnasium

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Westminster College

STREET & NUMBER

Westminster College

CITY, TOWN

Fulton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Callaway County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fulton

STATE

Missouri

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Westminster College Gymnasium was built in 1928-29. It is a Flemish bond brick structure 80 ft. wide and 155 ft. long containing offices in the front wings and a basketball court in the main body of the building. The central three bays project slightly and are decorated with four fluted pilasters topped by Corinthian capitals and with a box cornice under the parapet. The entrance is set between plain pilasters with Corinthian capitals, topped by a plain entablature and a pediment recessed at the base. The windows of the first floor have flat stone lintels with keystones, 8/8. The second floor windows have rounded arches.

The flanking office wings are stepped back with windows on both floors above the water course matching the stone lintels of the first floor of the central pavilion, the first floor 6/6, the second, 3/3. There is a projecting belt course and a cornice with recessed panels decorated with carved stone swags. The panels are centered over the windows. This treatment continues for one bay on the long side of the building, and then the roof breaks into the semicircular form traditional for field houses. Tall curved arch windows match the smaller ones on the second story of the central pavilion.

The gymnasium is located between the administration building and a private residence on the crown of a small hill. The building is unchanged since Churchill's speech.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD                                   | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |                                                 |                                                         |                                              |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE         | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499       | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                            | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599       | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE                     | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699       | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                       | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799       | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                          | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899       | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY                     | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|                                          |                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |                                                         |                                              |

SPECIFIC DATES March 5, 1946

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Winston S. Churchill's speech at Westminster College on March 5, 1946, which introduced the term "iron curtain" into public usage, marks a turning point in international relations. It was the first step toward recognition that the "cold war" had begun and that existing policies of the Soviet Union constituted a threat to the West. As former President Truman once commented, "It was one of the greatest speeches I ever listened to...and part of the policy of the free world ever since." The college gymnasium where Churchill delivered the speech remains unchanged.

## History

In 1946, Westminster College, a small liberal arts college (250 students) in Fulton, Missouri, decided to invite Winston Churchill, who was then planning a trip to the United States, to deliver a speech on campus. Doubtful that Churchill would accept, the president of the college, Franc L. McCluer, sought help from an alumnus, Major General Harry H. Vaughan, military aide to President Truman. Vaughan secured Truman's support for the idea, and the President added a postscript to McCluer's invitation: "This is a wonderful college in my home State. Hope you can do it. I will introduce you." Churchill accepted the invitation, and his speech, entitled, "Sinews of Peace," was given on March 5, 1946, at the Westminster College gymnasium before an audience of 2,800 people.

The speech turned out to be Churchill's analysis of the postwar world. He spoke of the destruction caused by the War and pleaded for a strong United Nations--"a true temple of peace," and, "not merely a cockpit in a Tower of Babel." The United Nations, Churchill said, had to have a strong foundation, based on a binding Anglo-American alliance that would include the common study of potential dangers, the interchange of officers and cadets at technical colleges, and the joint use of all Naval and Air Force bases in the possession of both countries in all parts of the world. He firmly believed that the knowledge of the atomic bomb should be kept in Anglo-American hands and not entrusted to the still feeble United Nations.

Churchill then spoke of the most pressing threat to peace: Russian expansion. "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic," Churchill declared, "an iron curtain has descended across the Continent." Behind that line, he noted, lay all the capitals of the ancient States of Central and Eastern Europe. Countries in front of the iron curtain were endangered from without by Soviet might and from within by Communist fifth columns. The answer to this threat, according to Churchill, was the United Nations, supported by the whole strength of the English speaking world and all its connections.

CONTINUED

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lewis Broad, Winston Churchill: The Years of Achievement (New York, 1963).  
Editors of Readers Digest, Man of the Century, A Churchill Cavalcade (Boston, 1965).  
Charles Fackler Lemkin, A Great Small College, A Narrative History of Westminster,  
(St. Louis, 1946).  
Newsweek, March 18, 1946.  
Time, February 11 and March 18, 1946. (see continuation sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 59,060,0 43,000,00  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C         

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Westminster College Gymnasium is located on the Westminster College campus. Its significance lies specifically on its gym floor, where Winston Churchill made his "Iron Curtain" speech. Therefore the boundaries are defined by the foundations of the gymnasium.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

DATE

4/3/75

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

STATE

D.C. 20240

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Boundary Certified: *Dora J. Emery*

DATE *Aug 3, 1977*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE *8/10/77*

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE GYMNASIUM, Fulton, Missouri

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE (1)

The reaction to Churchill's speech was mostly negative. Though the Wall Street Journal thought it brilliant with a "hard core of indisputable fact," most papers viewed with alarm and distaste the prospect of a British-American military alliance. In Congress three Democratic Senators described the speech as "shocking" and Henry Wallace, Secretary of Commerce said: "Mr. Churchill is not speaking for the American people and their government." The English House of Commons also largely disapproved of Churchill's speech; one hundred members of parliament signed a formal motion protesting it. In Russia, Stalin charged that Churchill's speech was a "dangerous act calculated to sow the seeds of discord among Allied governments and hamper their cooperation." Churchill speech was received unfavorably on both sides of the Atlantic for several reasons. American and British peoples still remembered the heroic resistance of the Russians during the war, and there was widespread hope that the wartime alliance could be extended to peacetime.

In retrospect the Churchill speech was very significant in Allied foreign policy. The "Sinews of Peace" was the first public indication of a change in the policy of the West toward the Soviet Union. Although public opinion felt that the anti-Russian tone of the speech was unwarranted, events soon dispelled this objection. The speech prepared the way for the Truman Doctrine or so-called containment policy of March 1947 and later for N.A.T.O.

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WESTMINSTER COLLEGE GYMNASIUM, Fulton, Mo.

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE (1)

Bibliographical References #9:

"A Salute to Churchill," Survey Files.

John D. McDermott and Erwin N. Thompson, "Westminster College Gymnasium (Site of Winston Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' Speech), Fulton, Missouri," Special Report, Historic Sites Survey, 1968.

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE GYMNASIUM

COUNTY:

Callaway

LOCATION:

Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri

OWNER:

Westminster College

ADDRESS:

Fulton, Missouri

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

05-23-68

DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE  
(AND PRESENTER):

ca. 04-20-73  
Dr. William E. Parrish - AC member

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

DATE OF ELIGIBILITY:

DATE OF PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE:

DATE OF ENTRY:

05-10-68

Winston S. Churchill's speech at Westminster College on March 5, 1946, which introduces the term "Iron Curtain" into public usage, marks a turning point in international relations. It was the first step toward recognition that the "cold war" was on and that existing policies of the Soviet Union constituted a threat to the West. As former President Truman once commented, "It was one of the greatest speeches I ever listened to ... and part of the policy of the free world ever since." The college gymnasium where Churchill delivered the speech remains unchanged.

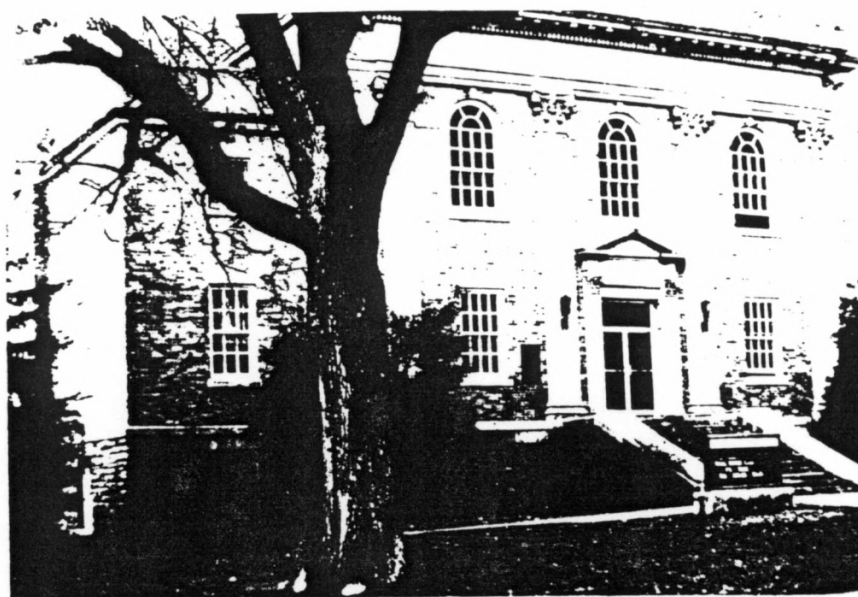
Westminster College Gymnasium  
December, 1974



Winston Churchill Memorial



Churchill's lectern, chair, etc., used during speech at gymnasium



MAR • 68 •

Westminster College Gymnasium  
Fulton, Missouri

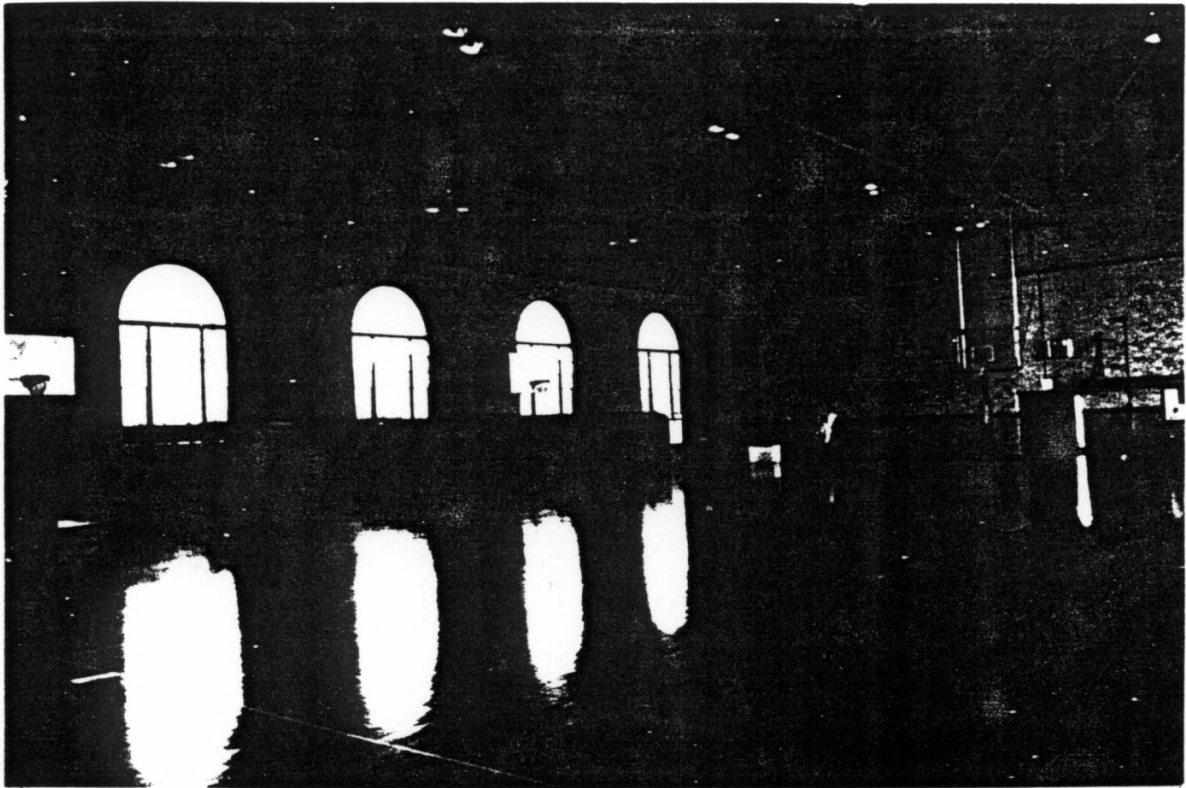
Westminster College Gymnasium  
December, 1974



Landmark Plaque



Exterior--Gymnasium



Interior--Gymnasium



Adjacent building to gymnasium--scheduled to be removed

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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HISTORIC

Westminster College Gymnasium

AND/OR COMMON

Westminster College Gymnasium

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Fulton

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Callaway

STATE Missouri

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Stephen Lissandrello

DATE OF PHOTO

January 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240  
(1100 L Street NW)

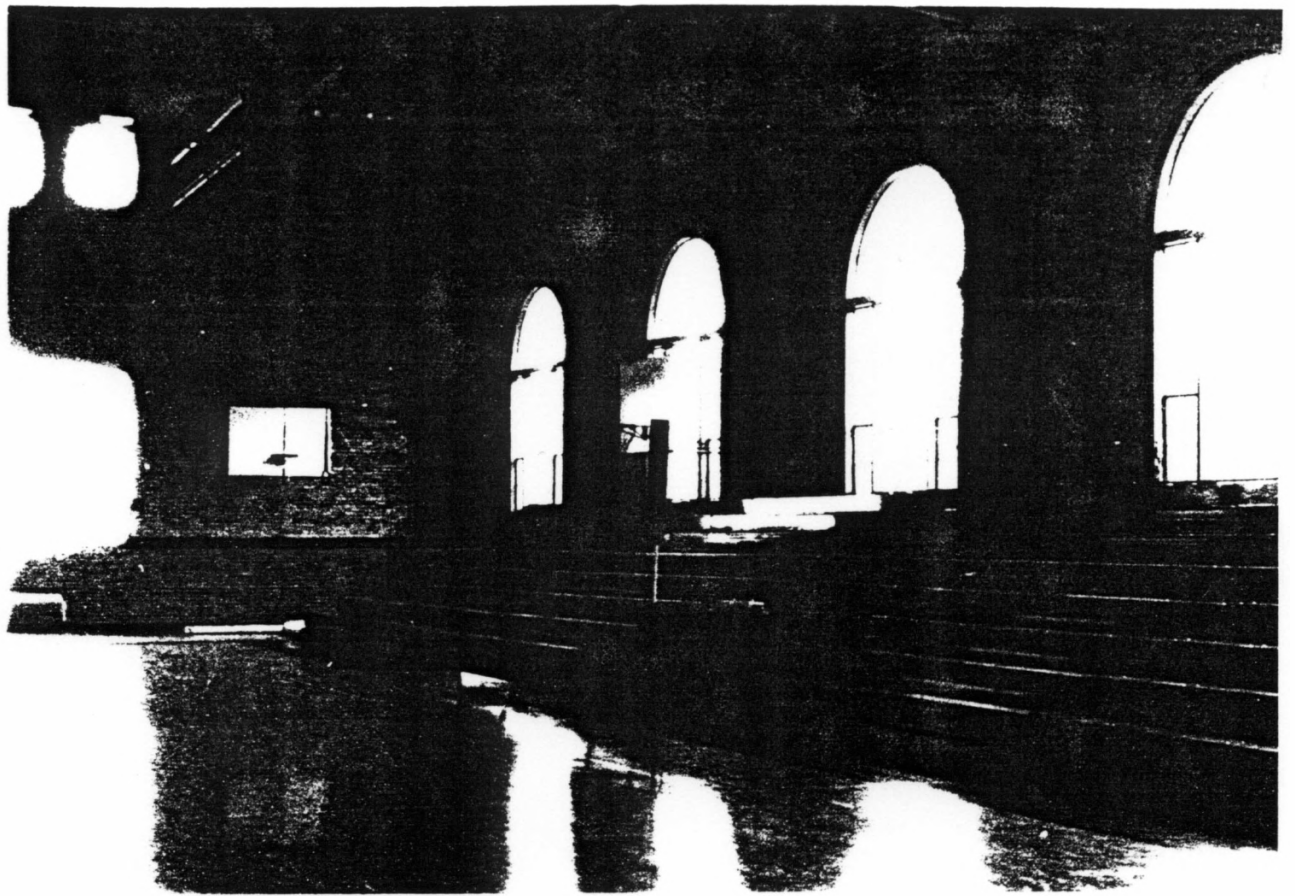
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Interior, Westminster College Gymnasium ( Churchill spoke where timer's table  
stands in picture).

INT: 2983-75



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**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Fulton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Callaway

STATE Missouri

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Stephen Lissandrello

DATE OF PHOTO January 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, 1100 L Street NW, Washington,  
D.C. 20240

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Facing west to front entrance, Westminster College Gymnasium

INT: 2983-75

