

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number:** 08001278      **Date Listed:** 1/5/2009

Philomathean Clubhouse  
**Property Name**

San Joaquin  
**County**

CA  
**State**

N/A  
**Multiple Name**

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

1/5/2009  
Date of Action

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**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Period of Significance:**

The Period of Significance is amended to read: 1912—1958.  
[While the club itself was organized in 1893, the period of significance must be directly related to the specific property being nominated. Since the current clubhouse was completed in 1912, the appropriate start date for the period of significance would be 1912. The building essentially conveys the significance and status of the social organization as it existed from 1912 to 1958.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

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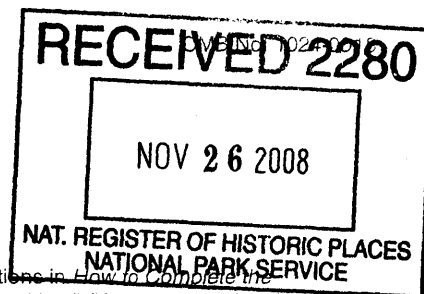
**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1278



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Philomathean Clubhouse

other names/site number Philomathean Club

2. Location

street & number 1000 North Hunter Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Stockton N/A  vicinity

state California code CA county San Joaquin code 077 zip code 95202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

21 NOV 2008  
Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

[Signature]

1/5/2009

Philomathean Clubhouse  
Name of Property

San Joaquin, California  
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	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Clubhouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Clubhouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN  
MOVEMENTS  
Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
roof asphalt  
walls wood  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

Other: Women's History \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1893 – 1958 \_\_\_\_\_

1912 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1900 – California Federation of Women's Clubs \_\_\_\_\_

1943 – Removal from CA Federation of Women's Clubs \_\_\_\_\_

1912 – construction of the building \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Wood, William E. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Holt-Atherton Special Collections, University of the Pacific

Philomathean Clubhouse  
Name of Property

San Joaquin, California  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately .69 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>10</u>	<u>650220</u>	<u>4202900</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
2	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>4</u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alice van Ommeren and Marv Jo Gohkle

organization Cultural Heritage Board and Philomathean Club date August 7, 2008

street & number 66 W. Monterey Avenue telephone (209) 406-3891 or (916) 327-5878

city or town Stockton state CA zip code 95204

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### 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.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

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

Name City of Stockton, Paul Blumberg, Redevelopment Department, Interim Director

street & number 425 N. El Dorado Street, Room 317 telephone (209) 937-8624

city or town Stockton state CA zip code 95202

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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     San Joaquin County, CA

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**Section 7: Narrative Description**

The Philomathean Clubhouse is in the center of the locally designated Magnolia Historic Preservation District. This residential neighborhood, located just north of Stockton's central business area, developed in the 1860s with spacious and elegant homes. The owners of the city's leading business and industries built these residences. The district reflects virtually every notable architectural style in California during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century (City of Stockton, 1984). The Clubhouse is located on the northeast corner of Hunter and Acacia Streets. The building is a striking and graceful two-story Craftsman design, covered with painted wood clapboard and shingle siding. The structure uniquely combines design elements from the California bungalow-style, with the rustic quality of the Craftsman movement popular in the 1910s. In spite of minor alterations, the Philomathean Clubhouse retains a high degree of architectural integrity (Carey & Co., 2008).

**Exterior**

The West elevation, front façade overlooking Hunter Street, makes the most significant contribution to the historic character of the Philomathean Clubhouse. This side includes the main entrance, which consists of double doors located in the center, about four feet above grade. The building features a large gabled roof over the main portion of the house with a shallow cross-gable pediment prevailing above the principal entryway. A wide set of concrete stairs leads up to an eight-foot-wide porch. The covered porch stretches along the front of the building to the south. A series of square columns along the front façade support the second story. Seven double-hung windows of wood casement flank each side of the main entry on the first floor. The second story has thirteen fixed two over-one light paired wood windows. The base of the building is concrete. The first story is fenestrated with wood cottage clapboard and the second story clad in wood shingles. Although arranged in straight rows of equal height, the widths of the shingles vary horizontally (Building Specifications, 1912; Carey & Co., 2008; Crow, 2000).

The Acacia Street elevation, or the South elevation, has a prominent steeply sloped gable. Similar to the East and West elevation, the first story is clad in wood clapboard siding and the second story, including the gable end, is covered with shingles. A tall brick chimney protrudes above the rooftop, slightly east of the center. This chimney, one of two chimneys, accentuates the height of the gable. This side of the building also features a metal stairway used for egress from the second floor auditorium (Building Specifications, 1912; Carey & Co., 2008).

The Eastern elevation, or the backside of the building, faces the parking lot. A portion of the rear of the building projects out to accommodate the stairs, restrooms and part of the kitchen on the first floor. The paired wood windows continue on the second floor from the South side, but the overall projection features an irregular pattern of windows. A stained glass window at the midway landing of the main stairs inside is a significant feature of this elevation. The stained glass features the "La France" rose, the flower chosen as the symbol of the Philomathean Club. "La France" is the legendary first Hybrid Tea Rose, introduced in 1867. The window provides the lighting to the main staircase inside. Similar to the West elevation, the horizontal siding on the first story features wood cottage clapboard. The second floor level is clad with wood shingles (Carey & Co. 2008; Crow, 2000).

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The North elevation features the same steep, shingle clad gable end as the South elevation. A stairway projects from the elevation, along with a disabled access ramp. Centrally located on this elevation is a brick chimney extending above the rooftop. The North and South elevations are secondary in significance but contribute to the character of the building (Carey & Co, 2008).

**Interior**

The first floor of the Philomathean Clubhouse features the main foyer, flanked on either side by assembly rooms. Through a set of pocket doors on the South side of the foyer is a meeting room, containing a tiled fireplace with wood mantel tucked in an alcove. To the North of the foyer, a window-lined conservatory occupies the front of the building and connects to a dining room with a fireplace on the north wall. A door on the east wall leads to a kitchen at the rear of the building. A large central staircase, positioned prominently opposite the entry doors, leads to the second floor auditorium. Two toilet rooms are behind the staircase. Originally paneled in redwood with exposed beams, these first floor spaces are painted and retain many character defining features, including a carpeted stairway and a built-in wood bench with decorative arms. The basement of the building divides into two useable rooms, accessible by two stairways (Building Specifications, 1912; Carey & Co, 2008).

The second floor has a large open auditorium with beautiful wooden floors. The auditorium, accessed via two stairs branching from the main staircase, has the capacity to seat 400 people. On the north end, a decorative trim frames a small raised stage. A dressing room and a mechanical room flank the lighted stage. On the South end, a small seating balcony with a narrow wood stair features the same trim. On the West side, a small exterior balcony supported by wooden posts protrudes slightly from the building. These galleries can seat up to 80 people. The wall and ceiling, originally redwood with exposed beams, are now painted. The windows at the second floor have been infilled, and the panels painted to match the ceiling. The significant features of these spaces include the decorative surround around the stage and doors, the ornamental balcony supported on wood posts, the wood stairway leading to the balcony and the stage (Carey & Co., 2008).

**Alterations**

The building has undergone a number of minor renovations, the most substantial being the removal of the housekeeper's quarters and the addition of a new kitchen in the late sixties. During this remodeling a wood stair and entry porch were added to the rear of the building, and therefore not original to the structure. Other changes include the enclosure of the original porch on the northeast corner to form a solarium. In the 1980's, the addition of a disabled access ramp at the north side occurred (McNair, 1993). The original roofline remains but several replacements of the roof material lead to its evolvement from wood to asphalt.

A recent assessment by a well-established historical architectural firm, states: "The Philomathean Clubhouse retains a high degree of integrity in spite of some minor alteration." The evaluation identifies the wood siding, wood windows and brick chimneys as the exterior features of the building that significantly contribute to the historic character. These features show sign of wear and some deterioration but repairs would involve minimal replacement of materials. The other significant elements are the stained glass window, profile wood cornice, wood square columns and glazed double doors. They are intact, functional and physically sound (Carey & Co, 2008).

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Overall, there are minimal alterations to the Philomathean Clubhouse. The building holds significant retention of original construction materials or replacement consistent with the original design. The addition of the wood stair and entry porch in the rear, enclosure of the porch on the northeast side, and the disabled access ramp at the north side was not part of the original design but the materials used were consistent with the original design.



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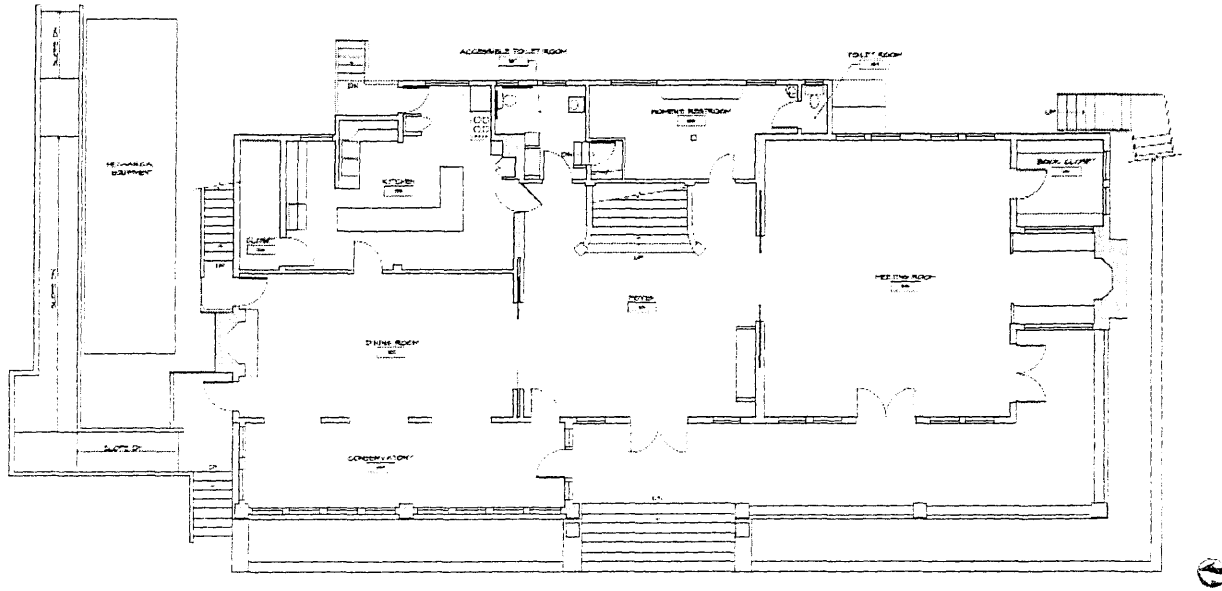


Figure 7.1: Existing First Floor Plan (Carey & Co., 2008)

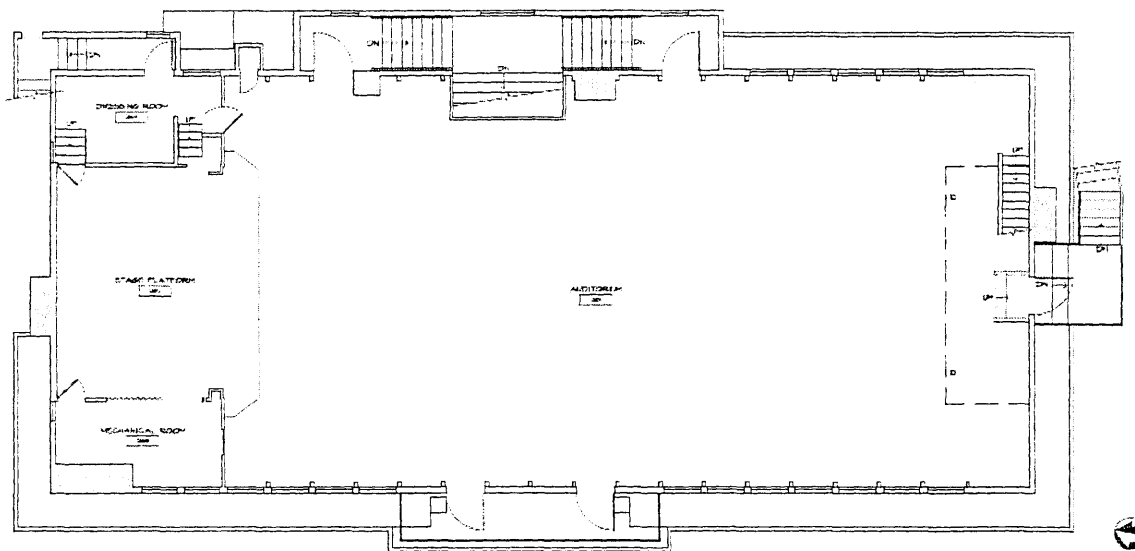


Figure 7.2: Existing Second Floor Plan (Carey & Co., 2008)

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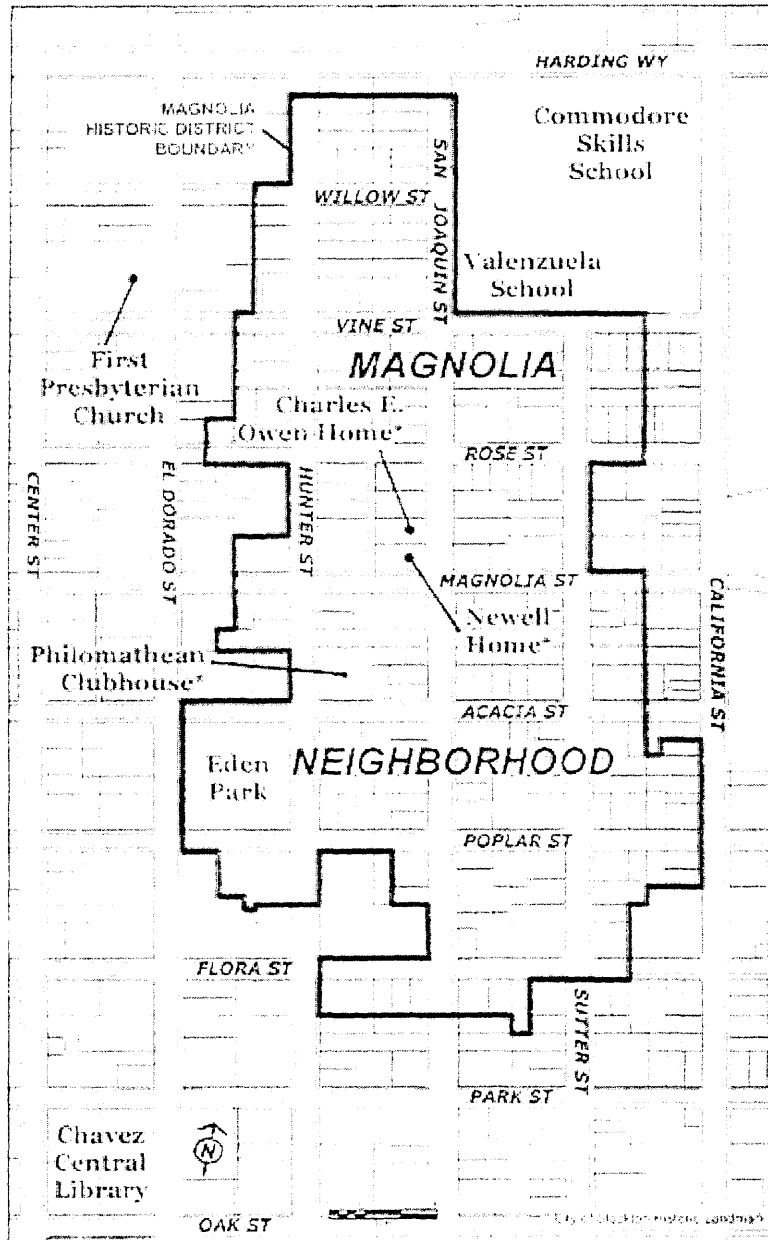


Figure 7.3: Map of the Magnolia Historic District (City of Stockton)

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**Section 8: Statement of Significance**

The Philomathean Clubhouse has two periods of historical significance. The period from 1893 to 1958 (an arbitrary cutoff date) marks its extensive role in the local community and in the women's club movement of California. A member since 1900, the club removed itself from the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) in 1943. Nevertheless, the Philomathean Club continued to contribute to Stockton's civic and cultural development. The community celebrated the club's 100-year anniversary in 2006. The second period (1912) represents the structure's distinctive architectural style, built during an important and rebellious architectural movement. The period of significance is when the Craftsman style building was built. Once considered "one of the most beautiful clubhouses" in California, it retains its architectural integrity and continues to serve as a meeting place for the community at large. The local landmark building, now owned by the City of Stockton, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of social and women's history and Criterion C in the area of architecture.

**History of the Philomathean Club**

Captain Charles Weber founded Stockton in 1849, after he acquired a 49,000-acre Mexican land grant. It began as a tent settlement and supply center for the southern gold mines. After the Gold Rush, the city prospered from its ability to produce grain on a grand scale. The city's major assets were its harbor, strategically located at the head of navigable waterways, and its rich soil and mild climate, making it one of the richest agricultural regions in the nation. The city's waterfront sprouted flourmills, warehouses, and shipping docks in order to supply grain to the markets of the world. With the advent of reclamation and irrigation, Stockton's farmers turned to crops that were more profitable and the city became an industrial center for storing, processing and shipping (van Ommeren, 2004). As was common with the development of cities during that period, there became a need for new and expanding community infrastructures. Many educational, religious and social organizations developed during Stockton's thriving times, including schools, churches and clubs. One of those organizations was the Philomathean Club, which started as educational and expanded into social.

On November 17, 1893, nine women met to form a reading club. Membership to the Philomathean Club grew to more than 300 women by 1910. The club members held meetings in various public places, including the Public Library, the Yosemite Theatre, the Elks Hall and the Hotel Stockton. The club members had their first discussion about having a building of their own at a meeting on April 15, 1910. The following month, a nine-member committee chaired by Mrs. J.W. Barrett formed as the Philomathean Building Association with the goal of constructing a clubhouse. As a corporation, the club was able to offer shares to its members, three thousand shares at \$5.00 each, totaling \$15,000. Many of the women were able to afford the shares, since the club represented Stockton's middle and upper class (McNair, 1993). For example, Mrs. Mary S. Leffler, the president of the club and wife of a prominent farmer, was able to purchase 249 shares. Although not all shares sold, the Association was able to buy the lot at Acacia and Hunter Streets for \$3,500 in July of that year (Buckley, 2000).

Because of Stockton's prominence during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, upper class families built many elaborate homes. The sophisticated homes were the residences of rich farmers and leaders of industry. Many of those finer homes in Stockton were actually the second homes of farmers who did not

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want their families isolated in farms during the winters when the roads were too muddy to travel (Davis, 1984). The Philomathean Club women were married to men with important occupations or from prominent families. These included Mrs. Benjamin Holt, whose husband was Stockton's greatest inventor and leader of industry, and Ms. Julia Weber, daughter of Stockton's founder, Charles Weber. Julia Weber served on the Philomathean Club's Board of Directors from 1909-1911 and remained a club member for the rest of her life (Engh, 2001; McNair, 1993).

The club announced plans for building a clubhouse in May 1911. A signed contract between the Philomathean Building Association and local contractor William E. Wood followed on June 19, 1911. The contract established a design and building of the clubhouse for \$10,868. The contract specified completion of the building in 120 working days and included a mortgage of \$8,000. At the end of December 1911, the clubhouse still was not finished. By January 1912, the building was nearing completion but the costs had increased to \$15,000. Finally, with much excitement, the first meeting in the new clubhouse was on February 9, 1912. An open house for the community followed on April 15. For this event, the club was beautifully decorated and members were dressed in their finest. The club received many gifts from the community and hailed as a landmark in Stockton society because it was the first clubhouse built by women for women (McNair, 1993).

Over the years, the club held many fundraisers to pay off the mortgage. These included card parties, musicals and food sales. A fashion show in 1916 resulted in net proceeds of close to \$1,000. By 1916, the mortgage was reduced to \$4,500. Annual dues and new memberships had climbed to \$5.00 and the Club began to rent out the building to other clubs or for parties to generate additional income. By 1921, the club owed only \$1,600 and by 1928, the mortgage was paid. Two years later, the club incorporated as "Philomathean Club, Limited" (Article of Incorporation, 1930). Celebration of the free and clear title to the building and its incorporation took place on April 24, 1931 (McNair, 1993).

**Criterion A: Women's History and Social History in Stockton**

The Philomathean Club located in Stockton is eligible for listing under Criteria A for its local level of significance in women's history and social history. The Philomathean Club of Stockton was representative of the larger "Women's Club Movement" in America that proliferated between the Civil War and World War II. Women's clubs already existed prior to that period mostly as church groups or benevolent societies but the changing role of women and growing communities instead led to the growth of women's literary and civic clubs (Croly, 1898). The Philomathean Club was the first women's club in Stockton and started with a group of seven women gathered at the home of Mrs. S.N. Cross on November 17, 1893. Similar to other women's clubs across the country, they decided to form a club devoted to the "promotion of study, the cultivation of literary tastes and the encouragement of freedom in discussion." The subsequent recruitment of two additional members established the club's nine founders. These charter members elected Mrs. Margaret Davis as their first president and asked others to join. The initiation fee was one dollar with annual dues at two dollars. Every Friday, the women met at each other's homes (McNair, 1993).

Within six months, the club had forty members and the name became the Philomathean Club, meaning "lover of learning." Committed to studying and presenting on various subjects, the first year was dedicated to the study of the French Revolution. After each business meeting, the members presented the results of their studies as one would in a college class. With an emphasis on history, the second year was devoted to ancient Egypt, followed by the East, China, Greece, Rome and England. The publishing of the

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Constitution and By-Laws in 1897 expanded the purpose of the club to “foster and encourage the study of literature, civics and history, and to provide instruction and entertainments with a view of rendering the members helpful to each other and useful to society.” The club highlights many important ideals that were prevalent for middle class women at the time (McNair, 1993).

In 1890, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) formed to encourage social interaction and intellectual exchange for women. Over time, the organization evolved to address controversial and political issues, such as women’s suffrage and temperance. The club had a strong belief that more members created more power (Wells, 1953). The Philomathean Club’s admission to the California Federation of Women’s Clubs (CFWC), member of the GFWC, occurred in 1912. At that time, the GFCW had developed to reach more than one million members (Wells, 1953).

The Philomathean Club was one of thirteen clubs of the San Joaquin County Federation that joined the Alameda District of Women’s Clubs. As the largest organization in the Alameda District, the Philomathean Club participated in many statewide activities throughout World War I and the Depression, including holding office. Mrs. William A. Fitzgerald served as president of the California Federation of Women’s Clubs from 1921 to 1923. At the end of her term, there were 603 clubs in California with a total membership of 63,480 (Alameda District of Women’s Clubs, 1937; California Federation of Women’s Clubs 1965). In 1943, after more than thirty years, the Philomathean Club Board of Directors withdrew their affiliation to the state organization, and therefore national organization, to focus on local community efforts (McNair, 1993).

Similar to women’s clubs across the country, the Stockton club began extending its studies to civic affairs and to concerns of community welfare and betterment. Service to their country became one of the greatest accomplishments of the women’s clubs across the country (Wells, 1953). During World War II, the Philomathean Club was involved in this shift of focus and their war-related activities included assisting with the American Red Cross, the American Women’s Voluntary Services, the War Price and Rationing Board, the Women’s Land Army, the United Service Organization, the Aviation Cadet Club Hospitality, and the Navy Hospitality (McNair, 1993). One of the club’s biggest contributions in 1943 was the addressing of 20,000 gasoline-rationing books for rural motorists of San Joaquin County. Some 176 members, working 30 at a time each day, completed this clerical project at the clubhouse in two weeks (“Philomathean Service”, 1943).

Although involved with civic betterment, the Philomathean Club did not lose sight of their original purpose of learning. Regular club activities related to music, art, history and literature continued. In addition, outside speakers and lecturers of national and local fame came to supplement the programs with their views and ideas. Some of the speakers included a former governor, famous authors and local renowned people. The ability to draw such famous authors as C.S. Forester and Sherwood Anderson, as well as former governor George Pardee, was evident of the Philomathean Club’s prominence in the state (McNair, 1993). The Philomathean Club from 1893 through the 1920s was a microcosm of the greater

club movement in California. More importantly for more than one hundred years, the Philomathean Club stood for the finest ideals in Stockton social life, providing an opportunity for women to come together for knowledge, friendship and community improvement.

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Today, the Philomathean Club has been the location of many important educational and social events for women in the community for more than a century. The Club also represents many of the intellectual and civic interests of Stockton women during the twentieth century. As one of the earliest and largest clubhouses constructed in California, the building provided a central gathering place and symbolizes the stability and strength of the women's community in Stockton during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Criterion C: Architecture of the Clubhouse and the Neighborhood**

Built in 1912, the Philomathean Club of Stockton is an excellent and intact building of the Craftsman style.

During Stockton's most historic period of development, between 1895 and 1918, various architectural styles were emerging in America, including Craftsman style. This style comes out of the Arts and Crafts movement, a period reactive to the consequences of industrialization. Craftsman style focuses on the beauty of nature and uses informal and simple elements. This style makes wide use of natural construction materials, such as wood and masonry (Wilson, 1993; McAlester & McAlester, 2004). The Philomathean certainly reflects characterization of the Craftsman style by the use of brick masonry as the primary construction material and wood clapboard and shingle siding on the exterior siding. The combination of clapboard siding and shingles was commonly used for larger Craftsman houses.

Further architectural elements of the clubhouse reflect the Craftsman style. Elements of the rustic architecture of the Craftsman style are evident in the clubhouse by the street facing gables, wide overhanging eaves and extensive front porch, as well as the square columns supporting the porch (McAlester & McAlester, 2004). The architectural detail of the Craftsman style is also evident in the interior of the Philomathean Clubhouse, such as the wood elements, decorative tilework, stained glass window and use of fireplaces. These are characteristic of a style that looks back to the simplicity of our society before industrialization. The clubhouse also features a floor plan with open free flowing spaces, a front porch beneath an extension of the main roof, and the use of natural materials such as the brown stained wood shingles. The Philomathean Clubhouse retains mature and healthy trees on their lot, again emphasizing the blending in with nature. Today, the trees provide an elegant camouflage.

The Philomathean Club is also significant in architecture because of its specific design and construction as a women's club. Prior to construction, the club had been active for two decades. Meetings and events had taken place in various locations in Stockton over the years, including libraries, theatres, hall and hotels. By the time the design of the clubhouse began, the women were well aware of the club's needs for this new building. Small women's organizations continued to find public locations for their meetings. Over time, many of the women's clubs began owning their clubhouses, especially in California. However, most of the clubs bought buildings once constructed for other purposes (Wells, 1953). The fact that the Philomathean Club was able to plan, build and fund their own clubhouse was very unusual.

W.E. Wood & Son designed and built the Philomathean Club. Although listed as building contractors, the firm's principal William E. Wood called himself an architect. Their office was located at 313 E. Weber Avenue in Stockton. Although the company office was located in Stockton, Mr. Wood lived with his family in just north of Stockton, in Morada. Born around 1865 in Canada, William E. Wood most likely did not get any official instruction as an architect. During that period, many people called themselves architects without formal training. Mr. Wood was only in Stockton for a few years, and it's not known which other buildings he designed. In 1920, he was in Sacramento, and eventually moved to San Francisco where he died on July 31, 1941. He reached an age well into his 70s (Stockton City Directory 1910-1915; Ancestry, 2008).

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The Philomathean Clubhouse building is located in the Magnolia Historic Preservation District, a residential area once occupied by the leading citizens and civic leaders of Stockton. The residents were associated with the cultural, political, economic, and social history of the community and the structures correspondingly reflect the capital available to the more affluent social and economic classes. The district contains the richest variety and blend of architectural styles found anywhere in the Stockton community today. As a contributing building to the district, the Philomathean Club is one of several bungalow styles within the district. The architectural quality of this unique style in the clubhouse remains and the building therefore creates a unique sense of time and place in the history of Stockton (City of Stockton, 1984).

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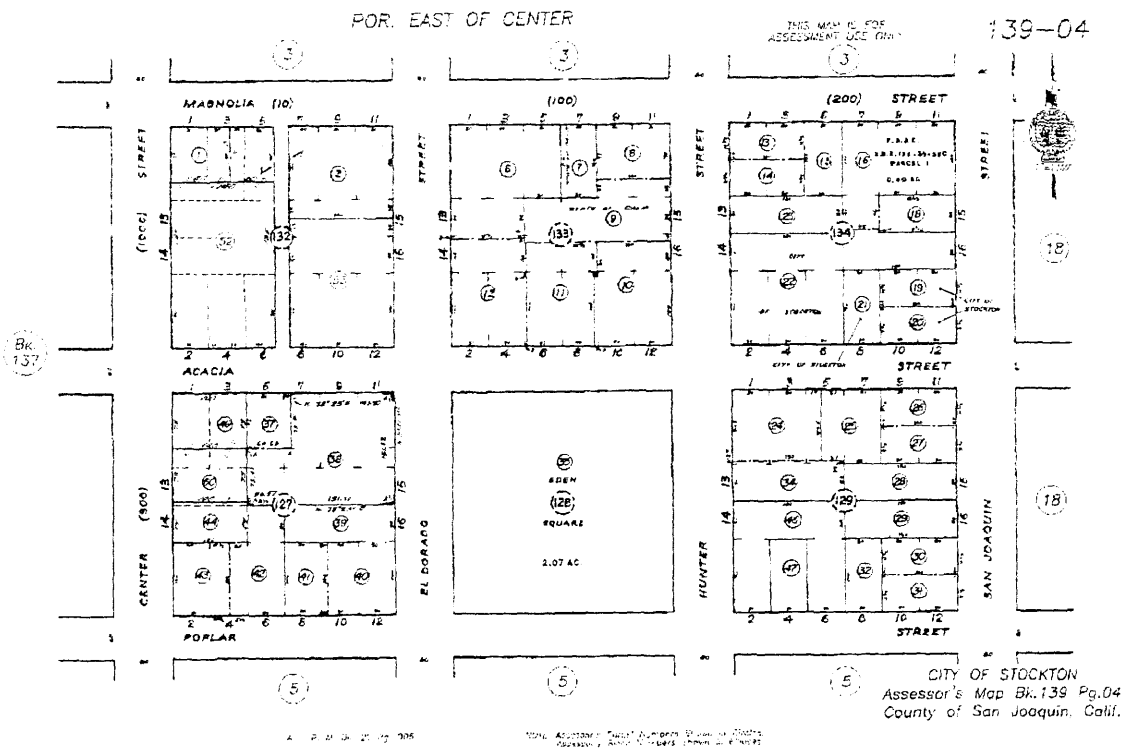
Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 22, of Block 4 in Stockton, San Joaquin County, California (City of Stockton, Assessor's Map, San Joaquin County Assessor's Office). Assessor's Parcel Number: 139-04-22.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Philomathean Club and encompasses the entire lot.



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**Photographs**

Name of Property: Philomathean Clubhouse  
Location: San Joaquin County, California

**Contemporary Photograph Descriptions**

Photographer: Ron Chapman  
Date Photographed: July 2008  
Location of Negatives: Alice van Ommeren  
66 W. Monterey Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95204

**Contemporary Photograph Descriptions**

- 1 of 5: West and south façade of the building, photographer facing northeast
- 2 of 5: Front or west façade of the building, photographer facing east
- 3 of 5: Exterior detail of front façade of the building photographer facing east
- 4 of 5: North façade of the building, photographer facing southeast
- 5 of 5: Back or east façade of the building, photographer facing west

**Historic Photograph Descriptions**

Historic photographs were taken at various times. Photographs are from the Bank of Stockton Archives (Stockton, CA), unless noted otherwise.

- Photo 1: Plaque at the Philomathean Club entrance (2006, Ron Chapman Photograph)
- Photo 2: Postcard of the Philomathean Club, 1925 (Collection of Alice van Ommeren)
- Photo 3: "When Philomathean Club Met There," Illustration by Ralph O. Yardley (1915)
- Photo 4: First Floor Foyer set up with tables for an event (1923)
- Photo 5: Main Stairway to the Second Floor (2006)
- Photo 6: Performers on the Philomathean Club Stage in the Auditorium (1962)

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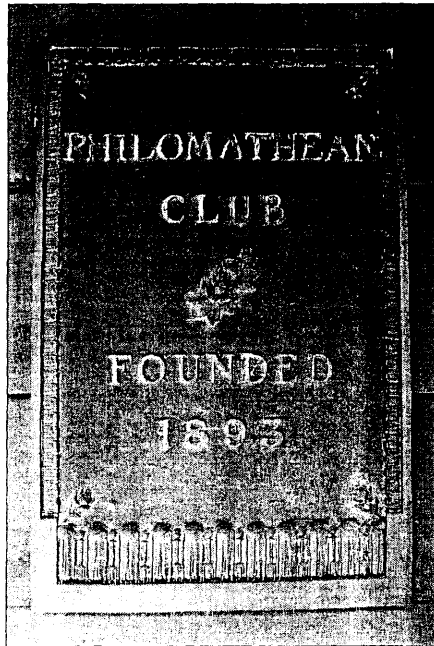


Photo 1: Plaque at the Philomathean Club entrance (Ron Chapman, 2006)



Photo 2: Postcard of the Philomathean Club, 1925 (Collection of Alice van Ommeren)

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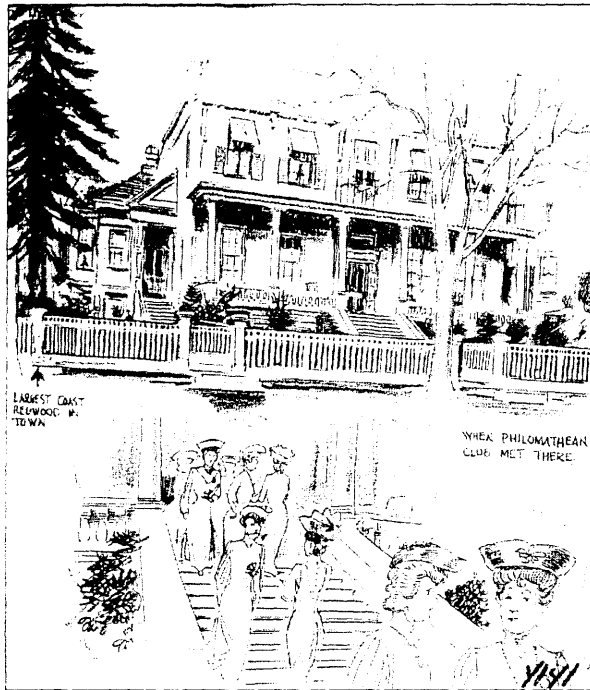


Photo 3: "When Philomathean Club Met There." Illustration by Ralph O. Yardley (1915)



Photo 4: First Floor Foyer set up with tables for an event (1923)

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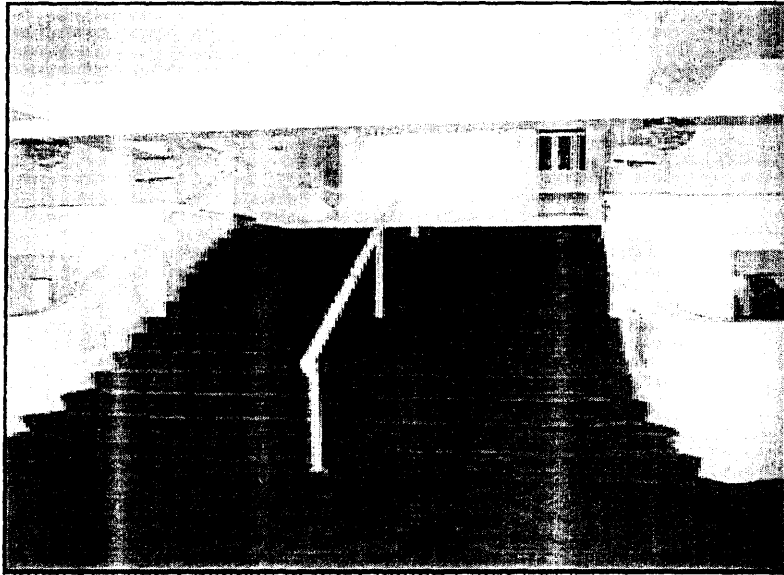


Photo 5: Main Stairway to the Second Floor. (2006)



Photo 6: Performers on the Philomathean Club Stage in the Auditorium (1962)