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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 8 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTRATION

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Woman's Club of Newport

other names/site number Newport Town Hall; N-11058

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2. Location

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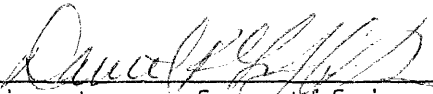
street & number 15 North Augustine St. not for publication n/a
city or town Newport, Christiana Hundred vicinity n/a
state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 003
zip code 19804

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 State Historic Preservation Officer 6/1/93
Signature of certifying official Date

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Hall of Records, P.O. Box 1401, Dover, DE 19903
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

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4. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register Patrick W. Andrews 7/14/93
 ___ 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 Keeper Date
 of Action

=====
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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Historic & Architectural Resources of Newport, DE

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: Clubhouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: City hall

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7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
Tudor Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
roof STONE; Slate
walls BRICK

other WOOD

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

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8. Statement of Significance
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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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance 1934-1945

Significant Dates 1934

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Woman's Club of Newport
New Castle County, Delaware
Historic and Architectural Resources of Newport, Delaware

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>448020</u>	<u>4396060</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian

organization _____ date April 30, 1992

street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410) 296-7538

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21212

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Woman's Club of Newport
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State
Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

Description:

The Woman's Club of Newport clubhouse [now the Newport Town Hall] is a one-story, T-plan building constructed in 1934 whose design reflects the influence of the Tudor Revival. It is located at the southwest corner of Augustine and Justis streets, where it takes up most of its small lot.

The building comprises two sections: a three-bay-wide, two-bay-deep, gable-roofed portion parallels Justis Street, facing north. A broad wing extends to the south from the rear of this section, resulting in a T configuration. The roof of the wing is slightly higher than that of the front section, and terminates in a clipped "jerkinhead" gable. There is a small brick vestibule and open porch located in the reentrant corner of the junction between the front section and the wing on the east side.

Rough, irregular-shaped brick, ranging in color from orange through red-brown to black, creates a picturesque, rustic effect. A typical brick measures 7-7/8" long, 3 1/2" wide, and 2 1/4" high. The bricks are laid in running bond, using brown-tinted mortar; the variation in brick shape causes the joints to vary in width from about 1/2" to a full inch. Joints are not uniformly struck; random daubs of excess mortar contribute to the rustic texture of the wall surface. There is an exterior chimney in the south bay of the east gable end; it is treated decoratively, with a stone base and brick stack.

The north facade is three bays wide, with a small window and entrance in the central bay, under a gabled hood treated with decorative false half-timbering. Large windows occupy the flanking bays. Windows throughout the building are multi-pane metal casements of varying sizes and shapes, with wooden lintels and brick sills.

The west gable end has two windows at ground level, and a narrow rectangular window lighting the attic; the east gable end is fenestrated similarly, except the chimney stack described above occupies the space corresponding to the south window. There is a full basement under this section, lighted by cellar windows on the north and west.

On the east side of the wing, facing Augustine Street, a small half-hipped projection covers a vestibule served by a porch with flared corner posts. This composition occupies the northern bay of the wing; two large metal casements mark the remaining bays. Three large metal casements ranged across the west elevation of the wing. The south end has a cntral doorway flanked by large windows, and a

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Section 7 Page 2

Woman's Club of Newport
name of property
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name of multiple property listing

=====

small rectangular window lighting the attic.

On the interior, the gable-roofed section comprises two small rooms used as offices and a lavatory. There is a stone fireplace in the east room. A large meeting space occupies the south wing; this area is finished in medium-dark stained wood paneling, and has a figured hardwood floor. A ca. 1927 counter and teller's cage from the former Newport National Bank was installed in the northwest corner of this space after the Town of Newport acquired the building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Woman's Club of Newport
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State
Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

Statement of Significance:

The Woman's Club of Newport clubhouse is significant for its architecture, as an example of a type of community building which exhibits the characteristic features of the Tudor Revival style, and for its association with the Woman's Club of Newport, an important local organization which carried out a variety of programs directed toward the beautification of Newport and the health and education of its citizens.

The building exemplifies the characteristic features of the Tudor Revival style as expressed in the 1930s period. Its multiple roof forms and irregular massing, the use of materials to achieve a rustic polychrome effect, Medieval-derived decorative detailing such as false half-timbering and flared posts, and its incorporation of metal casement windows are all features of the style. The building is well maintained and retains a high degree of integrity.

The building derives further significance from its association with an important and long-lived community organization in Newport. Ella Weldin Johnson (1868-1959), lifelong Newport historian and Postmaster from 1922 to 1934, is credited with the organization of the Woman's Club of Newport. The Club apparently was the successor to the local branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. In 1926, the Club were custodians of a small building on the north side of Market Street opposite the Newport National Bank which had been built by the WCTU as a Reading Room, Library, and community recreation center.

Following an extensive fundraising campaign, The Woman's Club erected its new headquarters building in 1934. The Woman's Club of Newport belonged to the Delaware State Federation of Woman's Clubs, and was one of seventeen similar organizations in New Castle County. During the World War II era, the club assisted with Red Cross activities and volunteered at the Dover air base, serving at the canteen two days a month, and collecting clothespins for donation to the WACS at the air base. Local activities included operation of a free library which functioned as a branch of the Wilmington Free Library. The club sponsored a variety of events for the children of Newport, including Christmas parties, and exhibits and parties at the Henrik J. Krebs School. The club also produced the county flower show.

By the mid-1970s, the club's membership had dwindled to a point where it was no longer able to carry out its various activities, and the decision was made to disband the organization. In 1976, the clubhouse was sold to the Town of Newport, and the club's assets were liquidated and disbursed to a variety of charitable

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Woman's Club of Newport
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New Castle County, Delaware
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Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

=====

causes, notably local beautification projects and public television.

The period of significance, 1934-1945, begins with the date of construction and ends with the cut-off date of the present survey and evaluation. It therefore recognizes the volunteer work performed by The Woman's Club of Newport during World War II. The Woman's Club of Newport remained active until 1976.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Woman's Club of Newport
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State
Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

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Major Bibliographical References:

- Johnson, Ella Weldin. Story of Newport: a Square Little Town in the State of Delaware. Wilmington, DE: Paragon Press, 1963.
- "Women's Club Work in County is Reviewed," Wilmington Journal Every Evening, May 22, 1945, p. 10.
- Interview with Horace and Sarah Ingram, Newport, DE, April 24, 1992.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

Woman's Club of Newport
name of property
New Castle County, Delaware
county and State
Historic and Architectural
Resources of Newport, Delaware
name of multiple property listing

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Geographical Data:

Verbal boundary description: The nominated property includes all of that parcel designated 20-002.00-014 on the Property Map of New Castle County, Delaware, and further indicated by the broken line on the section of the property map which accompanies this nomination.

Boundary justification: The boundaries described above were selected to encompass the single town lot historically associated with the resource.

N-11058
Woman's Club of Newport [Town Hall]
Historic & Architectural Resources of
Newport, Delaware
Source: New Castle County Tax Map
Scale: 1"=100'

