

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **OCT 5 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Midwest Oil Company Hotel

and/or common Casper Women's Club House

**2. Location**

street & number 136 East Sixth Street 136 E. 6th St. not for publication

city, town Casper vicinity of N/A

state Wyoming code 056 county Natrona code 025

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>n/a</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>n/a</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Daughters of the American Revolution, Beta Sigma Phi, American Association of University Women, Fine Arts, Women's Departmental Club, Casper Women's Club

street & number 136 East Sixth Street

city, town Casper vicinity of N/A state Wyoming 82601

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Natrona County Courthouse

street & number 200 N. Center St.

city, town Casper state Wyoming 82601

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Casper Women's Clubhouse is located on Sixth Street in Casper, Wyoming. The clubhouse, constructed in the early 1920's, is a red brick structure with a rectangular shaped plan and is two stories in height with a full basement. The roof is hipped and is covered with tile, the cornice is boxed and heavy decorative brackets are evident under the eaves. The windows are double hung, and the fenestration is regular in appearance. Windows on the first story are 1 over 16 lights while windows on the second are eight over one. Very decorative terra cotta trim with floral rosettes surround each window. An elegant entry with terra cotta pilasters, egg and dart molding, and mock pediment accent the primary facade; a single wood door with beveled glass is part of the entrance. On the first story two smaller semi-circular windows flank the door, above the entry three larger semi-circular windows with terra cotta flower boxes help to focus attention on the entrance. The elegant use of the terra cotta flower boxes help to focus attention on the entrance. The elegant use of the terra cotta ornamentation makes the building one of Casper's most distinctive structures from the 1920's. Through the years the clubhouse maintained its architectural integrity. Rather eclectic in appearance, the building was designed by the local architecture firm of Garbutt and Weidner. Hallmarks of the Garbutt and Weidner "style" include lots of attention to detail with very ornamental moldings, sidelights, and fan-lights. This clubhouse is similar to other Garbutt and Weidner structures such as the Elks Club, Natrona County High School, St. Anthony's Church, Townsend Hotel, Rex Theatre and Exchange Building.

The woods used in the interior are oak, pine, and fir. Lovely woodwork and ornamental iron railings are featured in the staircase and upper balcony. An ornate plaster frieze is found in the drawing room, dining room, and hallway on the first floor. The lighting fixtures and the furnishings have attained "collector's item" status over the years. The basement area was once the site of the billiard room. A false floor has been added to a portion to create a stage; this is now called the "little theatre room." Other portions of this area are used for storage, a kitchen for residents, laundry room and furnace room.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca. 1920 **Builder/Architect** Garbutt and Weidner/Architects

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Portions of Natrona County, Wyoming, experienced rapid growth during the early twentieth century; traditionally an agricultural area, various factors influenced this expansion. The creation of Midwest Oil Company and the completion of a pipeline from Salt Creek to Casper in 1911 acted as a tremendous economic catalyst for the county. Casper's population dramatically increased between the years of 1910 to 1920 and the influx of newcomers strained local housing and recreational facilities. Midwest Refinery Company constructed a hotel for its employees around 1920 which was utilized for both housing and social purposes. Later, Standard Oil purchased the hotel. During the twenties, Natrona County's oil production leveled off and by 1930 the world-wide economic depression had a profound effect on the local oil industry. In response to the depressed conditions, Standard Oil sold their hotel to a local women's group. The women's organization purchased the structure for an extremely low price of \$8,000. The hotel was to be utilized as a center for a number of women's organizations. For the last fifty years, the Casper Women's Clubhouse played a significant role in the social life of this isolated Wyoming community. As the hub for social and humanitarian functions, projects and activities sponsored by these influential clubs of Casper affected the entire community. Currently, the building is owned by six different civic and social organizations, they include: Beta Sigma Phi Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, Casper Women's Club, American Association of University Women, Fine Arts, and Women's Departmental Club. Unfortunately, the boom and bust growth cycle of Casper has helped to eliminate many of the city's earlier commercial buildings and only a few 1920's structures remain standing in the commercial section. Garbutt and Weidner's design and ornamental detailing render the clubhouse an architecturally distinctive building. As an important recreational center for the community, the Casper Women's Clubhouse is historically significant due to its association with social and humanitarian projects from the 1930's to the present day.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ADDENDUM

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Casper, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Due to Casper's growth and the close proximity of surrounding buildings, only the building known today as the Casper Women's Club House located at 136 East Sixth Street is included within the nomination's boundaries. The structure is located in the Casper Addition, Block 25, on the south half of Lot 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sue Gloriod

organization Board of Trustees/Casper Women's Clubhouse

date October 2, 1982

street & number 333 North Ash - Apt. 212A

telephone 234-0556

city or town Casper

state Wyoming 82601

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Alvin J. Bastrom

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/29/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/17/83

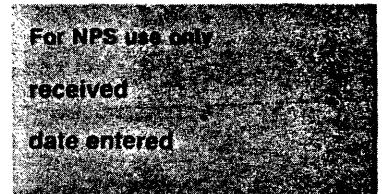
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The following paragraphs outline the historic and specific accomplishments of each organization.

The American Association of University Women is over 100 years old, the Casper Branch was established in 1934. AAUW helps fund fellowships for women at the doctoral and post-doctoral levels, as well as grants for women returning to school. Awards are made to women in this country and many foreign countries. A state-wide survey was made several years ago to identify those public buildings with facilities to accommodate the handicapped. AAUW received a citation from the Governor's office. Members work with United Way, Blue Envelope, and Meals on Wheels, Association for the Handicapped, and many churches. One member, Helen Wampler, help found the YMCA, League of Women Voters, and the Special Olympics program in Casper.

The Daughters of the American Revolution have awarded "C" pins to high school students for academic excellence ever since 1922. Good Citizens awards (\$100 U.S. Bonds) are made to students each year. Memorial benches have been placed in Highland Cemetery and on the Casper College grounds; the entrance to Fort Casper is marked with an arch provided by DAR. A monument at Sacajawea's grave at Fort Washakie was placed by this group. DAR is responsible for the observance of Constitution Week in September of each year.

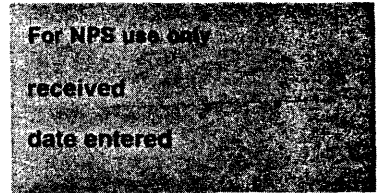
The Casper Women's Departmental Club is one of the oldest clubs in Casper. Some organizers were: Mrs. J.W. McIntyre, Mrs. P.C. Nicolaysen, Mrs. C.D. Murane, Mrs. D. Josendahl, Mrs. A.E. Winter, Mrs. B.B. Brooks, Mrs. R.D. Dane, and Mrs. Wm. Emmel, who continues to be active (since 1922). In earlier times these women entertained new citizens; this developed into the present program each September that honors newly naturalized citizens.

Nationally, the General Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in 1890; Wyoming's first Women's Club was formed in Cheyenne in 1896. The Casper Women's Club is the oldest women's service club in Casper and the second literary and social club in the state. Organized December 16, 1907, at the home of Effie Rogers, with 15 charter members, among whom were: Mrs. W.A. Blackmore, Mrs. F.A. Byram, Mrs. M.C. Keith, Miss Bertha Imhof (Josendahl), Mrs. J.W. Longshore, Mrs. Wm. McIntosh, Miss Sue Merrian (Cooper), Mrs. P.C. Nicolaysen, Mrs. Hugh L. Patton, Mrs. John T. Scott, Mrs. M.R. Stover, and Mrs. W.O. Wilson. These women have programs on a variety of topics, have made lap robes and bibs for older people in hospitals, supported a state-wide high school artists' contest, and tried to save the old Goose Egg Ranch House.

Beta Sigma Phi has furnished a room at the hospital (1967); taken food baskets to families at Christmas and Thanksgiving; contributed to Casper College for scholarships; participated in Meals on Wheels Craft Fair; given proceeds to Meals on Wheels, and contributed time and money to Hospice program. One member as head of Hospital Auxiliary (Pat Thorson) put on a dinner dance to raise funds for Lifeline -

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a communication system for the elderly and handicapped that gives them immediate access to help. BSP assists at nursing homes and plans to 'sponsor' the gift shop at Paradise Valley nursing home. BSP also donated to Women's Self Help Center.

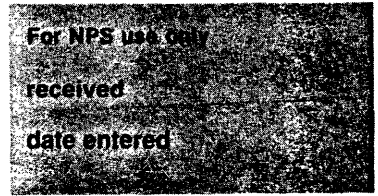
Fine Arts by their interest in music, literature, and drama have encouraged others in the community to develop their talents. This group has provided its own productions of "Chorus Line" and "Cats" in recent years, both of which were presented in the Little Theatre Room at the clubhouse.

Other groups have called this clubhouse 'home'. G. "Ed" Bille tells of the Men's Literary Club: "The club met at the Casper Women's Clubhouse for 25-30 years. This club was composed of business men, lawyers, news people, doctors, and men of many professions who were interested in preparing papers and discussing world, state and local affairs...Generally speaking, the Literary Club made a fine educational contribution to the City of Casper."

A 1958 clipping in one of Frances Seeley Webb's scrapbooks says: "...an estimated 5,000 persons attended the 191 meetings held at the clubhouse during the past year..." It further states that three Association presidents of AAUW and Grand Regents of the DAR have been entertained here, as well as Mrs. Herbert Hoover, in 1937, when she was head of the Girl Scouts.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Rogers, Mary Read. (editor). Our Heritage: The Wyoming Federation of Women's Clubs.  
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MISCELLANEOUS

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