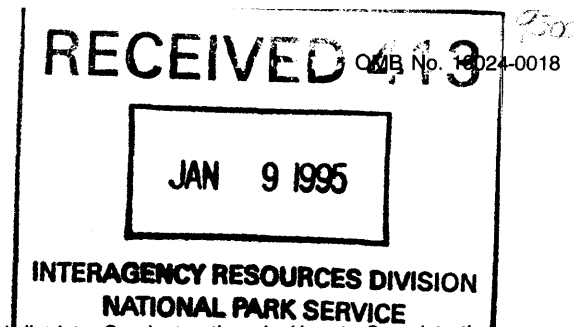


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *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 an 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 VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB

other names/site number Site File # IR441

2. Location

street & number 1534 21st Street Not for publication

city or town Vero Beach n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Indian River code 061 zip code 32960

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 1/3/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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 *Edson H. Beall* Entered in the Date of Action National Register 2/10/95

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private building(s)
public-local district
public-State site
public-Federal structure
object

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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- SOCIAL/ Clubhouse
EDUCATION/ Library

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- SOCIAL/ Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete piers
walls Wood/ Wood shingles
roof Asphalt
other Brick

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1916-1944

Significant Dates

1916

1926

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.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

Vero Beach Woman's Club
Name of Property

Indian River Co., Fl.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	559180	3057280
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbai 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 Millie Bunnell / Sherry Piland, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 1994

street & number R. A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Fl. zip code 32399-0250

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 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. 470 *et seq.*)

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

JAN 9 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
INDIAN RIVER CO., FL.

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Vero Beach Woman's Club is located in downtown Vero Beach, Florida at 1534 21st Street. The one-story frame building has an irregular plan and rests on a concrete pier foundation. The exterior walls are covered with square butt shingles, stained a deep brown. Corner boards, painted white, provide a contrast with the dark shingles. A complex cross-gable roof of asphalt shingles covers the structure. The deep eave of the roof is finished in beaded board. Exterior brick chimneys are located at the east and west ends of the building. The Vero Beach Woman's Club, built in 1916 and enlarged in 1926, is a vernacular structure with Colonial Revival and Craftsman/bungalow stylistic elements.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary facade of the Vero Beach Woman's Club faces south (photo 1). The west half of the building was constructed in 1916; the east portion was added ten years later. Originally the structure was symmetrical and the entrance portico was flanked by paired 9/1 double hung, sash windows. With the addition, the building lost its symmetrical balance.

The gabled entrance portico is approached by a short flight of steps. The portico, supported by four wood columns, shelters the paired cypress entrance doors (photo 2). Each door features a large beveled glass oval pane. The oval design is repeated in two small fixed windows next to each door (photo 3).

A series of three arches define an extension of the porch to the east and the beginning of the 1926 addition (photo 4). Another short flight of steps provides access to this portion of the porch. The 1926 addition consists of a shed roof extension of the main roof and a long cross-gable wing, running perpendicular to the original portion of the building (photo 5). The shed roof segment contains a triple window. The cross-gable wing, on the main facade, features a hooded door flanked by double. 12-light windows (photo 6). The door is ornamental only; it opens onto a shallow railed balcony. The door is divided into 15 lights and is surmounted by a fan light.

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**VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
INDIAN RIVER CO., FL.**

Section number 7 Page 2

The west elevation of the building features a recessed gable wall (photo 7). A brick chimney at this end of the building is flanked by double casement windows. The east elevation is fenestrated with three sets of triple casement windows.

The rear (north) elevation contains an entrance door, sheltered by a metal canopy roof (photo 8). A triple window is to the east of the door. To the west of the door, evenly spaced, are three pairs of 9/1, double hung sash windows.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Vero Beach Woman's Club is divided into three major areas: the original library, an auditorium with a stage, and a service area containing a kitchen, storage areas, and restrooms.

The library room measures 48 X 24 feet. It has pine floors and the plaster walls have been covered with wood paneling (photo 9). At the west end of the room is a simple brick fireplace with a brick hearth. The ceiling is beamed in a square design with plaster panels between the beams. The single door at this end of the room leads into the foyer of the service area and the French door leads into the auditorium (photo 10).

The auditorium, measuring 45 X 43 feet, has a stage at the north end (photo 11). Behind the stage is the service area, accessed by doors flanking the stage. The auditorium has wood floors, plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling that features a gentle curve at the east and west ends. A fireplace at the east end of this room features spiral columns and an ornamental crest on the chimney breast (photo 12).

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

The Vero Beach Woman's Club was enlarged in 1926 by the addition of an auditorium. At the same time the entrance porch was extended, providing a separate entrance into the auditorium space. The original entrance portico, with two wood piers, was modified by the addition of two more piers. The building is in good repair.

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VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
INDIAN RIVER CO., FL.

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Vero Beach Woman's Club was founded in 1915. In 1916 construction of their clubhouse was completed. For over forty years the women of the Club operated the only library facility in the community from this building. Over the years the Vero Beach Woman's Club has been involved in numerous other charitable and civic improvement projects, providing both a social and civic outlet for women of the community. The Vero Beach Woman's Club meets National Register Criteria A and C for its significance in the areas of social history and architecture.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

In the late 1880s a small village formed near the Indian River of Florida's east coast near the homestead of Henry Gifford. Gifford had established the first store in the area and in 1891 he was appointed postmaster of the village, then known as Vero. The area grew slowly until 1893, when Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) reached the settlement. The railroad spurred growth by bringing in tourists and by providing the means to ship crops to market. In 1903 the FEC Railway built a small station and freight depot in Vero.

In 1911, the Iowa-based Indian River Farms Company purchased 55,000 acres of low, swampy land west of the railroad line. The settlement of Vero was east of the railroad. The Indian River Farms Company began an ambitious drainage project and began to develop the land for farming. The farm land sold well, leading the Company in 1913 to lay out a town plan, called Vero, for residential and commercial development. The older settlement of Vero, east of the railroad line, continued primarily as a residential area. The Indian River Farms Company encouraged sales and development of their platted area by donating building lots for churches, a woman's club, and a park. By 1915, the town had a population of 500. Vero was incorporated in 1919 with A. W. Young, an official of the Indian River Farms Company, serving as the first mayor.

The Florida Land Boom of the 1920s boosted the economy of the growing town. The Indian River County road system was improved between 1915-1928, bringing in land speculators, tourists, and new residents. Vero, which had originally been

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Section number 8 Page 2

VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
INDIAN RIVER CO., FL.

located in St. Lucie County, in 1925 became the county seat of newly created Indian River County. In 1920 a bridge was opened, connecting Vero with the adjacent barrier island. In 1925 the beach area was annexed to the town, and the town was renamed Vero Beach.

The Land Boom began to collapse in 1926. However, the diversified economy based on agriculture, citrus, fishing, and tourism moderated the economic impact in the Vero Beach area. Although construction slowed dramatically, the population grew to 2,500 by 1929. Economic difficulties worsened as the nation was plunged into the Great Depression, but tourism along the coast enabled Indian River County to maintain some growth. By 1940, the population had increased to 3,060. The build-up of military facilities in the early 1940s boosted the financial base of Vero Beach and positioned the community for further growth.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Women's clubs, which proliferated in the nineteenth-century, were an important avenue for intellectual pursuits and civic involvement. The initial impetus for the formation of a women's club was often the desire to improve a town's physical surrounding. Village improvement societies, usually organized by women, were among the first organizations to work for healthy and clean living conditions. The first such group in Florida, the "Ladies' Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs, Florida," was started in 1887. Their goal was: "To promote neatness and order in the city, and do whatever may tend to improve and beautify the town as a place of residence, and keep it in a healthy condition." Literary interests also led to the formation of women's clubs. The Sorosis organization, a literary club, was founded in New York City in 1868. In 1890, its founder, Jane Croly, initiated the formation of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs. Croly believed that a national association with the collective response of clubwomen to various issues would carry greater weight with legislators.

The several women's clubs that had formed in Florida by 1895 collectively established the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. The Florida group was admitted to the General Federation of Woman's Clubs in January of 1898, and was incorporated in 1915.

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Section number 8 Page 3

VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
INDIAN RIVER CO., FL.

The Florida Federation remains an active organization with a membership of over 30,000.

In February of 1915, twenty-seven women met in Vero to organize a club for the betterment of the town and to establish a library. They named the organization the Unity Club, but shortly the name was changed to the Vero Woman's Club. The Club was admitted to the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. A. W. Young, wife of the Mayor, was the first president of the club. The club held two meetings a month, one for business and one for a program, and also held card parties and sewing groups. The Club was organized into six departments: Civics, Music, Mothers. Home Economics, Library, Citizenship, and Local History. A typical meeting would have consisted of several musical numbers and the presentation of an educational paper.

The first major project undertaken by the Vero Beach Woman's Club was the creation of a library for the community. In April of 1915, club members began to plan ways to raise money and started asking people to donate books. Mrs. Myron A. Hard gave 300 books from the library of her late husband (the library later became known as the Hard Memorial Library). In June the books were moved to the enclosed back porch of Mrs. Young's house and club members took turns serving as librarian.

In May of 1915, the Indian River Farms Company donated a lot in their newly platted town of Vero to the Club. The women began working to raise the \$1,000 it was anticipated a Club building would cost. In the meantime, the Club accepted the offer of Mrs. John Atkin to house the books, act as librarian, and to host the club meetings once a month for a monthly fee of \$5.

The new building was officially opened in May 1916 with a community benefit dance. A piano was purchased for the club house and music was an important part of each meeting. Five hundred library books were moved into the new building. With the library off the ground, club members became involved in other civic projects. These included the planting of trees to beautify the city's streets; sponsoring the organization of the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, P.T.A., and local Red Cross; driving polio victims to Coral Gables for treatment; assisting in a milk fund for school children; sponsoring dances for young people; assisting in the beautification of the Dixie Highway; and providing the clubhouse as a temporary meeting place for newly

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**VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
INDIAN RIVER CO., FL.**

Section number 8 Page 4

formed church congregations. The Vero Beach Woman's Club also purchased a piano for the Vero Beach school, sponsored the first Community Christmas tree, sponsored four programs of the Lyceum Lecture series, started the movement to hire a county nurse, and furnished an office for the school nurse. In 1922, club members were working to "create public sentiment" on such issues as the State Children's Code, the State Forestry Commission, and the State Game and Fish Commission.

The library, however, continued to be the primary interest of the club. Library hours were gradually expanded, gifts and purchases enlarged the collection, and high school students were trained as assistant librarians. Miss Margaret St. John was hired as a librarian in 1922, a position she held until her death in 1945.

An important event for the club in 1924 was the visit of Congresswoman Ruth Bryan Owen who, after her speech, donated a print of a portrait of George Washington. The catered luncheon in her honor cost thirty-five cents a person.

By 1925, membership in the Vero Beach Woman's Club had grown to 125. In January of that year the Club members were entertaining the idea of selling the club house and erecting a new building with separate club and library facilities. Club members quickly subscribed \$1300 for that purpose but it was eventually decided to mortgage the existing building to provide funds for the addition of an auditorium and kitchen. Dues were raised to \$5 a year and money-raising activities were undertaken to finance this project, including serving weekly luncheons to men's civic clubs. The new addition, costing \$5,433, was dedicated in January, 1927.

In 1930, Mrs. A. W. Young was elected for the third of her four terms as Club president. During her term the mortgage on the building was paid off. The Club continued its activities in the 1940s. A Junior Woman's Club was formed, and several of the members were the daughters of the founding and early Club members. In 1943 and 1944, the Club house was the location of a community Good Friday service. During World War II, the Woman's Club provided social activities and entertainment for the men stationed at the Vero Beach Naval Air Station.

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Section number 8 Page 5

**VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
INDIAN RIVER CO., FL.**

By the late 1950s, the growth of Vero Beach had outpaced the ability of the Woman's Club to provide adequate library service for the community. In 1958, approximately 16,000 books were crowded into the small library room and circulation had reached over 41,000. That year the Indian River County Library Association was formed and Mrs. J. H. Conn, a Woman's Club member, was elected president. The Woman's Club gave their books, equipment, and records to the new association and offered to house the library rent-free for two years until a new building could be constructed. When the Indian River County Library opened in 1962, the Women's Club had provided forty-five years of library service to the community. The Woman's Club continues to be an active service organization in Vero Beach with a current membership of eighty.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Vero Beach Woman's Club building is a prominent structure in downtown Vero Beach. The vernacular building incorporates elements of the Craftsman/bungalow tradition and Colonial Revival elements into a comfortable and functional building. The original building, measuring 18 X 24 feet, had a domestic appearance, symbolically representing the Club as a secondary "home" for the members. The 1926 addition provided room for club activities in addition to the library service and with its stage, enabled the Club to present plays and musical presentations.

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VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
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Section number 9 Page 1

"At Annual Breakfast of Vero Beach Woman's Club." Vero Press, 1
January 1925. p.1.

Lockwood, Charlotte. Florida's Historic Indian River Country.
Vero Beach: MediaTronics, 1975.

_____. If These Walls Could Talk: Vero Beach Woman's Club,
1915-1985. Vero Beach: Vero Beach Woman's Club, 1985.

Richards, J. Noble. Florida's Hibiscus City: Vero Beach.
Melbourne: Brevard Graphics, 1968.

Warranty Deed, Vero Beach Woman's Club, 17 May 1915. St. Lucie
Circuit and County Court.

"Will Dedicate Room at Federation Meet." Vero Beach Press, 28
January 1927, p. 1.

"Will Line Dixie Highway With Flowers." Vero Weekly Bulletin,
28 October 1916, p. 1.

"Woman's Club Activities." Vero Press, 11 November 1922.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews of Club members, conducted by Helda Masher, July 1994:
Ruth Schuman, member of Vero Beach Woman's Club, 1925
Betty Zigrang
Margaret Ryburn

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National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

**VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
INDIAN RIVER CO., FL.**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Vero Beach PBS 2-12 Lots 8 and 9, Block 36.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Vero Beach Woman's Club.

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Continuation Sheet**

**VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB,
INDIAN RIVER CO., FL.**

Section number Photo Page 1

1. Vero Beach Woman's Club
2. Indian River County, Florida
3. Millie Bunnell
4. October 1994
5. Millie Bunnell, P.O. Box 8006, Vero Beach, Fl. 32963
6. Main (south) facade, view looking northeast
7. Photo 1 of 12

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs

6. Detail, main (south) entrance; view looking north
7. Photo 2 of 12

6. Detail, window on main (south) facade; view looking north
7. Photo 3 of 12

6. Detail, entry porch, main (south) facade; view looking north
7. Photo 4 of 12

6. Main (south) facade, view looking north
7. Photo 5 of 12

6. Detail, door and balconet, main (south) facade; view looking northwest
7. Photo 6 of 12

6. West elevation, view looking east
7. Photo 7 of 12

6. North elevation on left, west elevation on right; view looking southeast
7. Photo 8 of 12

6. Interior detail, library room; view looking west
7. Photo 9 of 12

6. Interior detail, library room; view looking east
7. Photo 10 of 12

6. Interior detail, auditorium; view looking northeast
7. Photo 11 of 12

6. Interior detail, auditorium fireplace; view looking east
7. Photo 12 of 12

VERO BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB
Vero Beach, Indian River Co., Fl.

Boundary — — —

Photo Direction ○→

Approx. Scale: 1"=16'

16th Avenue

⑧ →

⑦ →

⑩ →

← ⑨

Kitchen

Stage

Library

Auditorium

⑫ →

↑ ②

↑ ③

⑪ →

↑ ④

↗ ⑥

N ↑

① ↗

21st Street

↗ ⑤

The diagram is a floor plan of the Vero Beach Woman's Club building, enclosed in a dashed boundary line. The building is situated at the corner of 16th Avenue (north-south) and 21st Street (east-west). The plan includes several rooms: a Library on the left, a Kitchen at the top right, a Stage in the middle right, and a large Auditorium on the right. A central area contains a bar and a staircase. A north arrow is located in the lower-left quadrant of the building. Twelve numbered circles with arrows indicate the directions for photographs: 1 (bottom-left corner), 2 (bar area), 3 (staircase), 4 (bottom center), 5 (bottom-right corner), 6 (bottom-right wall), 7 (left wall), 8 (top-left corner), 9 (center of Library), 10 (left wall of Library), 11 (bottom-left of Auditorium), and 12 (right wall of Auditorium).