

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUN 20 1985  
date entered JUL 18

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Shreveport Woman's Department Club Building

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 802 Margaret Place N/A not for publication

city, town Shreveport N/A vicinity of

state Louisiana code 22 county Caddo Parish code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: social

4. Owner of Property

name Shreveport Woman's Department Club

street & number 802 Margaret Place

city, town Shreveport N/A vicinity of state Louisiana 71101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Caddo Parish Courthouse

street & number 501 Texas Street

city, town Shreveport state Louisiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date February, 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City of Shreveport, Urban Programs Department

city, town Shreveport state Louisiana

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Location The Woman's Department Club is on the corner of Margaret Place and Line Avenue, about 1½ mile south of the Caddo Parish Courthouse in downtown Shreveport. When built in 1924-25, the Woman's Department Club was located in one of the most fashionable older residential areas in the city. Jordan Street, the next block north, had some of the largest Victorian houses and important people in Shreveport. By the 1950's many of these larger homes had been demolished to make way for new uses (such as hospitals, churches, and private schools) in the downtown periphery. Line Avenue was widened and extended to connect with Common Street in downtown, making Line Avenue a major thoroughfare to newer suburbs in the south. Over the last 20 years, the expansion of four hospitals and the construction of related clinics, offices and parking, all within half a mile from the Woman's Department Club, has radically altered the building's setting.

Exterior The Woman's Department Club's exterior was described in a 1925 Chamber of Commerce magazine as a "Georgian Adaptation." The two-story red brick building occupies a corner lot, essentially having two front facades: an eastern facade along Line Avenue and a southern facade fronting Margaret Place.

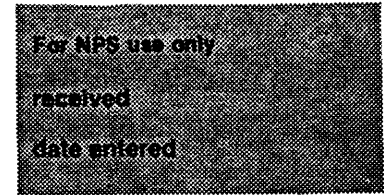
All of the trim elements of the building (the columns, entablature, raking cornice, window and door frames) are painted white. The building has a hipped roof that is almost partially concealed by large gable projections on the south, east and west sides. An entablature with modillions and dentils runs along the entire building.

The narrower south side serves as the main entrance to the building. This facade is symmetrical. The projecting gable on this southern facade has a Palladian window set in the tympanum. On the second story is a large tripartite window that gives the appearance of a sixteen-paned French door flanked by eight-pane sidelights, corner lights with a cross-diagonal pane pattern and transom with an ornate cross-diagonal pane pattern. Flanking the window are two smaller elliptical-shaped windows. On the ground floor is a shallow flat-roofed entry portico. Resting on the top of the portico is a metal balustrade that is painted black. The portico is supported by paired Corinthian columns, and paired Corinthian pilasters are set along the brick wall. The entrance is a double door, each door with a single pane of beveled glass. Around the door are single pane sidelights, corner lights and transom.

The dominant features of the east facade fronting Line Avenue are a porte-cochere, and two projecting gables, one on either side of the porte-cochere. The porte-cochere is supported by groups of three Corinthian columns. Another Corinthian column and a Corinthian pilaster are next to the wall. The top of the porte-cochere also has a black painted balustrade. The entrance of the east side is a single pane beveled glass door with single pane side, corner lights and transom. In the tympanum of each of the projecting gables is a small round vent window. On the far left is a rounded arched window with an ornate arched brick coursing. Underneath the gable on the left on both the first and second floors are tripartite windows with a pane pattern of 8 over 8, space, 16 over 16, and then 8 over 8. This pattern is repeated in the windows flanking the porte-cochere on both first and second stories, and in the window directly above the door. The four windows underneath the gable on the right are much smaller and follow the stairs that are inside. All windows have a concrete sill. One other

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distinguishing feature of the east facade is the small concrete balcony underneath the second floor window which is below the gable on the left. The balcony has a black painted balustrade and is supported by scrolled brackets. Underneath the balcony is concrete frieze work. The north extreme of the east facade is from a 1965 addition. The addition has a plain white cornice, a flat roof, a double door on the lower left on the first floor and a double freight loading door with pulley bar centered on the second floor.

The west facade has similar window placement and roof articulation as the east facade. The major difference between the two is that instead of having a large flat-roofed porte-cochere as on the east facade, the west facade has a small gabled portico which leads to the kitchen.

The north facade of the building is of the 1965 addition. While using the same type brick and solder coursing around the windows as in the 1925 original, the addition is distinctly box-like. In addition, its five windows have a horizontal orientation as opposed to the vertical that the remainder of the building has. The purpose was to leave wall space in the interior for art exhibits.

Interior description

1st Floor The Woman's Department Club, in essence, has two main entrances: one off of Margaret Place, and the other off of Line Avenue. While the Line Avenue entrance, with its porte-cochere, is more prominent on the exterior, the Margaret Place entrance is more prominent on the interior, in that it opens into the formal stair hall. While the plan of the interior also follows a basic axial arrangement, perpendicular to Margaret Place, the stair hall is really the only symmetrical room on the first floor.

Directly in front of the Margaret Place entrance is a large mantel with decorative frieze work. Flanking the entrance are L-shaped stairs with light wooden balusters. On either side of the mantel are large sliding doors that open into the other two main rooms of the first floor; to the right the "living room" (also known as the "drawing room"), to the left the "dining room." Like the stair hall, both of these two rooms are centered around a fireplace/mantel.

The living room is divided by Corinthian columns and pilasters which support a molded beam. Matching crystal chandeliers are centered in each half of the room.

Unlike the living room mantel, which is placed at the end of the room, the dining room mantel is centered on the side wall. At the end of the dining room is a small tiled floor alcove which is further defined by Tuscan columns, pilasters and molded beam. Centered in the alcove is a small decorative fountain. [separated from the dining room]

All three of these main first floor rooms have oak flooring. All three are interconnected by generously sized sliding doors, some with beveled glass panes, allowing for both a good flow from room to room and the ability to close off rooms for smaller functions.

The second main entrance, which fronts Line Avenue, leads to another hall and connects to the living room, alcove kitchen and office. This hall also has oak flooring.

CONTINUED



## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input checked="" 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"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1924-25 **Builder/Architect** Clarence W. King (Architect)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The year 1984 marks the 65th anniversary of the passage of the nineteenth amendment to the United States Constitution. Woman's suffrage in 1919 was the culmination of years of struggle. In many ways, however, enfranchisement was not the end, but a beginning: an emergence of growing independence, and of involvement into realms beyond what was normally considered to be "a woman's place", be this politics, business, professions, culture, or community affairs.

1919 was also the year of the formation of the Woman's Department Club in Shreveport, Louisiana. While its achievements were relatively modest when compared to suffrage and other steps elsewhere, the Woman's Department Club, in its own ways, paralleled growth of women's activism and fulfilled a need to have an expanded role in the community.

When founded there were other women's clubs and societies in Shreveport, but the Woman's Department Club was the only one with broad intent and non-restrictive (or democratic) membership. Other clubs included The Colonial Dames of America, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Marquette Reading Club, the Hypatia Club (organized 1894), the Married Women's Social Club (organized 1897), and the Era Club (organized 1902).

"In 1919 when the club for community-minded ladies was organized, there was no Junior League (of Shreveport), no (Shreveport) Symphony, no (Shreveport) Little Theatre Guild. There was, the founders believed, a distinct need for an organization, which would emphasize the cultural, the educational, the artistic and the social aspects of life." [Woman's Department Club: Promoting Educational, Literary and Artistic Growth since 1919:, Kay Chance, The Front Gallery, Sept. 1982, p. 8.]

Other clubs and organizations have since been founded that have taken over many of the cultural functions of Woman's Department Club. Among these groups are the following: The Junior League (organized 1933), the Shreveport Symphony Women's Guild (organized 1956), the League of Women Voters, and the Little Theater Guild (organized 1932).

Shreveport Context In 1910, the beginning of the decade in which the Woman's Department Club was founded, Shreveport had a population of 28 thousand. This was 12 thousand more than at the turn of the century. By 1920, one year after the founding of the Woman's Department Club, Shreveport's population had grown to 43,874. By 1930, the population jumped to 76,655.

By 1910 Shreveport was expanding its role as a trading center for cotton and lumber, raw materials crucial in the burgeoning textile, construction and railroad industries. The city was also playing an important part in two new industries: automobiles and that which fueled the auto, petroleum.

In 1905, oil was discovered near the current town of Oil City, Louisiana, some 20 miles northwest of Shreveport. There followed a marked growth in the production of oil: "In 1906 the Caddo (Parish) area produced 4,560 barrels of oil.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .32 acre

Quadrangle name Shreveport East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	4	2	9	9	0	0	3	5	9	5	5	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 22 and 23 of the Plymouth Subdivision in the City of Shreveport, Louisiana. Plymouth Subdivision filed and recorded April 16, 1907. Please refer to enclosed site plan map. Boundaries follow property lines to include acreage under single

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries ownership.

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel J. Thomas

organization N/A date November 1984

street & number 850 Elmwood Street telephone (318) 226-5782

city or town Shreveport state Louisiana

## 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 of 1966 (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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Robert B. DeBlieux

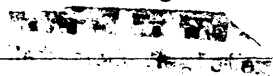
Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 22, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Helene Byer  
Keeper of the National Register



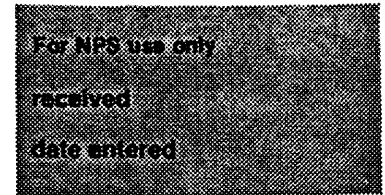
date 7-18-85

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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By 1907 production rocketed to 44,908 barrels, in 1908 production figures had reached 499,937 barrels of oil from 56 wells, and in 1909 the figures were 1,028,818 barrels from 183 wells. Even more spectacular were the figures in 1910 which were 5,090,793 barrels." Production around (and about) Shreveport continued to increase into the 1910's and 20's.

Early Club History The Woman's Club of Shreveport played a significant role in Shreveport's transformation from a smallish backwater town into a healthy sized city with a range of cultural offerings.

The club was initiated by a meeting in October 1919, with the intent of providing "a center of thought and action for the promotion of educational, literary and artistic growth of Shreveport and vicinity." Organized in November of 1919, the Department Club had its roots with the Hypatia Club, essentially a literary society. The Woman's Department Club, however, was expanded to include other areas of concern: arts, education, music, health, and welfare.

Among the many community activities the Woman's Department Club undertook in its initial years were these:

In the field of education:

- 1919 - A study made of local and state schools, their standards, attendance requirements, methods.
  - Library Department worked toward establishing more libraries in the city.
- 1922 - Compulsory school attendance urged.
  - Public school teachers invited to certain lectures.
- 1924 - Twenty-nine girls and boys were helped to attend short summer course at L.S.U.
  - Scholarship given to a girl for Centenary College.
  - Helped sponsor rural libraries.
- 1925 - Dr. Gosline brought in from Dallas, Texas to start a child guidance clinic, gave lectures and held conferences in the first attempt to help retardates.
  - An art scholarship established. Discontinued later.
  - Classes in parliamentary procedures, open to public.
- 1927 - Scholarship given to two boys attending night school.
  - Young people sent to L.S.U. summer short course.
  - Two students helped to attend Centenary College during summer.
  - Scholarship at Norton's Business College.
- 1929 - Endorsed school board's plan against illiteracy in Caddo Parish.
- 1937 - Cooperated with Safety Council in safety education for school children.

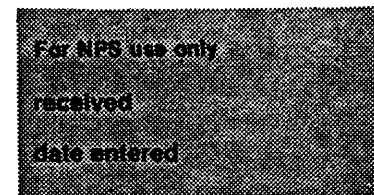
In the field of health and community welfare:

- 1920 - Sponsored drive for cleanliness and sanitation, protested city dump, clean up days sponsored. As a result, two inspectors (women) hired by club to inspect public

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- restrooms for ladies.
- Sanitary conditions in schools studied. Daily lessons in hygiene sponsored for schools.
- Urged children to have vegetable gardens.
- Cleanliness of milk and dairies investigated.
- Drive to clean up riverfront.
- 1921 - Civics Department made survey of sanitation in city, industrial conditions, housing, recreational facilities, education, etc.
- 1922 - Urged an interest in better nutrition.
  - Milk question - standards and cleanliness.
- 1923 - Cooking school sponsored.
- 1924 - Anti-mosquito drive sponsored.
  - Aided in drive for inspection of dairies by Board of Health.
- 1928 - Continued drive for cleaner city.
- 1930 - Milk for undernourished children. Donation made and drive encouraged.
- 1931 - Demonstrations given on "Dietetics" by the Home Economics Department.

In other areas activities included:

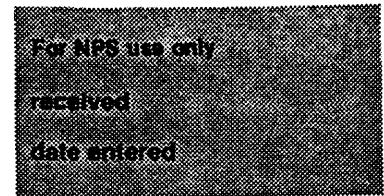
- 1919 - Study of high prices, protest made, cash buying urged.
  - Donation yearly to Cooperative Protective Association.
- 1920 - Legislation endorsed by the Sociology Department in connection with 1) Minimum wage for women; 2) Eight-hour day for women industrial workers; 3) A part of a prisoner's earnings should be paid to his family.
  - Encouraged and urged city beautification.
- 1921 - Civic Center organized in Queensborough.
- 1922 - One hundred dollars given to Community Service.
  - Committee appointed to attend and grade movies, seeking to have theatres bring more wholesome movies.
- 1923 - Effort to get more wholesome type of entertainment at State Fair, also eliminate gambling.
  - "Spare the Dogwood" drive.
- 1923 and 1924 - Choral Club formed for members and non-members.
- 1924 - A sewing machine given to Rodessa Girl's Club.
  - Plant exchange twice yearly.
  - One thousand fig trees distributed. Motto was "A fig tree in every backyard".
- 1928 - "Dogwood Drive" encouraged.
  - Billboards protested.
  - Salacious movies protested.
- 1929 - Cooperated with Chamber of Commerce in bringing Chicago Civic Opera Company (with Mary Garden). Operalogues were given at Club before operas, open to public.
  - Fourteen rural clubs sponsored by the Club.
- 1930 - Saturday afternoon movies, plays, and musicals for children,

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sometimes a small fee charged (10-25¢), sometimes free.  
These were carried on for several years.

- Dr. Pierce Cline's lectures on current events began and continued weekly until his death. The lectures were open to the public.

1930 and 1931 - Helped Shreveport Journal with Christmas basket packing and distribution.

1931 - "Better Homes and Gardens" contest for rural homes sponsored, prizes given by Department of Sociology. Whole project was called "Advancement for Caddo Parish through the Enrichment of Rural Life".

One important role of the Department Club was to bring to Shreveport lecturers, artists, and performers of national and sometimes international repute. This was particularly true in the first ten years of the club's existence.

In the fields of literature and poetry the following people were brought in: Franklin P. Adams, Dr. Mortimer Adler, Letitia Baldrige, Nan Birmingham, Stephen Birmingham, Roark Bradford, Gwen Bristow, Cecil Brown, John Mason Brown, Mary Ellen Chase, Stuart Chase, Upton Chase, Barnaby Conrad, Norman Cousins, Robert Frost, Dr. Victor Heiser, Gloria Hocking, Ishomoto, Madhur Jaffrey, Dr. Hymar Judah Schachtel, H. V. Kaltenborn, Harnett Kane, Emily Kimbrough, Judge Ben B. Lindsey, Vachel Lindsay, Erica Mann, Edward Murrow, Alfred Noyes, Robert Penn Warren, John Cowper Powys, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Ruth Bryan Rhode, Mrs. Rorer, Lyle Saxon, Barroness Shidzell, Suzanne Silvercruys, Admiral Sims, Cornelia Otis Skinner, Madam Ginette Spanier, Rabindraneth Tagore, Ida Tarbell, Howard Teichmann, Norman Thomas, Dorothy Thompson, Countess Tolstoi, and Edward Weeks.

In music:

Creighton Allen, Henri Aubert, Harold Bauer, Joseph Bentonelli, Mario Braggiotti, Richard Crooks, Gussie Nell Davis, Gov. Jimmie Davis, Alirio Diaz, Geraldine Farrar, Rudolph Firkusny, Rudolph Ganz, Boris Goldorsky, Joseph Hoffmann, Jascha Heifetz, Vladimir Horowitz, Marshall Izen, Ted Joselson, Helen Jepson, Grace Moore, Francis Robinson, Silvio and Isabel Schonti, the Coolidge String Quartet, Salzedo Ensemble and the Metropolitan Opera Quartet.

In art:

Conrad Albrizzio, Mme Rosamund Bernier, Mrs. Edward Marshall Boehm, Jean Despujols, The Hon. James Dugdale, Walter Emmerson, Angna Enters, Duncan Ferguson, Wendell Garrett, Xavier Gonzales, Desmond Guinness, Fiore de Henriquez, Arthur Morgan, Dr. Hans H. Rosenwald, Laredo Taft, Grant Wood.

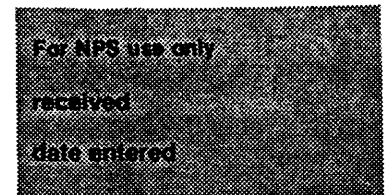
In theatre:

Joan Bennett, Louis Calhern, Robert Coles, Paul Draper, Lillian Gish, Katherine Hepburn, Hal Holbrook, Celeste Holm, Roderick Lovell, the Lunts, Ray Middleton, Hugh Miller, Betsy Palmer, Hannah

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Watt, Margret Webster, and the Dublin Players.

In gardening:

Dorothy Biddle, Laura Lee Burroughs, Sam Caldwell (Old Dirt Dobber), Gregory Conway, Clare Cronenwett, Thase Daniel, Caroline Dorman, William Lanier Hunt, and Mrs. Howard Kittel.

In education:

Donna Axum, Reid Buckley, Lady Cecil Campell, Lady Caradon, Dwight Cook, Helen Corbitt, Norman Cousins, Pauline Frederick, Eddy Gilmore, John Hlavacek, Phillis Kepler, James Laver, Robert Manry, Stanley Marcus, Lady Jarmila Novotna, John McCook Roots, Elsa Rosborough, Abdul Ghafur Shiekh, Godfrey Sperling Jr., William H. Stringer, Princess Nadine Tereschenko.

Community Response Reviews from newspapers of early programs sponsored by the Woman's Department Club indicate a responsive and appreciative community.

Reports and reviews included the following:

Friday, Oct. 22, 1920, Geraldine Farrar (at Coliseum)

FARRAR SINGS FOR 3,000 HERE

"The concert, which was given under the auspices of the Woman's Department Club, proved a success from every viewpoint.

The audience was enthusiastic throughout and showed its appreciation of the talented prima donna, who graciously responded to a number of encores.

The prima donna's father accompanying on the tour said, "I am most agreeably surprised at this splendid reception given us in Shreveport.

I did not imagine that any city of 50,000 in the United States contained so many lovers of fine art and good music."

February 17, 1923

FAMED HEIFETZ HERE TONIGHT

Russian virtuoso arrives in Shreveport after triumphant New Orleans Concert.

"Shreveport public is keenly anticipating a gala musical evening under the auspices of the Woman's Department Club."

February 18, 1923

HEIFETZ, MASTER OF VIOLIN, HAILED BY RECORD AUDIENCE IN EXCELLENT CONCERT HERE

Draws immense audience, Coliseum not far from capacity.

"The members of the Woman's Department Club, who labored with such self-sacrificing zeal to provide for Shreveport such uplifting artistic experiences as this and other events of a like nature, that have occurred under their auspices, are due a genuine debt of gratitude, not only from the city alone, but from the entire surrounding section that has, through their efforts, been able to enjoy such a supreme artistic feast."

March 23, 1934

HOROWITZ IS ACCLAIMED AS GREAT PIANIST

Young artist thrills audience with range of dynamics, grants two encores.

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"Treated his audience to one of the most stunning exhibitions of keyboard wizardry that it has ever been the good fortune of the present writer to witness"

"...left his audience fairly gasping in amazement"

"The members of the Woman's Department Club have placed the music lovers of the Ark-La-Tex area deeply in their debt by making possible for them to enjoy such an unusual musical feast as was presented last night..."

Club Membership At that time women's involvement in business and professions other than teacher and nurse, were much more restrictive than they are now. A woman's social status was still (and still largely is) dependent on the wealth and importance of her husband. Many of the wives of the "movers and shakers" of the community were members of the Woman's Department Club.

These husbands were doctors, lawyers, architects, merchants, bankers, planters, builders, industrialists and men with interests in lumber, oil and real estate.

Among these men were Andrew Querbes, who in addition to being mayor of Shreveport, was president of First National Bank, Dr. Louis Abramson, co-founder of what is now Doctors Hospital.

One Woman's Department Club member with a career of her own was Dr. Katherine J. French, a literature professor at Centenary College who for years also gave lectures at the Woman's Department Club.

Some prominent sons of the Woman's Department Club members are U.S. Judge Tom Stagg and U.S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston.

Some current Woman's Department Club members are prominent in their own right. These include Virginia Sheehee, former Louisiana State Senator and Kay Brash Jeter, attorney, former judge and co-author of "Historical Profile of Shreveport 1850".

Architectural Significance: From the onset of the Club, a percentage of surplus funds were set aside for the building and house furnishing fund. In April of 1923 lots 22 and 23 of the Plymouth Subdivision were purchased for \$7,000 cash. The architect employed to design the building was Shreveport local architect Clarence W. King. The building was dedicated in November of 1925, representing an investment of \$75,000.

Clarence King was born in 1876 in Wharton, Texas, the only son of Judge Woodson King. Clarence graduated from the University of Texas in 1899 with a law degree. Deciding that law wasn't for him, he went back to school and received a degree in architecture. Originally practicing in Monroe, Louisiana in about 1905, most of his work was done in Shreveport and included the central YMCA and the Barrett family home on Fairfield Avenue.

The Woman's Department Club's neo-Georgian architecture was perhaps the most popular and lasting of the early 20th century revivalistic styles. This was particularly evident in the South, with its historical connection with the Colonial past. Invariably so at the local level, the best examples of neo-Georgian architecture in Shreveport are found in larger residences.

Other building types such as banks, churches, college campuses and government buildings also had neo-Georgian styling. However, often these buildings were not

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as exemplary as residences in that their proportions and scale relationships were off.

The Woman's Department Club, while not the best local example of neo-Georgian architecture, nonetheless, is significant from the standpoint of being part of an historical architectural trend. In addition, the building is significant as being the home of an organization that made important contributions to the Shreveport community.

ITEM 8 ADDENDUM BY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

The Woman's Department Club is locally significant in the social/humanitarian area because of the contribution it has made to the cultural life of Shreveport. The club is important as an institution because it was Shreveport's primary cultural organ during the 1920s and '30s. This was during the oil boom period when Shreveport's importance as a population mecca was at its height. Of course, the Strand and other theatres offered popular entertainment, but there was still a void when it came to cultural and artistic activities. To a large extent this void was filled by the Woman's Department Club. Activities included public academic lectures, concerts, literary programs, art exhibits and lectures, and educational programs. Events such as these were aimed at the general public with a view towards raising the level of cultural activities in the city. Evidence of the club's importance in this regard can be seen not only in period testimonials but also in the fact that there were no other organizations which offered these kinds of public services. This is confirmed by research compiled by the applicant which includes a list of other clubs and organizations operating in Shreveport in the 1920s and '30s. (See also Item 8 of the consultant prepared nomination form.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Item number 9

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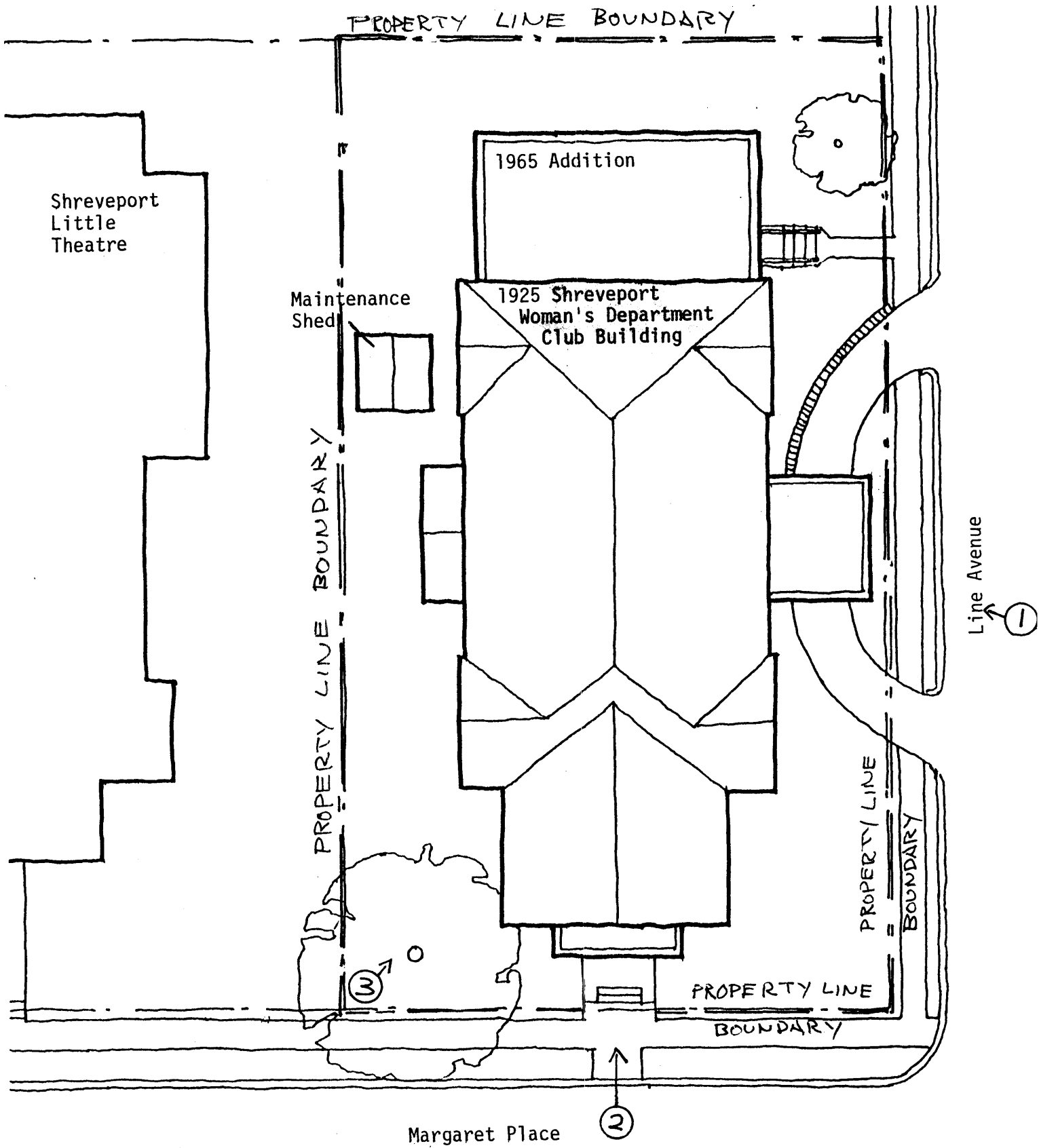
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**Site Plan**

SHREVEPORT, (ADDO PARISH, LA.

