

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Women's Improvement Club of Hueneme  
other names/site number Women's Improvement Club

2. Location

street & number 239 East Scott Street  not for publication  
city, town Port Hueneme  vicinity  
state California code CA county Ventura code 111 zip code 93041

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites (tennis court)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Kathryn Guattieri 7-17-89  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Alfonso Lopez 8/21/89  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Clubhouse

Library

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Clubhouse

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Shake

other Wood

Brick

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located in the original town of Hueneme, laid out by its founder, Thomas Bard, in 1869, the Women's Improvement Club, built in 1915, is one of the few remaining California bungalow style buildings in Port Hueneme that has maintained its integrity. Located in a residential neighborhood, the club is basically rectangular in shape with a wing at the rear. It measures 52 feet across the front and 28 feet deep. The wing at the rear is 12 feet by 15 feet. The sidefacing gable roof is low pitched with overhanging eaves and is covered with wood shingles. Under the eaves are exposed rafters with knee brackets at the corners and on the sides. On the east side is an exterior chimney. The portion above the roofline is brick; below the roofline the chimney is covered with stucco.

The facade is symmetrical with a centered gable roof over the front entrance. The roof is supported by simple square columns. The entrance contains two multi-paned glass doors with wood frames and mouldings. There are eight panes in each door. The porch has a small concrete stoop with two steps. A wooden sign is located under the gable and says "Women's Improvement Club".

The entrance is flanked by a pair of windows. The large windows are double hung with multi-panes in the upper third. They have wood frames and mouldings and eight lights. Along the west side of the building, there is a row of multi-paned double hung windows with 15 lights in each window. This side of the building was originally used as the library, and the bookcases are located below these windows on the west side of the building. The remaining windows on the north and east sides are identical to the front windows.

The building is constructed on a raised concrete perimeter foundation and covered with stucco siding.

On the interior the building was originally divided in half by a single wall down the center. The library was located on the west side and the clubhouse on the east side. About 1935, the dividing wall was removed and the fireplace added on the east wall. The ceilings are covered with acoustical tile.

It is uncertain how the ceiling looked originally, but it was probably at least 12 feet high since the kitchen ceiling is about 12 feet high. The wing in the rear houses a small hallway with a back door, a bathroom, and a kitchen.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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There are several built-in features that include bookcases, wall cabinets, and a window seat. All the wood has been painted white.

The landscape features a few mature trees. In front, only one of two pine trees remains. They were planted on Arbor Day of 1926 to honor Miss Annie Bagust, longtime librarian, and Mrs. Mary Bard, who donated the clubhouse. The lot has a 75-foot frontage and is 200 feet deep. The clubhouse is close to the street with the tennis courts in the rear. Originally there was a lattice-type wood fence that separated the sidewalk from the front lawn, that has been removed.

The plans for the clubhouse were provided by Mrs. Thomas Bard who donated the land and building to the Women's Improvement Club in 1915. The plans have yet to be located, and a search of available records has not yet located the name of an architect or builder, and books were also loaned from the Oxnard Library.

The tennis courts should be considered as a contributor to the clubhouse property as a whole. They were built, it is believed, at the same time as the clubhouse. The tennis courts provided recreation to members of the community and were part of the overall contribution of the Women's Improvement Club.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

<p>Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)</p> <p>Social History _____</p> <p>Education _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Period of Significance</p> <p>1915-1935 _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Cultural Affiliation</p> <p>N/A _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Significant Dates</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Significant Person</p> <p>N/A _____</p>	<p>Architect/Builder</p> <p>Unknown _____</p> <p>_____</p>	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Women's Improvement Club of Hueneme is the oldest women's clubhouse in Ventura County and is still in use as a clubhouse. The club was founded on October 13, 1909 by a group of 15 women, prominent and active members of the Hueneme community, whose goals were to improve the deteriorating condition of the town and to establish a library. In 1915 they opened the combination clubhouse and library. The library served the community for 20 years, until in 1935 a new building was opened specifically for that purpose.

The goals of the Women's Improvement Club were strongly tied to the Progressive Movement taking place in the country during the early part of the 20th century. The Hueneme group had banded together to improve the deteriorating condition of their community. Hueneme was founded in 1869 and a wharf built in 1871 for the shipment of agricultural products. When the Oxnard Brothers built their large sugar beet factory in 1898, the town of Oxnard grew rapidly. Buildings and residents from Hueneme were hastily moved to the community in Oxnard, leaving the village of Hueneme with a desolate appearance.

Between 1909 and 1930, the club members concentrated their efforts in two main areas: improving the physical appearance of the town and establishing a library. They cajoled property owners or hired workers to clean up empty lots, remove or repair unsightly buildings, and clean the streets and plazas. They had sycamore trees planted and maintained them and had benches and a tennis court built for public use. During World War I, club members donated their time for sewing and fundraising projects for the Red Cross. The women raised money for their projects by holding rummage sales, classes, social events, and collecting membership dues.

A library was opened by club members on December 8, 1909 and held in their temporary headquarters at the A.O.U.W. Hall. Apparently another library was started by Hueneme founder Thomas Bard in 1883 in a building he constructed as the Hueneme Public Hall. It is uncertain what became of this library. The books may have been donated to the club library. Club member Mr. Achille Levy and Mrs. Otte Gerberding contributed books from their private collections.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Articles of Incorporation of the Women's Improvement Club of Hueneme Minute Books - 1909-1915.

Moore, Virginia, "History of Women's Improvement Club," unpublished manuscript.

Oxnard Press Courier - 9/16/65, 5/15/69.

Port Hueneme Pilot News - 5/15/69, 8/7/69.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	1
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2	9	7	4	6	5
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3	7	8	0	7	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is city lot "0" (74) with a 75' frontage on Scott Street and is 200' deep.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Judy Triem/Historical Consultant  
organization San Buenaventura Research Assoc. date 6/23/88  
street & number 627 E. Pleasant St. telephone (805) 525-1909  
city or town Santa Paula state CA zip code 93060

**United States Department of the Interior  
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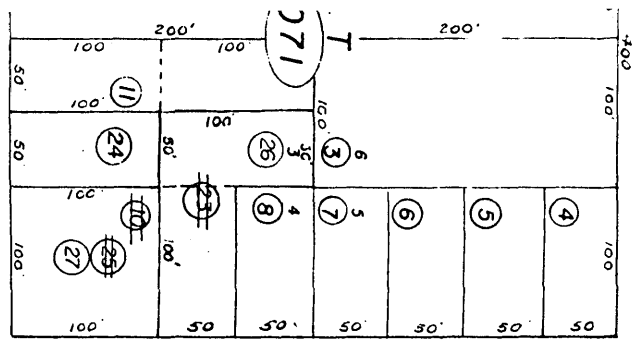
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In December 1914, Thomas Bard's wife, Mary B. Gerberding Bard, announced to club members her plans to donate the land and a new clubhouse/library to the Women's Improvement Club of Hueneme. Mrs. Bard had joined the club when it first organized in 1909, and two of her daughters, Anna and Beryl, were active members. Beryl Bard served as president. Mrs. Bard had the plans prepared, and they were approved by the club. The deed to the clubhouse/library and lot were granted to the Women's Improvement Club of Hueneme on September 13, 1915.

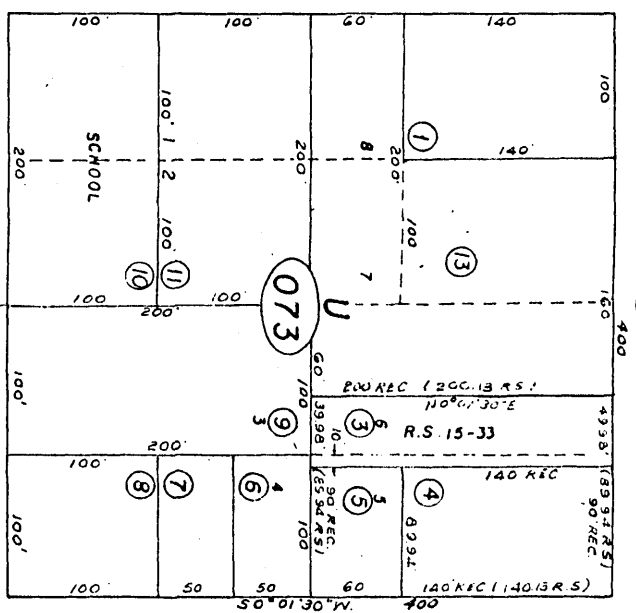
Summary of yearly club activities, culled from the club's minute books, indicate that city improvements continued to be a high priority each year. The list of accomplishments for 1916 include the following: "curbing was put up along the sidewalk in front of the Library Building; the sycamore trees were cared for, weeds hoed around them and along the street which they are planted; many disfiguring advertisements taken down; Board-walk west side of main street repaired, etc."

After 1930, the emphasis of projects undertaken by the club changes. The library continued to be housed in the clubhouse and supported by the members until about 1935 when a new city library was constructed. The improvement projects to clean-up and beautify the community were not as necessary. The club continued and expanded its contributions to various Ventura County charities including the Big Sister's League, orphans home, Salvation Army, Legion Auxiliary, and the Campfire Girls. It also held well baby clinics at the library. The clubhouse also played host to various organizations, and the tennis courts continued to provide recreation for the community. During World War II, once again club members held weekly sewing sessions to donate needed clothing articles and the club purchased war bonds.

The clubhouse was declared Ventura County Landmark #19 on November 15, 1971.

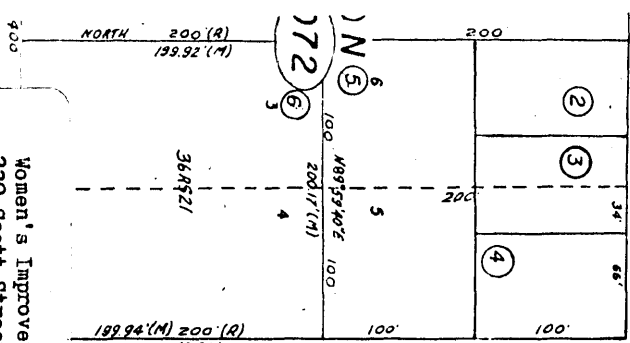


ST.

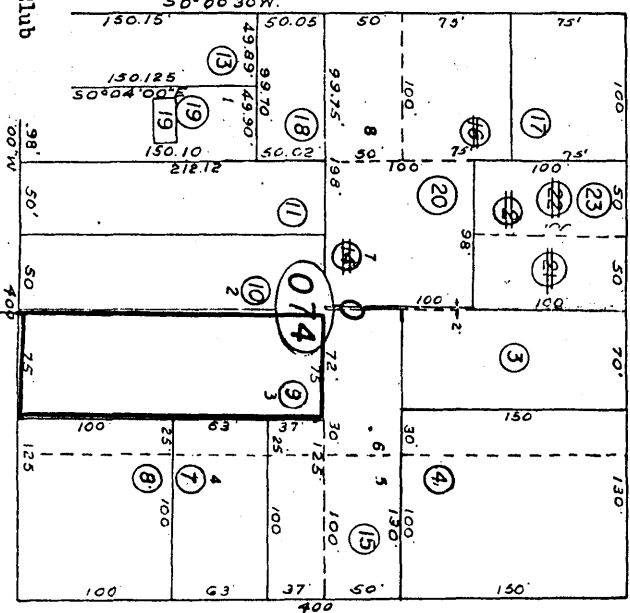


ST. 9

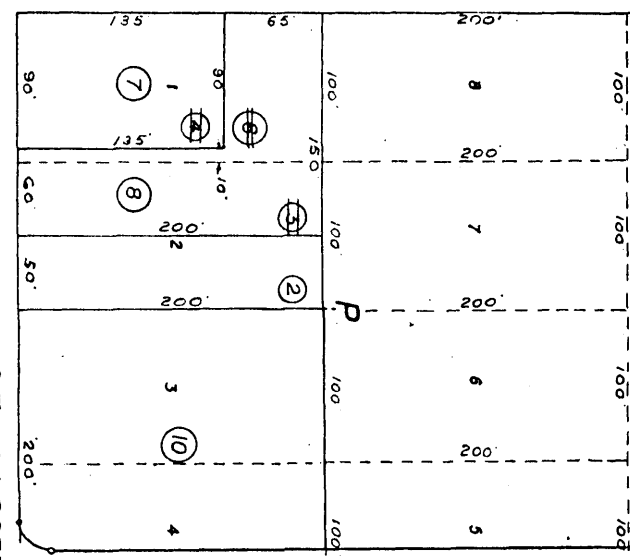
ST.



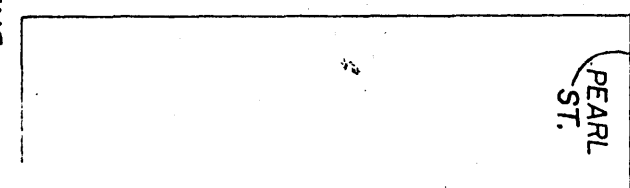
(VENTURA) SECOND



THIRD

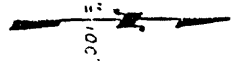


(FOURTH) VENTURA



PEARL ST.

BK. 207



Women's Improvement Club  
 239 Scott Street  
 Fort Huene, CA  
 Ventura County  
 Parcel # 206-074-09

MARKET ST.

SCOTT ST. 9

NOTE-Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses

CITY OF PORT HUENEME  
 Assessor's Map Bk. 206Pg. 07  
 County of Ventura, Calif.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Photo log:

1. Property name: Women's Improvement Club of Hueneme
2. Address: 239 East Scott Street, Post Office Box 212, Port Hueneme,  
Ventura County, California 93041
3. Photographs: By Floyd Bowser
4. Date of photographs: June 24, 1988
5. Negatives location: Security Pacific National Park  
2831 Saviers Road  
Post Office Box 2565  
Oxnard, California 93033-4515  
Safe Deposit Box: #679

Photographs numbered:

- (1) Interior, facing West
- (2) Interior, facing East
- (3) Exterior side, facing East by Northeast
- (4) Exterior back, facing South
- (5) Exterior side, facing Northwest
- (6) Exterior front, facing North
- (7) Exterior front, facing North by Northeast
- (8) Tennis courts, facing North