



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Woman's Club of Upper Montclair

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 200 Cooper Avenue

<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input type="checkbox"/>	vicinity

city or town Township of Montclair

state New Jersey code NJ county Essex code 013 zip code 07043

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Reh Boony — Asst Commissioner 7/9/12
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- other (explain) _____
- determined eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

[Signature] 9/4/12
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair
Name of Property

Essex County NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Auditorium

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: unknown

walls: Painted cedar shakes

roof: Asphalt shingles

other:

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair
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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Clubhouse is a Colonial Revival meeting hall located in the tree-lined residential community of Upper Montclair. It is oriented to the north and is nestled amongst the residential single-family dwellings of an early 20th century suburb in various revival styles of the period and the small shops and businesses of Valley Road less than one block to the east. Most of the commercial establishments are individually owned with a few encroaching chain operations, namely Starbucks and CVS. The historic integrity of the neighborhood is high, that is, the architectural style of the Clubhouse remains in keeping with other revival homes of the period. The property is set back from the street by a sidewalk and front and side landscaped lawn. Select properties in this area were listed as part of a New Jersey State Thematic Montclair Multiple Resource Area (MRA) in 1981.

Although now adjacent to a chain drugstore, the Clubhouse itself and neighboring homes maintain a high level of integrity. The Clubhouse commands a modest street presence in context with the other buildings because of its style, but its deep footprint reveals its original and present day purpose, that is, to accommodate large social functions and a 1,000-seat auditorium space. The property is well maintained and has been in continuous use as a Clubhouse since it was completed in 1924. The cedar shakes and framing details are original; albeit they have been painted brown but may have been originally grey. The roof has replacement architectural shingles.

Narrative Description

See attached continuation sheet

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Woman's Club of Upper Montclair
Name of Property
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Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

DESCRIPTION

The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Clubhouse is one of twenty-one clubhouses still extant in New Jersey built during the period 1890-1940. Of the twenty-one only nine were originally built as Clubhouses, not adaptively re-used historic sites. The WCUM is one of the nine built as a Clubhouse and has been in continuous operation by the WCUM since its construction. Due to its success as a Club to the present time, it maintains a high level of integrity both of its exterior and interior. As stated in the *Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs MPDF*, significance is determined to a great extent on the interior spaces. This Clubhouse has all the significant elements as described, including large furnished public meeting rooms and ancillary rooms for smaller gathering, a large-scale kitchen, public restrooms, an office, a central hallway, a coat room and an auditorium with stage. In addition, most of the interior finishes, furnishings, and fixtures are original.

The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair (WCUM) Clubhouse was designed and built in the Colonial Revival style and completed in 1924 in two parts, the main clubhouse in March and the 1,000-seat auditorium addition completed in November of that same year. Architect Francis A. Nelson (1878-1950), a resident of Upper Montclair, designed the Clubhouse, donating all design service to the Club. His wife was a member of the Club and they both were honored with Life Memberships. Nelson was a graduate of the Columbia University School of Architecture and served two terms as president of the Society of Columbia University Architects. In 1906 he formed the firm of Nelson and Van Wagonen with offices in New York, practicing there until 1929. He moved to Montclair in 1913. (1) (Obituary-- March 30, 1950 issue of the New York Times). Three other buildings he designed in Upper Montclair are listed on the National Register, the Free Public Library, a Colonial Revival building with a period of significance from 1925-1949, The Marsellis House (also known as the Hasbrouck House), a Colonial Revival home whose period of significance is 1900-1924, and the Post Office Building (also known as the Gumersall Building), a Tudor Revival building, whose period of significance is from 1900-1924.

The Clubhouse faces north and occupies a large lot at the corner of Cooper and Northview Avenues, with Northview to the east and a multi-car parking lot to the west. It is clad in brown cedar shakes with contrasting bright white moldings and trim and corner quoins throughout. The roof is light brown replacement asphalt shingles. The building is set back from Cooper and Northview Avenues by a front and side lawn. The front or north façade of the WCUM Clubhouse is comprised of a central two-story side-gabled block flanked by a pair of two-story front-gabled projecting wings forming a u-shaped footprint around a raised flagstone patio. The central entrance has a one story centered shed roof porch adorned with a cornice with dentils and modillions and three pairs of 10-light French doors. The center pair serves as the entrance and is flanked by single Tuscan columns with square plinths. Paired columns of the same design flank all three pairs. There are hanging iron lamplights in between the paired flanking columns. On either side of this central entrance porch are symmetrical windows 4/4 double-hung sash. The second story has five evenly spaced dormer windows, the center three of which are arched and the flanking ones are hipped, all interrupting a wide entablature. The dormer windows are 6-light casement.

The main entrance is set back from the street and is reached by a central flagstone walkway that leads from Cooper Avenue, up two steps, to a large flagstone patio. This walkway is lined only on the east side with a decorative wrought iron railing, whereas the steps have a pair of iron railings. Both the walkway and the patio are in a random flagstone pattern. There is a modern ADA accessible ramp from the entrance to the parking lot following the east and north façade of the western projecting wing. The entrance also has a flagpole and permanent wooden sign grouped together on the lawn to the east of the central walkway.

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The symmetrical gabled-end wings are perpendicular to the entrance block and to Cooper Avenue. The first story of the gable-end or north façade of the wings has identical 12-light fixed projecting bay windows topped by a decorative broken pediment. The 2nd story façades each have a three-part window 4/4 double-hung sash. On the interior facing façades, there are matching oversized windows 8/8 double-hung sash flanked by vertical 2/2 double-hung sash sidelights on the first story and two gabled dormers, with 6/6 double-hung sash on the second. These façades have a deep entablature with dentils, which wraps minimally around the corners to the front. The

west interior-facing façade has built in gutters and downspouts whereas the east façade has contemporary ductwork piercing the wall presumably to vent the hood from the kitchen to the roof.

Northview Avenue elevation:

Along this east elevation, the Clubhouse is divided into three main blocks, the side elevation of the front projecting blocks as described above, a middle gable-end block, and the rear auditorium block. The façade is two-stories throughout with the deep entablature continuing and quoins decorating both the corners and, at times, interrupting the façade itself. The quoins are large, even exaggerated in scale.

The east façade of the front projecting block is a two-story block, three bay wide with three windows 6/6 double hung sash with two panel shutters on the first story and three gabled dormers with 6/6 double-hung sash on the second.

The middle gabled-end block has two windows on the first story, with 8/8 double-hung sash flanked by wood paneled shutters. The shutters have a single abstract cutout design centered in the upper section of each shutter depicting a basket with dots that may represent fruit. Above the windows are wide decorative lintel moldings with a centered raised panel. The second story has one central Palladian style window with central sash. There are corner quoins.

The rear-facing façade of this central block perpendicular to the rear auditorium block, facing south, has one paired 10-light French door with wide lintel flanked by full-length wooden shutters with the same decorative cutout and detailing as described above. The second story has paired square replacement windows with fixed lights in each and no muntins.

The rear or auditorium block has 5 bays and is set back from the middle gable-end block to accommodate a flagstone patio. The middle three bays of the first story have three pairs of French doors with wooden paneled shutters with the same decorative basket design as the middle section described above. Over the French doors is semi-circular wooden arch molding, detailed to look like a fanlight. On the second story, centered above each French door are three paired fixed square windows with muntins dividing them into 4 lights.

The flanking bays are symmetrical with 6/6 double-hung sash with wooden shutters and deep lintels on the first story and 6-light circular oxeve windows on the second. These wooden shutters have a simpler design from the others, only four round dots set in a cross pattern. These end bays are also delineated by decorative quoins on either side.

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Rear elevation:

The south elevation of the WCUM Clubhouse is the rear of the auditorium addition. This façade is dominated by a two-story gabled-end interrupted by a one-story projecting glass enclosed sun porch and a square wooden vent at the peak. This porch has three pairs of front-facing 10-light French doors with sidelights and transoms and a fixed 15-light floor to ceiling window with sidelights and transom along each side. The entry doors are unified by a deep exaggerated entablature with projecting cornice, which runs both the length and the depth of the porch. Each of the doors and sidelights are framed by pilasters and as a whole are framed by two Tuscan columns and plinth at the corners. Each French door transom light pattern is 2 high by 2 wide and each sidelight for both door and transom is a vertical single light.

A blue stone one-step stoop leads to an interior blue stone sunroom.

Flanking the glass porch on the first story are symmetrical windows with 6/6 double-hung sash. To the west of this main block is an additional 2-bay section with 6/6 double hung sash windows on first story and a 6-light awning window on the second story.

Parking lot elevation:

The west elevation of the WCUM Clubhouse is adjacent to the parking lot and also serves as a side entrance to the Clubhouse through a kitchen. It can be described in five discrete blocks delineated as such by alternating planes and roof pitch. The northernmost section perpendicular to Cooper Avenue is the west façade of the front projecting block. It is centrally punctuated by a small-enclosed porch entryway on the first floor and is flanked by symmetrical 6/6 double-hung sash windows. The side entrance porch has a front-facing gabled roof with the same shingles as the main roof. The entry porch is enclosed on the north and west elevations. The north elevation window has 2/6 fixed lights is flanked by full-length sidelights and a pair of pilasters; the west elevation window with 3 /6 fixed lights is flanked by full-length sidelights and a pair of pilasters. A pair of sidelights and pilasters also flanks the entryway along the southern elevation. This side porch entrance is raised up two steps leading to the covered landing. There is a contemporary storm door at this side entrance.

The second story has three front gabled roof dormers with 6/6 double-hung sash. The façade has the same deep entablature as described throughout with a minimal return at the northwest corner and narrow quoins at the southwest corner.

The second block south of the first block corresponds in design and form to its gabled-end counterpart on the east end, except there are no shutters on the windows. It has a pair of 8/8 double-hung sash windows on the first floor and a Palladian sash window on the second. The block is adorned with wide quoins on either corner crowned with a deep entablature with overhanging cornice and dentils on these corners. There is a square louvered vent just under the peak of the roof.

The third block to the south has an asymmetrical window with 3 high by 2 wide fixed-lights on the first floor toward the south of the building. Also present on the second story of this elevation is a window with 2 high by 3 wide fixed-lights. There is the same deep entablature and quoins at the corners.

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The fourth block is the gabled-end block of the auditorium addition and has two windows on the first floor, not centered but positioned toward the end walls, perhaps because, as the original blueprints show, the architect intended to include a central entrance with a paired ascending stairs here. These 8/8 double-hung sash have deep lintels. The deep entablature continues from the previous block and the corners are delineated by the same quoins. In the peak of the gable is a half-circle louvered decorative detail. In the side north elevation of this block, perpendicular to the parking lot is a wooden double door designed for loading theater scenery on the first story. There is a window with 2 high by 3 wide fixed-lights on the second story.

The fifth two-story block to the south end of the building has 6/6 double hung sash on the first story and a 3/3 awning window on the second story; this elevation has the same entablature that is carried throughout the building. There is a small shed roof storage enclosure at ground level, the roof of which has the same light brown architectural roof shingles and the short front wall has been covered in the same painted brown shingles.

The Clubhouse interior is of the highest integrity regarding its floor plan and interior furnishings. When entering the Clubhouse through the French doors, there is a hall or vestibule before entering another large central meeting space or lounge. This main meeting space spans the width of the building and has a central room with a decorative fireplace and ancillary spaces off to either side that can become flexible smaller meeting spaces. Off the entry hall there is office space, a rest room and cloakroom to the east, an old telephone booth still extant, and a large commercial kitchen to the west. The second story has smaller meeting rooms along the periphery that are enclosed but the one room off the main lounge area has interior windows opening onto the main area. There is dark wood trim throughout. This Clubhouse interior is finished in a Tudor revival style. It has a large commercial size kitchen to service meetings. The auditorium addition at the rear of the Clubhouse was designed to accommodate 1,000 seats (removable seating), with a full proscenium arch stage, dressing rooms and a balcony.

In the Press Book dated 1924-25, there is a newspaper clipping with a detailed description of the clubhouse. The description appears in a November column from *The Montclair News* called The Civic Pilot by Beatrice Gordon-Smith, written just after the Clubhouse opened. From this room-by-room description of the space, it appears that the Clubhouse as it exists today has survived with few alterations and therefore is of the highest integrity throughout.

Montclair News edited by Beatrice Gordon-Smith November The Civic Pilot:

The beautiful and spacious room fills a long-felt need. It will seat over 1,000 people and has a flat floor, which can be used for dancing or banqueting. There is an absolutely up-to-date stage, which has a width in its proscenium arch of thirty-six feet, a depth of twenty-nine feet and a stage platform of fifty-six feet in width, including wings.

There is a receiving station for scenery at the north side, two windows at the rear of stage, an entrance from tea room into stage area, making it possible to introduce speakers without their coming into the audience room. At the south side of the stage there is a double tier of dressing rooms, which makes a more practicable entrance when the auditorium is rented separately from the lounge. Footlights in groups and modern overhead lighting will make possible any desired scenic effect.

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The exterior of the clubhouse is of heavy gray stained shingles with white trim. The broad entrance walk and semi-enclosed court between the wings of the north elevation are paved with irregular flagging set in cement.

Three broad, small-panel doors lead into the lobby. The door on the extreme left leads into the office and ladies' coat room corridor. In the west wing are the kitchen and pantry. They are the result of much earnest and exact thought. It is the hope of the committee that the kitchen equipment will make easy and interesting whatever preparing and serving of meals the club members may care to undertake.

As one enters the central lounge from the lobby, one is faced by a fireplace with a delightful Georgian mantel. Either side of the fireplace has a large couch and back of these are tables with charming lamps.

On the right of the lounge are the tea and reading rooms, attractively furnished.

On the floor above are the minstrels' gallery, board room, a studio, the girls' club room, with kitchenette and a small housekeeping apartment.

The plans were prepared by the architect, Francis A. Nelson, who generously gave his services in the interest of the Woman's Club and the community."

There is a set of architect's blueprints in the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Clubhouse Collection. They have accordion creases from being rolled and then flattened, but are legible and intact.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1924-1940

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Nelson, Francis A. (Architect)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

Part of National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form Approved 4/30/10

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Women's roles in volunteer organizations throughout the last quarter of the 19th century through the early-20th century were pivotal in bringing about many of the social and political reforms of the Progressive movement. The formation of Women's Clubs around the country, and throughout New Jersey, not only provided women a "safe haven" outside the home to develop their role as social reformer, but also created a comfortable atmosphere for self-improvement. The rampant industrialization of America from the mid- to late-19th century enabled a middle class woman to cultivate her designated role as the moral and domestic compass in the home and in her own community. This is a significant chapter of women's history, and the recognition of significant New Jersey historic sites associated with this aspect of women's history is key to creating a greater understanding of women's role in history in general and specific to New Jersey.

During the period of significance outlined in the Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs, 1890-1940 MPDF, the accomplishments of local New Jersey woman's clubs were as impressive in their breadth as in their depth and the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair was no exception. Club life offered women a "hive" of activity related to intellectual stimulation, social interaction and civic engagement at a time when there were few other options for these opportunities outside the home. The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair could be considered one of the largest and most successful Clubs in the State. By the middle of the 1920s, the membership roster was capped at 1,200 with a waiting list. It was during this time that they also funded, built and financed their Clubhouse and auditorium that, by the time of the Depression, they owned free and clear of any debt.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

See attached continuation sheet

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See attached continuation sheet

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Name of Property Essex County, New Jersey County and State Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

During the period of significance delineated in the *Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs, 1890-1940 MPDF*, the accomplishments of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair aligned with the mainstream progressive reform movement ideals of volunteer women's organizations as described in that context statement. Women's Clubs in general and, the WCUM specifically, became a "hive" of activity related to intellectual stimulation, social interaction and civic engagement at a time when there were few other options for these opportunities outside the home. Moreover, the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair in particular could be considered one of the largest and most successful Clubs in the State. By the middle of the 1920s, the peak of activity in Women's Clubs in general, their membership swelled to 1,200, capped with a waiting list. It was also during this period that the Club funded, built, and financed their Clubhouse meeting space and auditorium addition. By the time of the Depression, the WCUM owned their property free and clear of any debt.

Background

Women's role in volunteer organizations throughout the last quarter of the 19th century through the early-20th century was pivotal in bringing about many of the social and political reforms of the Progressive movement. The formation of women's clubs around the country, and throughout New Jersey, not only provided women a "safe haven" outside the home to develop their role as social reformer, but also created a comfortable atmosphere for self-improvement. The rampant industrialization of America from the mid- to late-19th century enabled a middle class woman to cultivate her designated role as the moral and domestic compass in the home and in her own community. This is a significant chapter of women's history, and the recognition of significant New Jersey historic sites associated with this aspect of women's history is key to creating a greater understanding of women's role in history in general and specific to New Jersey.

New Jersey women, as in the larger historical context, organized literary and cultural groups for their own intellectual stimulation, as well as social organizations that advocated for local and statewide reform. They pushed for control of alcohol, improved facilities for workers, prisoners, and the mentally ill. They became politically active in working toward woman's suffrage. They initiated civic improvement societies and clubs for public beautification, advocating for the creation of public parks, gardens and playgrounds. They organized on local levels but formed statewide federations, which were, in turn, linked to national organizations. The Clubs were often organized along ethnic, religious or racial lines as well as economic, social and patriotic sensibilities.

Early Years

In New Jersey, local women's clubs began springing up as early as 1872, with the formation of the state's first, the Woman's Club of Orange. Women from this first club played important roles in the founding of both the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC).

The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs was created in 1894 as an umbrella group for existing local women's clubs. The organization's objective, as stated in its Constitution, was "to bring the women's clubs of the

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state into communication for acquaintance and mutual helpfulness." Among the 36 founding members, there were several clubs from the more populated urban communities of northern and central New Jersey such as Bayonne, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, Orange, Passaic, Plainfield, Roselle and Rahway. A few Women's Clubs representing the less developed more rural or suburban areas of the state were also charter members.

All of these Clubs provided a way for women to gather socially outside of their home for both personal and civic betterment. In the formative years, the New Jersey clubwomen gathered in towns and cities for companionship to explore what could be considered the liberal arts – lectures, programs and discussions covered a variety of topics on science, literature, art and philosophy. The mission of the Clubs quickly expanded to include civic improvement. Broadening women's ever-widening sphere of influence, this has been characterized as a form of municipal housekeeping.

The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair: Overview of Period of Significance

At the turn of the century, Mrs. Robert Hoe Dodd (1842-1927) founded the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair. A small group of women met for the first time October 4, 1900. In the beginning, they met on the first and third Thursday of each month from October to May at members' homes and, as many women's clubs did initially, named their club after their meeting days—and so The Thursday Club was born. Their stated purpose was to bring women together to learn from each other about the challenges of motherhood.¹ Shortly after its founding, in 1901, the name was changed to the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair (WCUM)² and a Constitution was written and adopted on March 31, 1902.³ According to a history written to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Club, Mrs. Robert Hoe Dodd brought seven women together "to study the child, its habits and how best to guide him down the right road to an adjusted maturity." She was 58 years old when she started the Club, having moved to Montclair from Brooklyn, where she was active in Woman's Club life and community service. There she served as a member of the Cambridge Club,⁴ a woman's literary club founded in 1890 by Miss Julia Arnold Kempshall.⁵ Mrs. Dodd's term lasted for 12 years and no doubt played an important role in shaping the early years of the Club's existence. Mrs. Cleveland Watrous (Club President 1928-1930) on the occasion of the Club's 30th Anniversary reminisces that Mrs. Dodd was someone who loved club life for its "friendship, information and inspiration..." and that her vision for the club was "...not an organization merely for pleasure or even intellectual improvement, but an instrument for the emancipation of a sex."⁶

¹ *Reports of Recording Secretary*. Rep. 1900-January 4, 1904. Bound Volume. WCUMCC

² "History of the Club" in *Dedication Exercises*. 200 Cooper Avenue: Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, March 25, 26, 27 1924. Booklet. WCUMCC.

³ *Reports of Recording Secretary*. September 2, 1901 to October 14, 1903. One Bound Volume, pp 9-12. WCUMCC

⁴ Julia Ayers Sheppard. "1900 Through the Years 1950 On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair." *The Bulletin* Dec. 1950: 8. WCUMCC.

⁵ Jane Cunningham Croly. *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America*. Vol. 1. P. 869-70. Google Books. Web. 23 Mar. 1911. <<http://books.google.com/books>>.

⁶ *The Bulletin* Volume 3. Number 5 (February 1930): 14. WCUMCC

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During the period of significance for Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs, 1890-1940, the accomplishments of local New Jersey woman's clubs were as impressive in their breadth as in their depth and the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair was no exception. The early history of the WCUM was researched and written using extant yearbooks, a Club publication called *The Bulletin* (published first in 1925), a collection of Press Books/Scrapbooks and other ephemera, all collected and maintained by members and stored in the Clubhouse. The documents reveal that during this time period a myriad of entertaining and intellectual programs related to the literature, drama, art and music themes as well as service projects and community advocacy related to health, education and welfare were both popular and constant. During these key years, particularly during the 1920s and 1930s, clubwomen in general and members of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair in particular created a virtual hive of volunteer activism and education.

The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair could be considered one of the largest and most successful Clubs in the State. By the middle of the 1920s, the membership roster was capped at 1,200 with a waiting list. It was during

this time that they also funded, built and financed their Clubhouse and auditorium that, by the time of the Depression, they owned free and clear of any debt.

Club life provided a way for women to gather socially outside their home. Often they formed to provide companionship and to explore what could be considered the liberal arts – providing lectures, programs and discussions on literature, science, art and philosophy. Like many women's clubs in their formative years, the WCUM met socially in the interest of "bettering" themselves intellectually and culturally. Members would read papers prepared by each other or other outside club members on the subject of child-rearing, home economics and art, music and literature. For example, by the second meeting, October 18, 1900, 20 ladies met to hear "Mrs. Dodd read a paper on Food, and the subject was fully and freely discussed..." They talked about the need for children to eat at regular times, but not in between meals and in greater quantity than adults because of their growing needs. Overeating was not advocated. The next meeting with 29 present focused on the topic of Sleep.⁷ The programs for the year 1902-03 for example included Household Economics, Child Study, Art, Literature and Music. Papers were presented on such topics as "The Kindergarten in the Home" and "The Adolescent Child" given by the President of the New York City Mother's Club, a Lecture on "Shakespeare's Children" and an Art Lecture on "Mornings in Florence."⁸

They would not only bring in outside experts as speakers on political and cultural topics, but also assign members topics to present as papers on different themes of interest. Many clubwomen also advocated for the establishment of a circulating book collection, which led to the founding of a public library in the community and other progressive change related to municipal improvements, including advocating for clean streets, anti-litter and anti-billboard campaigns, and recreational open space and beautification campaigns. In particular, in their meetings and in their actions, they focused on issues related to mothers and children, and yet these clubwomen quickly assumed this role of what the progressive women's reformers termed "municipal housekeepers."

The development of the town of Upper Montclair paralleled the development of the Woman's club itself. Improvements to the New York-Greenwood Lake Railroad line transformed the formerly sleepy farming

⁷ *Reports of Recording Secretary*. Rep. 1900-January 4, 1904. Bound Volume. WCUMCC

⁸ *Year Book*, 1902-03. WCUMCC

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community into a 20th century suburb of the well-to do from New York City. Originally settled by the Dutch, these new transplants transformed Speertown (as it was formerly called) into a bustling English Tudor- style village. In 1881, eleven trains ran daily between Montclair and New York, and the Upper Montclair facility alone accommodated more than eight hundred commuters daily.”⁹ Most of the development that we see today happened from the late 1800s up through 1925 -- the roads, schools, a post office, churches, shops, and a theater and a library. Men of means built grand homes. Their social life was covered in *The New York Times*, and their homes were featured in architecture magazines.¹⁰ Charles W. Anderson, insurance agent, bank officer and developer who donated the land for the (now New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places listed) Anderson Park in Upper Montclair to the community¹¹ played a pivotal role in funding the WCUM Auditorium addition. Francis A. Nelson, the Clubhouse architect, had a significant role in designing many of Montclair's public buildings including the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, including the Montclair Free Public Library, the Upper Montclair Post Office and St. James Church. He also designed several private residences, including his own. He was a resident of Montclair for 38 years before his death in 1951 and served on the Town Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment.¹² By 1925 the town had almost acquired the appearance we are familiar with today.”¹³

Through these volunteer efforts, women honed their organizational skills outside the home. They proved their business management skills through the Club's success, measured in attendance and financial stability. During this period of significance, the Club was always solvent. The established management structure was comprised of a Board of Officers and working Committees, established early on to accomplish their mission. In a few short years, their ranks grew and the Club recorded 144 members and 29 Associate members for 1901-2¹⁴; for 1903-04, 173 members and 36 Associate Members.¹⁵ They supported their work financially by collecting dues.

The Clubhouse Idea

For the WCUM, the membership ranks grew rapidly in its early years, and quickly precluded them from meeting in each other's homes. They began to meet in the Commonwealth Club, 26 Northview Avenue, which they shared with men and also in the Union Congregational Church, 176 Cooper Avenue.¹⁶ As early as 1905, the idea of their “home” was considered and a special building fund was established (although their idea would not come to fruition until nearly two decades later).¹⁷ In ten years, the WCUM had 300 members, and 60 Associate Members. Officers included a Board President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, they had Directors of the Art, Child Study, and Literary Departments, and

⁹ Richard K Cacioppo, Jr., *The Glory of Montclair: Past and Present*. (Upper Montclair: Dream City Publishing Company, 1995), p. 63.

¹⁰ Ibid, pp 64-70.

¹¹ “Charles W Anderson Dies in California.” Obituary. *The New York Times*, February 14, 1928

¹² “Francis Nelson, Architect, Dies.” Obituary. *Montclair Times*, March 30, 1951.

¹³ David Nelson Alloway and Mary Travis Army. *Montclair. A Goodly Heritage*. Commemorative History New Jersey Tercentenary, 1664-1964. Montclair, NY [s.n]. 1963, p. 69.

¹⁴ *Year Book*. 1902-03. WCUMCC

¹⁵ *Year Book*. 1904-05. WCUMCC

¹⁶ “History of the Club” in *Dedication Exercises*. 200 Cooper Avenue: Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, March 25, 26, 27 1924. Booklet. WCUMCC

¹⁷ *Year Book*. 1905-06. WCUMCC

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Chairmen of the Program, House, Social Finance and Printing and Press Committees.¹⁸

There was tremendous growth and change for the club in the 1910s as seen in the number of programs and the expansion of Departments. Their focus pivoted from themes of home and motherhood to progressive social change, while still maintaining a keen interest in a collegiate approach to intellectual growth, interrupted only during the war years, when most of their efforts went to the Red Cross. Everything about club life was created to accommodate the non-working women of leisure, and yet nothing about club life was frivolous. The WCUM Constitution stated "Its object shall be to bring women together for mental stimulus and for cooperation in working out problems of the day, to consider and provide measures of social welfare, and to furnish educational and other entertainment for the benefit of the organization and of the general public."¹⁹

Program times were planned to accommodate the woman homemaker's schedule during the weekday and the school year from October to June. In 1911, the WCUM added a Civics Department and a Committee of Work for

Girls.²⁰ By 1914-15, meetings were scheduled every Wednesday afternoon at 3.²¹ By 1915-16, the expanded Departments and Committees were as follows— five departments of art, child study, civics, household economics and literature and ten committees – program, house, hospitality, finance, social service, entertainment, printing, press, girls auxiliary and legislative.

During these years, the Club was financially successful and sustainable as a volunteer organization and included a charitable giving component as well. In the 1910s the WCUM made charitable contributions to those organizations that aligned with their mission. At the end of 1915, the Treasurer reported a balance of over \$1,000 and reported on "gifts" to the National Committee on Prison Labor, Altruist Society, Colored YWCA, the Legislative Department of the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs, National Consumers League, People's Legislative Bureau of NJ, and Social Work in the Fourth Ward.²² In 1916, gifts were given to the State College for Girls (Douglass College and an effort initiated by the NJSFWC and supported by many clubs throughout the State), National Child Labor Committee, and "Work" in the Fourth Ward, the Colored YWCA and the Actors Church Alliance.²³

As the Club grew, so did the need for a meeting place of their own. The Commonwealth Club arrangement was becoming strained. In a 75th anniversary article looking back at the early days of the Club, it was noted that by 1911 tension was growing between the WCUM and the Men's Club Members. Men's Clubs at the time played a very different role from women's clubs as more of a place to retreat from the working world. Women's Clubs gave women a safe place to do their community work. The men using The Commonwealth Club complained that they were not free to bowl or shoot pool in their shirtsleeves in the presence of women. Although the Clubwomen

¹⁸ *Year Book*. 1910-11. WCUMCC

¹⁹ *Year Book*. 1929-30. Article II Constitution. WCUMCC

²⁰ *Year Book*. 1911-12. WCUMCC

²¹ *Year Book*. 1914-15. WCUMCC

²² *Year Book*. 1915-16. WCUMCC

²³ *Year Book*. 1916-17. WCUMCC

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found alternative places to meet like schools and church parlors, this effort reignited the campaign to establish a home of their own.²⁴ Thus, in 1916, fundraising for a Clubhouse began in earnest. The raising of money by volunteer organizations such as Women's Clubs often was characterized by what we would call today a kind of grassroots approach. Small but frequent events and the sale of different items to raise cash – card parties, magazine drives, sale of bulbs, bags, tea, jelly, and plants by the Club as a whole or by Departments such as the Civics and Girls Auxiliary.

These efforts were sidelined quickly by the necessary diversion of all of the Club's resources to the World War I effort. The Clubwomen became involved in the establishment of a Red Cross Unit in Upper Montclair and provided volunteers on a regular basis.²⁵ In fact, nearly every meeting in the fall/winter of 1918 was devoted to the Red Cross. In a 1951 *Bulletin*, a Club history proudly recalls their efforts during the War —“We established a Red Cross Unit, we contributed \$1,000 or one third of the amount necessary to build a YMCA hut at Camp Dix,

adopted a French orphan, added to the Woman's Relief Work in devastated France, mended soldiers' uniforms, sold and bought thrift stamps, but we never lost sight of our objective “[the Clubhouse]” Gifts reported for 1917-18 went to the War Children's Relief Fund, Italian War Relief, Fatherless Children in France Committee and the Red Cross Unit in Montclair in addition to Work in Pines in Southern NJ, NJ State College for Women, National Child Labor Committee, Children's Welfare Committee in Montclair, Consumers League, Colored YWCA, and the Mothers' Building in Washington DC.²⁷

Peak Years

With the end of the War, and in the decades to follow, Women's Club activities thrived in towns and cities across America and the WCUM was no exception. Although organized in 1900, the WCUM first became incorporated in 1920 and held their first meeting of the Board of Trustees that year on June 9, 1920.²⁸ In addition, the booming economy enabled them once again to consider and accomplish their earlier goal to build their own Clubhouse. By the mid-1920s, their regular dues paying membership limit grew from 1,000 to 1,200 with a waiting list. In 1925, they began raising revenue from the monthly publication of a magazine called *The Bulletin* that had news, articles of interest and local paid advertisements.

The WCUM had already purchased ground near the Commonwealth Club along Northview Avenue upon which they intended to build their clubhouse. In 1922 a lot thought to be more suitable was purchased -- at the February 14th 1922 meeting of the Board of Trustees, the land along Cooper Avenue was secured for the sum of \$7,500 and

²⁴ Barbara D. Kostal (Club Historian) "Woman's Club of Upper Montclair. The 75th Anniversary Story. Early Days 1900-1920." *The Bulletin* (1975): 15. WCUMCC

²⁵ *Year Book*. 1917-18. WCUMCC

²⁶ "Through the Years 1900- 1950" *The Bulletin* (March 1951) p 25. WCUMCC

²⁷ *Year Book*. 1918-19. WCUMCC

²⁸ "Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the Board of Trustees, February 14, 1922. Included with Minutes of the Building Committees: June 9, 1920 to March 27, 1923 One Bound Volume. WCUMCC

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the former lot on Northview Avenue originally intended for the new Clubhouse was to be sold.²⁹ In 1923 dues were raised from \$5.00 to \$10.00.³⁰ An architect named Francis A. Nelson offered to design the Clubhouse and donated his design services. He was a practicing architect living in the community and had designed several other buildings in Upper Montclair, namely the Free Library, the Post Office and a private home a few blocks from the Clubhouse site. His wife was a member.

The WCUM needed both a clubhouse for meetings and a large auditorium space for their theater and musical programs, dances and other grand events. Groundbreaking for the clubhouse was in July 1923 and building construction began in September of that year.³¹ The Clubhouse opened in March of 1924. In May 1924 the Treasurer announced that the total cost, including building, furnishings and grounds, was \$136,974.76.³² There was an article in *The Montclair Times*, March 15, 1924 that described the 3-day series of opening events March 25, 26,

27, the formal dedication on March 26th at 2 pm and the building itself. "The beautiful building designed by Francis A. Nelson of Montclair, is a material expression of a long cherished ideal, and the event marks the culmination of years of planning, saving and working."³³ A 1,000 seat auditorium, made possible through one individual donation of \$10,000 from Charles W. Anderson was formally opened and dedicated later that year, on October 14, 1924.³⁴

Amongst the documents found in the Club's archival collections, there is a poem by Mrs. H.P. Douglas in a Scrapbook from 1924 or 1925 commemorating the new Clubhouse opening and reflecting the sentiment of the day:

How dear to our hearts is the scene of our meetings
 When proud contemplation presents it to view;
 The terrace, the kitchen, the artistic hangings,
 And every last thing that both communities knew.
 The wide-spreading door and the flags that lead to it,
 The stage and the curtain of heavenly blue,
 The nook of the founder, the fire-place nigh it,
 And even the fire that roars up the flue;
 Our lovely new club house, our dearly earned club house,
 Our now finished Club house, snow white in hue."³⁵

Monies raised for the Clubhouse building fund came from dues, as well as shares specific to the Clubhouse

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Handwritten Note by Edna Harris, Chairman of the Historical Records Committee, 1981. WCUMCC

³¹ Handwritten Note by Edna Harris, Chairman of the Historical Records Committee, 1981. WCUMCC

³² Alice L. Cochrane, "The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair: A Home of our Own" One page document distributed by WCUM. (nd but probably post-2000?) WCUMCC

³³ *Scrapbook #1*. Nd but contents starts at 1924 or 1925. WCUMCC

³⁴ *The Bulletin* (1975): 23. WCUMCC

³⁵ *Scrapbook #1*. Nd but contents starts at 1924 or 1925. WCUMCC

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building sold to members. They also sponsored many small fundraisers including the sale of items, card parties and rummage sales. These Clubwomen were as aggressive about raising the funds as they were about paying off their debts. In a Pamphlet called "A Personal Message *and* An Opportunity for Service" the campaign is described to members with shares sold in increments from 10,000 to 25.³⁶ They held several pledge campaigns to raise funds for the building in 1920 and 1923 and again in 1925 as well as borrowing money from the First National Bank and Trust Company. The first note borrowed in May 12, 1924 for up to \$25,500 was reduced by March 1925 to \$10,000, using the funds for the building as well as the parking lot purchase of \$3,750.³⁷ By 1928, the WCUM owned the Clubhouse free of debt. The *Montclair Times* [] 24, 1928 reported "Club burns voided notes" as the Treasurer announced that all loans had been "paid in full within four years."³⁸

In these peak years, the new Clubhouse served well the needs of both the Club members as well as the Upper Montclair community. In February 1925, The *Montclair News* reported "Scarcely a day passes without it [the Clubhouse] being used for some function and many days several affairs taking place in different rooms and at different hours. Besides housing the various activities of the club, the building is in much demand for other organizations and for social affairs."³⁹

In 1929 the Clubhouse was described as:

a real hive of industry. A French class is being conducted by a professional instructor; the Hard-of-Hearing are holding their lip reading classes or having interesting discussions led by their own members; the Civics Group is considering how it may be more helpful in some practical community problem. Several of the departments are holding a meeting together to study the subjects of common interest, legislative, international, educational or all three; the Madrigal Singers may be practicing for a concert or the Social Service Department may be preparing for a wonderful display of their Christmas toys and gifts; possibly, too, the Home Economics Department is boldly planning a fashion show. In a quiet room a class of hopeful authors are seeking direction and training from a qualified leader. Pupils in Rhythmic Health will be exercising energetically or the Drama Department will be rehearsing a play.⁴⁰

By the 1920s, the opportunities for white women in society as a whole were changing and, no doubt, this contributed to the changing role clubs played in communities. The first generation founders were aging and many clubs began junior memberships to attract younger members. Programs and meetings were offered in the evenings as well as weekdays. During this time, the Club not only served as the center of women's social and intellectual life, community service and political action, it also gave them very real experience in business administration and financial management. The women of Upper Montclair were conscious of the role they were playing and, in

³⁶ *Scrapbook #5*. Volume II October 1919- February 1922. WCUMCC

³⁷ Club House Building Fund Statement. *The Bulletin* Volume 1. Number 6 (March 1926):15. WCUMCC

³⁸ "Club Burns voided notes" *The Montclair Times*...24, 1928 Clipping. *Scrapbook #6* 1926-1928 . WCUMCC

³⁹ Beatrice Gordon Smith, "The Civic Pilot." *The Montclair News* Nov. 1924, Press Book 1924-25 (February 1925). WCUMCC

⁴⁰ Grace Greenwood Watrous, "Club Membership." *The Bulletin* Volume 4 Number 5 (Feb 1929) p. 6 WCUMCC

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1927, wrote about it in the Club magazine *The Bulletin*. The article entitled *Where are we Going?* observes that Women's Clubs "offer the best medium for all women who want to be part of their times, those women who want to cooperate in every way for the betterment of life. They are a place for civic, national and international engagement; education, executive experience, social life." The writer concludes that there were two types of clubs, the large lecture club, and the small club where members educate each other. Now, with the new Clubhouse facility, the WCUM can have both.⁴¹

By 1925 the Club had three Vice Presidents instead of two, activities every week from October to June with additional entertainment programs in the evenings and an active membership of 1,200, 10 Departments and 17 Standing Committees.⁴² Departments included art, music, drama and literature as well as civics, legislation, social service, education, Girls Club and home economics. By 1926 dues were raised to cover the new expenses that came with property ownership. Dues were \$15 annually with an initiation fee of \$10 and membership dues comprised the majority of income of the Club. Guests were charged \$1 to attend meetings.⁴³

The Thirties

Club life in Upper Montclair did not seem to wane during the depression years. For one, during the height of the Depression, in 1933, the Club had no debt and a paid membership roster of 795 for the year. One could speculate that the surplus from the previous years and some property reserves as well as investments as reported by the Treasurer carried them through. In fact, they reportedly spent \$3,000 on extra work that year as a kind of make work project of their own, "relieving somewhat the unemployment situation..." such as painting the house, making new curtains, changing the stage lighting.⁴⁴ Fiscally sound, they continued and expanded through the 1930s, meeting the new and current social and political issues and challenges of the day. A new sub-committee on inter-race relations was formed and in 1931, a study of "Negro conditions in Upper Montclair" led by Mrs. Lucius Eastman was conducted. Grace Crombie Combs wrote in her article about "Our Place in the Federation," that "the social health of a community depends on the welfare of each of its members, on the subtler forms of justice, on opportunity for each according to his abilities." The Inter-Racial sub-committees studied issues of housing, discrimination in public places, appointment of colored policemen, vocational training and higher education [and] hospital facilities."⁴⁵

A Girls Club was formed for daughters of members of high school age and the club awarded scholarships for college.⁴⁶ The first scholarship was awarded for \$250.00 in June 1930 to Mrs. Margaret Phillips who had served as President of the Girls' Club. In June 1931 it was 350.00.⁴⁷ Many Women's Clubs also had Junior divisions and the WCUM was no exception. Calling it the 200 Club, they organized in January 1930.⁴⁸ Named for the limit on

⁴¹ Edna Page Austin, "Where Are We Going?" *The Bulletin* Volume 2. Number 6 (March 1927); 6. WCUMCC

⁴² Club House Building Fund Statement.

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ *The Bulletin* Volume 8 Number 8 (May 1933), p 9. WCUMCC

⁴⁵ *The Bulletin* Volume 7. Number 1 (1931). WCUMCC

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Mrs. Charles P. Canham, Chairman of the Junior Committee. "History of Girls Club Scholarship." *The Bulletin* Volume 8 Number 8 (May 1933), p. 16 WCUMCC

⁴⁸ *The Bulletin* Volume 5 Number 8 (May 1930), p. 8-10. WCUMCC

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the number of women who could join, it was intended for juniors or younger members returning from college or school who were too old for the Girls Club, which was for high school age.⁴⁹

Notable speakers spoke to the membership and guests on topics relevant to women's expanding role in society, such as gaining the vote and access to education and professional work outside the home. In the 1930s, Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, known as an efficiency engineer, spoke at the Club on March 2, 1931.⁵⁰ Gilbreth, a local to Montclair, was nationally known for her system of home management and the "Motion Study Institute" housed at her home.⁵¹ In January of 1926, Margaret Sanger, then president of the Birth Control League of America, gave a speech on "National and International Aspects of Birth Control."⁵² Eleanor Roosevelt spoke to an audience of more than 500 on April 29, 1931 in her role as the wife of the Governor of NY State. She spoke on the topic "Are Women Shirking their Share of Government?" discussing how the home is the nucleus of the government. "Out of the Home should come the principles, ideals and forces which mold men and women and therefore government."⁵³ Appealing to a broader audience (namely the men Associate Members and guests as well) a lecture by Air Commodore P.F.M. Fellowes, Distinguished Service Order (DSO), and leader of first expedition to fly over Mt. Everest was held in the evening of November 24, 1933.⁵⁴ On February 20, 1935, Frances Perkins, US Secretary of Labor, spoke at the Club about Social Security, perhaps in anticipation of the passage of the Act that August. There were reportedly 525 members and guests in attendance.⁵⁵ Hans Von Kaltenborn, Associate Editor of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, was a guest lecturer. February 8, 1928. Katlenborn was well known for his intelligent and an extemporaneous intelligent Signal Radio commentary.⁵⁶

Clubwomen can be characterized during this time period as both university students and engaged civic activists. Early on they advocated for equal opportunity, equal access and civic beautification. For example, they made their programs accessible to the hearing impaired by introducing a new initiative and establishing a Hard-of-Hearing committee in 1927. The Hard of Hearing committee initiated lip-reading classes for the public⁵⁷ and, in 1931-2, oversaw the installation of audio phones in the auditorium to make the programs accessible to the hearing impaired.⁵⁸ In May of 1929, in the realm of civic improvement, the Clubwomen convinced the town to adopt the use of reusable cotton duck bags for Montclair rubbish collection to help make the town more attractive on rubbish collection days. They also successfully helped advocate for a woman trustee for the local library and gave the following five reasons:

1. Women pay taxes like men,
2. Women use the libraries
3. Women are employed there so

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ "Dr. Lillian Gilbreth to address meeting at Club Mar 2" Newark Evening News, Saturday Feb 14, 1931. No page.

⁵¹ Joan N. Burstyn, *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse UP, 1997, p. 301.

⁵² *The Montclair Times* January 1926 Clipping. Press Book 1924-1925 WCUMCC

⁵³ "Mrs. Roosevelt Speaks." *The New York Times* 30 Apr. 1931: 26. Press Record, 1931-32 Volume 1. WCUMCC

⁵⁴ "Conqueror of Mt Everest to speak at Upper Montclair next week." *The Montclair Times* 17 Nov 1933. Press Record 1931-1932 Volume 2. WCUMCC

⁵⁵ *The Montclair Times*, 15 Feb and 22 Feb 22 Press Book 1934-35. WCUMCC

⁵⁶ *The Bulletin* Volume 3 Number 6 (February 1928) . WCUMCC

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ "A Review of the Club Year 1931-2." *The Bulletin* Volume 7 Number 8 (May 1932), p 12. WCUMCC

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should have representation on the board as well 4. Children use library and women care for children predominantly 5. It was not until women interested themselves in the matter that what is officially known as the Baldwin Street 'deposit branch' had adequate books or housing or library service.⁵⁹

At its September meeting [1925] our Board of Trustees voted to cooperate through the Civics Committee with the College Women's Club in an effort to have a woman appointed to the Montclair Library Board.⁶⁰ It was announced as done by February.⁶¹

A published article in CHARM Magazine (Bamberger's Department Store publication) in November 1929 was a two-page spread about "An Idea: Upper Montclair Woman's Club" by Grace C. Woods. The article described how the Club led a social service for the holidays a project with the community to gather up toys to take to the firehouse for refurbishing and repairing for boys and girls "with no Santa." They exhibited the new toys at the Clubhouse.⁶²

By the end of the 1930s, a typical season at the Club would include musical performances, talks on social and political issues, talks on poetry, current events in Europe, art, one-act plays, a fashion show, an art show, a garden party, bridge parties, dances, a New Year's Party, trips and exhibits, teas and luncheons, classes in creative writing, exercise, glove-making, social dancing, and various seminars.⁶³

After World War II, The Club received a US Treasury Department citation for raising \$40,000 in War Bond Sales.⁶⁴

From early on, the WCUM had a category of Associate membership for the men to enable them to participate. One such member named Robert G. Bellah wrote about "What the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Means to an Associate Member" and puts into words an accurate image of the active life at the Clubhouse:

"I am grateful to the club for providing my women folks with such exceptional chances for varied amusements, for artistic appreciation, and for intellectual improvement. Life would be a dull affair indeed for them, if there were no club to enjoy, nor club house to serve as a Mecca with its Wednesday afternoon muezzin call. I am grateful for the facts and arguments which are brought home to me from these meetings and which help me to be a better citizen when Election Day comes 'round.'⁶⁵ He continues to write that the men really discouraged the building of the clubhouse but the women persevered. Finally, he concludes by tipping his hat to the achievements of the Women's Clubs themselves in playing a vital role in the progress of women. "Their progress, during the last fifty years, has been one of the major movements of the human race, and I am convinced it will be recognized as such by future ages. One of the greatest forces

⁵⁹ *The Bulletin* Volume 1 Number 4 (January 1926) p 15. WCUMCC

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ *The Bulletin* Volume 1 Number 5 (February 1926) p 6. WCUMCC

⁶² Miscellaneous programs and news clippings. Press Book 1929-1930. WCUMCC

⁶³ *Scrapbook* #7 1939-40. WCUMCC

⁶⁴ "Through the Years 1900- 1950 ." *The Bulletin* (March 1951). p. 23 WCUMCC

⁶⁵ *The Bulletin* Volume 7 Number 8 (May 1932). WCUMCC

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in this movement has been the Women's Clubs. Long may they flourish! And among the best of them will always be found our own Woman's Club of Upper Montclair."⁶⁶

Social and professional life for upper-middle class women in America went through a transformation after WWII. As a means of empowerment for women leaders in politics, business and the community, the insular entity known as the Woman's Club was replaced with business and professional opportunities outside the home, school and comfort of the neighborhood or community volunteer organization. That is not to say that women did not continue in their role as vibrant volunteers in their communities; it is only to acknowledge the diffusion of these efforts in the decades that followed.

The fact that the Clubhouse remains a viable part of the Club and the community into the 21st century is a testament to the volunteer women who managed its design, construction, financing and maintenance and its preservation, a fitting legacy.

⁶⁶ Ibid

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Burstyn, Joan N. *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse UP, 1997.

Cacioppo, Jr., Richard K. *The Glory of Montclair: Past and Present*. Upper Montclair: Dream City Publishing Company, 1995.

Cochrane, Alice L. "The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair: A Home of our Own" One page document distributed by WCUM. (nd but probably post-2000?)

Croly, Jane Cunningham. *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America*. Vol. 1. P. 869-70. *Google Books*. Web. 23 Mar. 1911. <<http://books.google.com/books>>.

Montclair 1694-1982. An Inventory of Historic, Cultural and Architectural Resources. Preservation Montclair: A Project of the Junior League Montclair/Newark Inc. Volume 1 Introduction and Index, April 1982.

Obituaries

"Charles W Anderson Dies in California." Obituary. *The New York Times*, February 14, 1928

"Francis Nelson Architect, Dies." Obituary. *Montclair Times*, March 30, 1951

"Francis A. Nelson." Obituary. *The New York Times*, March 30, 1950.

Records from Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Clubhouse Collection, Upper Montclair New Jersey:

Kostal, Barbara D. (Club Historian) "Woman's Club of Upper Montclair. The 75th Anniversary Story. Early Days 1900-1920." *The Bulletin* (1975).

Reports of Recording Secretary. September 2, 1901 to October 14, 1903. One Bound Volume.

Reports of Recording Secretary. Rep. 1900-January 4, 1904. Bound Volume.

"History of the Club" in *Dedication Exercises*. 200 Cooper Avenue: Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, March 25, 26, 27 1924. Booklet.

Year Books

1902-03;

1904-05;

1905-06;

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair
Name of Property
Essex County, New Jersey
County and State
Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

1910-11;
1911-12;
1914-15;
1915-16;
1916-17;
1917-18;
1918-19; and 1929-30. Article II Constitution.
Scrapbooks:

_____ *Scrapbook #1*. Nd but contents starts at 1924 or 1925.

_____ *Scrapbook #5*. Volume II October 1919- February 1922.

_____ "Club Burns voided notes" *The Montclair Times*...24, 1928 Clipping. Scrapbook #6 1925-1928

_____ *Scrapbook #7* 1939-40.

Press Books:

_____ *The Montclair Times* January 1926 Clipping. Press Book 1924-1925

_____ *The Montclair Times*, 15 Feb and 22 Feb 22 Press Book 1934-35

"Conqueror of Mt Everest to speak at Upper Montclair next week." *The Montclair Times* 17 Nov 1933. Press Record 1931-1932 Volume 2.

"Mrs. Roosevelt Speaks." *The New York Times* 30 Apr. 1931: 26. Press Record, 1931-32 Volume 1.

Smith, Beatrice Gordon. "The Civic Pilot." *The Montclair News* Nov. 1924, Press Book 1924-25 (February 1925).

Miscellaneous programs and news clippings. Press Book 1929-1930.

The Bulletin:

_____ "A Review of the Club Year 1931-2." *The Bulletin* Volume 7 Number 8 (May 1932).

_____ Club House Building Fund Statement. *The Bulletin* Volume 1. Number 6 (March 1926).

_____ "Through the Years 1900- 1950" *The Bulletin* (March 1951).

Austin, Edna Page. "Where Are We Going?" *The Bulletin* Volume 2. Number 6 (March 1927).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair
Name of Property
Essex County, New Jersey
County and State
Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Canham, Mrs. Charles P. Chairman of the Junior Committee. "History of Girls Club Scholarship." *The Bulletin* Volume 8 Number 8 (May 1933).

Sheppard, Julia Ayers. "1900 Through the Years 1950 On the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair." *The Bulletin* Dec. 1950.

Watrous, Grace Greenwood. "Club Membership." *The Bulletin* Volume 4 Number 5 (Feb 1929).

The Bulletin Volume 1 Number 4 (January 1926).
The Bulletin Volume 1 Number 5 (February 1926).
The Bulletin Volume 3 Number 6 (February 1928).
The Bulletin Volume 3, Number 5 (February 1930).
The Bulletin Volume 5 Number 8 (May 1930).
The Bulletin Volume 7, Number 1 (1931).
The Bulletin Volume 7 Number 8 (May 1932).
The Bulletin Volume 8 Number 8 (May 1933).
The Bulletin (1975).

Miscellaneous:

_____ "Dr. Lillian Gilbreth to address meeting at Club Mar 2" Newark Evening News, Saturday Feb 14, 1931. No page.

"Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the Board of Trustees, February 14, 1922. Included with Minutes of the Building Committees: June 9, 1920 to March 27, 1923 One Bound Volume.

Handwritten Note by Edna Harris, Chairman of the Historical Records Committee, 1981.

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair
Name of Property

Essex County NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>566890</u>	<u>4521201</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The proposed boundary for this site is Lot 10 of Block 1712 in Upper Montclair. The Clubhouse is a trapezoidal corner property, bounded on two sides by streets and two sides by other lots. Its Northern edge has a sidewalk and curb on Cooper Avenue and on the East has the same, facing Northview Avenue. The rear or southern edge of the lot shares a boundary with the Commonwealth Club property and the western lot line, which is the Clubhouse parking lot, shares a boundary with the CVS Pharmacy parking lot.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The boundaries comply with the tax map that delineates the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Freedman Schultz
organization Preservation Partners date July 8, 2011
street & number P.O. Box 506 telephone 609-291-9351
city or town Crosswicks state NJ zip code 08515
e-mail Schultz11@comcast.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair
Name of Property

Essex County NJ
County and State

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Woman's Club of Upper Montclair
City or Vicinity: Upper Montclair
County: Essex State: New Jersey
Photographer: Ellen Freedman Schultz

Date Photographed: March 30, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Clubhouse, front or north elevation looking southeast
1 of 7

Partial front and side or west elevation with parking lot looking southeast
2 of 7

Partial rear or south elevation looking north
3 of 7

Partial side or east elevation (auditorium addition) looking northwest
4 of 7

Interior of Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Clubhouse, main lounge area looking southwest
5 of 7

Kitchen interior, Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Clubhouse, looking north
6 of 7

Date Photographed: December 5, 2008

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Auditorium stage, interior, Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Clubhouse, looking northwest
7 of 7

Property Owner:

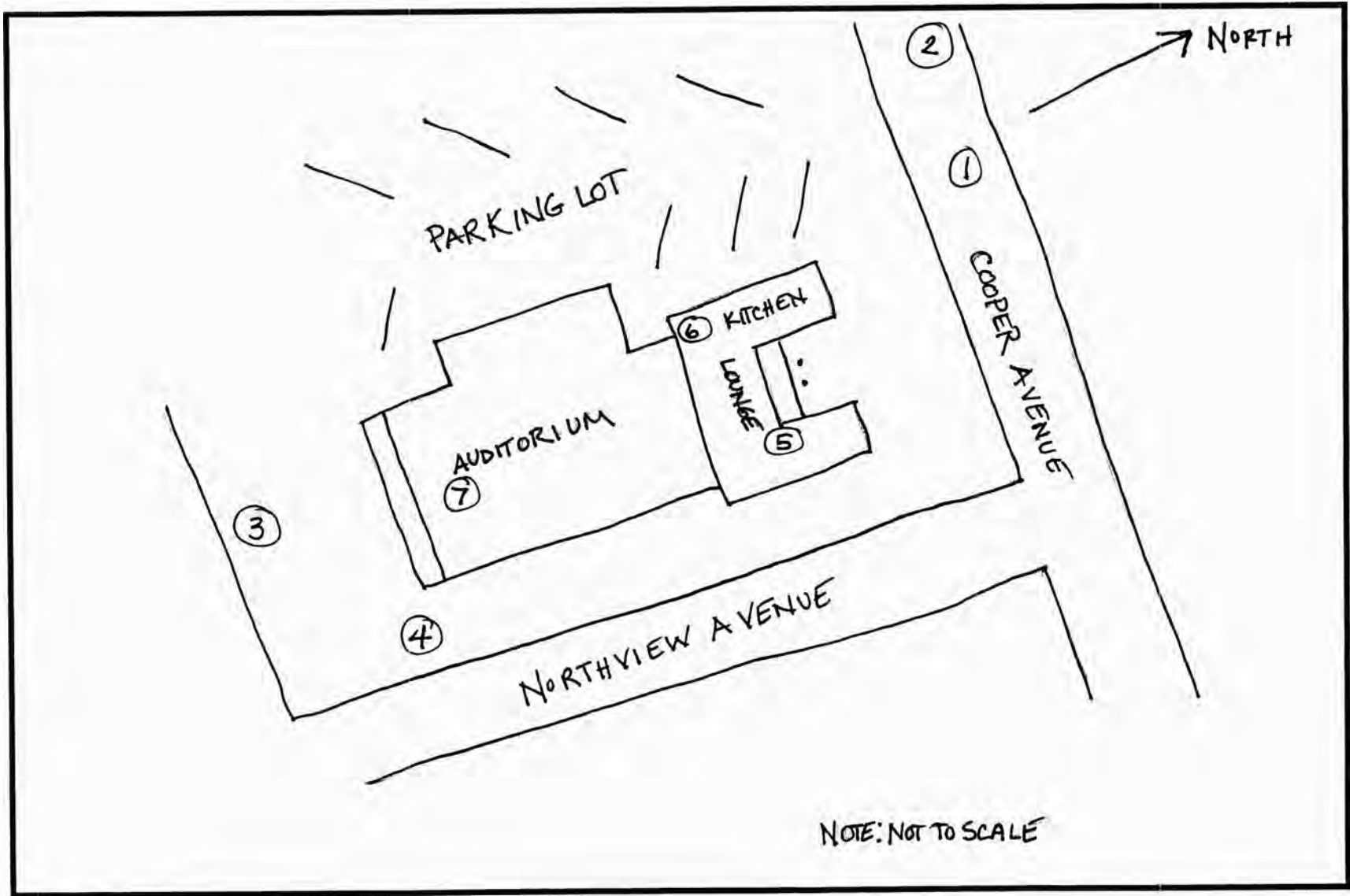
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form Attachment
Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, Essex County
Site Plan and Position of photographer



NJ & National Registers of Historic Places

Woman's Club of Upper Montclair - Site Map

Montclair Township, Essex County, NJ



This sheet was prepared utilizing computer aided drafting. The previously approved tax map sheets were digitally scanned and edited using deeds, record plats and maps to reflect current conditions.

Revised Through Apr. 2008 by
Werner A. Moll, PLS Lic# 37201
Revised Through Dec. 2005 by
Werner A. Moll, PLS Lic# 37201
REVISED THROUGH MAR. 1993 BY THE
MONTCLAIR BUREAU OF ENGINEERING
REVISED THROUGH MARCH 1976
BY THE SETCO GROUP

TAX MAP
TOWN OF MONTCLAIR
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
SCALE: 1"=100'
JULY 1978
JAMES P. PURCELL ASSOCIATES
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY
JOSEPH A. TOMBARO, L.S.

W:\2008\45\Map\Montclair\2008\1701\1701.dwg, 2/17/2011 1:34:47 PM, asw

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Woman's Club of Upper Montclair

MULTIPLE NAME: Clubhouses of New Jersey Women's Clubs

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 7/20/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/20/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/04/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/05/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000594

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/4/12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Area of significance: social history
P.O.S.: 1924-1940 local level
MPS: Clubhouses of NJ Women's Clubs*

RECOM./CRITERIA A
REVIEWER USA Delone DISCIPLINE Historic
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 9/4/12

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.







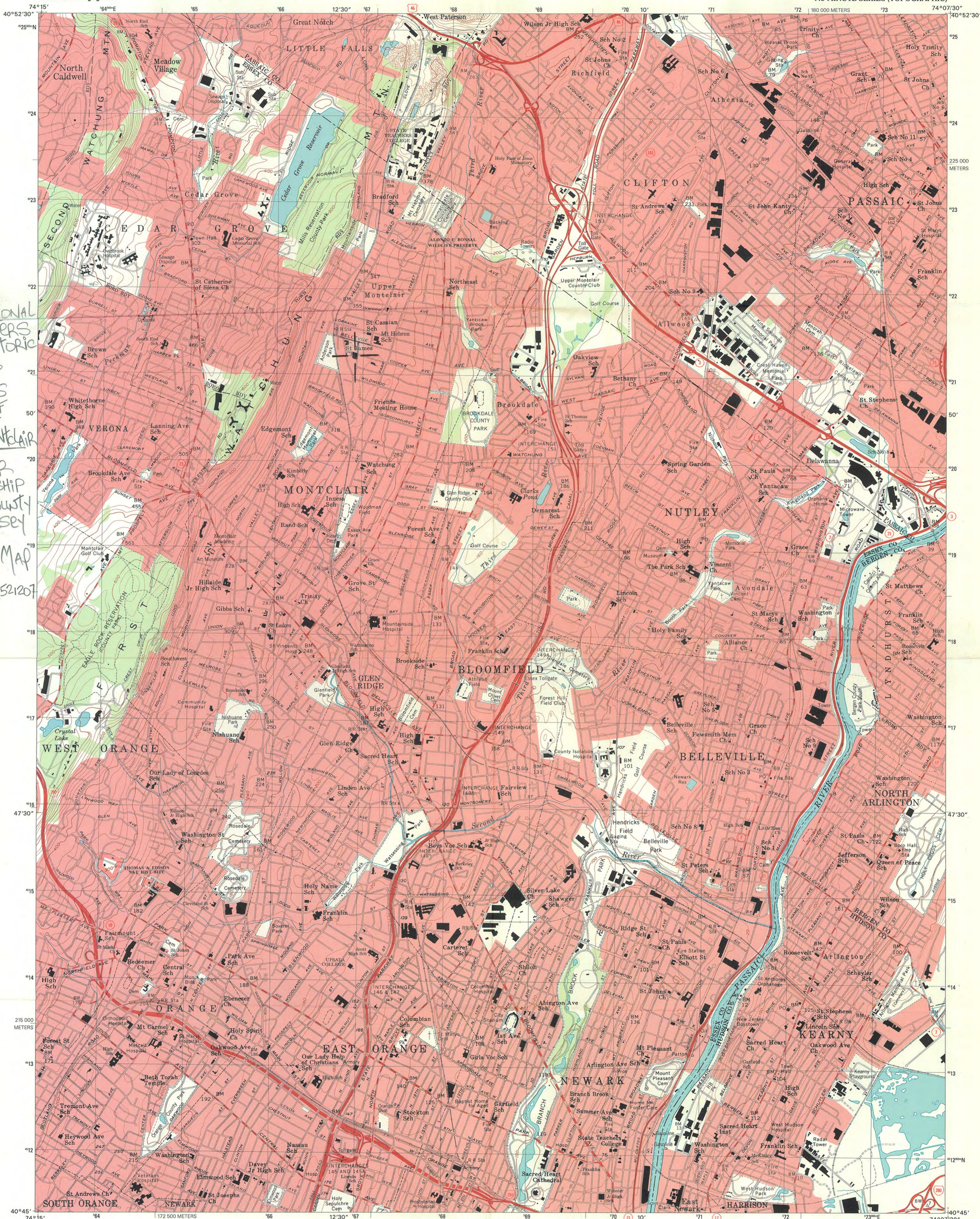
PINTO
WASTEWATER
445 W. 10th Street
New York, NY 10014
(973) 776-6871





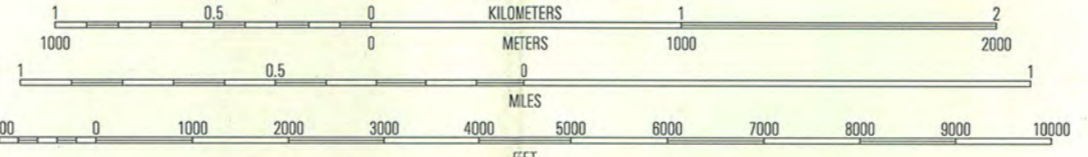






NJ+National Registers of Historic Places Woman's Club of Upper Montclair Montclair Township Essex County New Jersey Location Map 18 E56899N4521207

Produced by the United States Geological Survey Topography compiled 1942. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1995 and other sources. Survey control current as of 1955 Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS Chart 287 (1954) This information is not intended for navigational purposes North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 18 2 500-meter ticks: New Jersey Coordinate System of 1983 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map Landmark buildings verified 1955



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

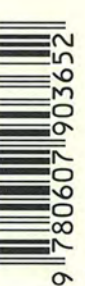


ROAD CLASSIFICATION table with columns for road type and surface, and symbols for Interstate, U.S., and State routes.

Grid reference table with columns 1-8 and rows 1-8, listing adjacent quadrangle names like Pompton Plains, Hackensack, Caldwell, Weehawken, Roselle, Elizabeth, Jersey City.

ORANGE, NJ 1995 NIMA 6165 1 SW-SERIES 9822

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25886, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



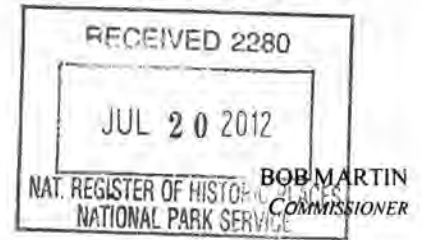


HPO Project # 11-1164-4
HPO-G2012-051

State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Office of the Assistant Commissioner
MAIL CODE 501-03A
PO Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
609-292-3541/Fax: 609-984-0836



CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

July 9, 2012

Mr. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

I am pleased to submit the nomination for the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, Montclair Township, Essex County, New Jersey, for National Register of Historic Places consideration.

This nomination received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Daniel D. Saunders, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail Code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420 or call him at (609) 633-2397.

Sincerely,

Richard Boornazian
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer