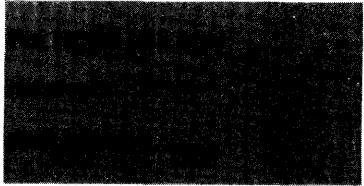


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

**1. Name**

historic Deer Lodge American Women's League Chapter House

and/or common Deer Lodge Women's Club House

**2. Location**

street & number 802 Missouri Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Deer Lodge N/A vicinity of congressional district Western 1

state Montana code 030 county Powell code 077

**3. Classification**

**4. Owner of Property**

name Women's Club of Deer Lodge, Doreen Kofer, President

street & number 802 Missouri Avenue

city, town Deer Lodge N/A vicinity of state Montana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Powell County Courthouse

street & number Missouri Avenue

city, town Deer Lodge state Montana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

---

## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

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

The Deer Lodge Women's Club House was built according to the specifications of a Class III American Women's League Chapter House (see enclosed floor plan) except the chimney was placed in the center of the building between the kitchen and general meeting room rather than at the far end of the east wing. The building is laid out in a basic cruciform plan with the gable roofs intersecting at the center. The overall measurements of the building are 52'x52'.

The exterior of this Prairie style bungalow retains complete integrity. The building is set on a concrete footing and the walls are finished in gray stucco. The modest decorative exterior woodwork includes applied mock-half timbering on the gable ends, paired wooden support brackets for the gable overhangs, and decorative vergeboards with a spherical pendants placed at the apex. Horizontality is expressed by the use of heavy piers to support the porch roof, a wide chimney rising slightly above the roof at the center of the building, low planters set at the ends of the east and west wings, an emphasized water table which encircles the building at the foundation line, and a gently pitched overhanging roof.

Paired casement windows, each with 8 lights, flank the entrance doorway. Additional pairs are placed to the east and west of the porch on the north side and on either side of the kitchen on the rear. Bands of four 8-light casement windows are placed at the ends of the east and west wings. Two 6/6 double hung windows light the kitchen and the bathroom on the south side of the building. A rear entrance is provided from the kitchen.

The interior of the Women's Club reflects an Arts and Crafts stylistic influence. One enters the foyer, designated the "sales room" on the floor plan, from the porch. Through heavy wood panel doors with beveled glass side lights, the foyer opens into the general meeting room. Exposed beams and dark stained wood moldings are off set by the rough textured, cream colored plaster walls. The original, delicately applied stencil wall pattern is still in excellent condition. Folding wooden doors may be closed to separate a smaller meeting space from the general meeting room, or opened to accomodate larger gatherings of people.

The Class III Chapter House was not designed with central heating or a basement. These features were left to the discretion and expense of the local chapters. The Deer Lodge Women's Club decided to excavate a partial basement to accomodate a gas furnace which was installed in 1911. The electrical system was updated in 1945 to allow for 220 voltage. This same year, a small closet beside the kitchen was converted into a bathroom. In 1964, the original roof was replaced with asphalt shingling.

The building has been very carefully maintained through the years and except for some minor interior redecorating, remains very much as it was when originally constructed.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1910 **Builder/Architect** O'Neil and Bock, contractors/  
Helfensteller, Hirsch and Watson, architects

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Deer Lodge American Women's League Chapter House, built in 1910, is significant due to its association with the short-lived national League and because it has served for over 70 years as a center for women's civic and cultural activities within the community. The bungalow club house exhibits Prairie School and Arts and Crafts stylistic influences which were achieving popularity in America at the time and has been very carefully maintained through the years, retaining complete historic integrity.

The American Women's League was founded in 1908 by Edward Gardner Lewis, a St. Louis promoter and publisher of numerous magazines aimed at female readership. Women's suffrage was one of the main organizing issues for the League. Lewis envisioned the American Women's league as a fine way to promote his publications while advancing and protecting American womanhood through the League's various institutions including a correspondence school called the People's University with the chapter houses serving as branches of the University, an art academy, a Postal Library of books and phonograph records, a National Women's Exchange to act as an outlet for members' handicrafts, a retreat for widows, orphans, and the elderly, and a loan and relief fund.

Membership to the League was gained by selling or pledging to sell within two years \$52 worth of subscriptions to Lewis' publications. The League promised to construct a chapter house if the local membership could furnish the lot. Although a large number of chapters met these qualifications, only 39 chapter houses, located in 16 states, were built. Lewis hired the St. Louis architectural firm of Helfensteller, Hirsch and Watson to prepare plans and specifications for 5 classes of chapter houses; the type of house to be built in a community depended upon population and membership. The Deer Lodge chapter house is a Class III type. A Class I chapter house was constructed in the nearby community of Avon. The architectural plans for these chapter houses reflect the influence of the Prairie School with open interior floor plans and a dominant horizontal character of the exterior design. The building materials, interior details and furnishings exemplified the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement taking place in America since soon after the turn of the Century.

A number of women's clubs in Deer Lodge banded together to gather the requisite subscriptions to qualify for an American Women's League Chapter House. Mr. C. D. Terret, owner of a lumber company in Deer Lodge, donated the lot. Since the League decided more land was needed, the Deer Lodge club purchased the adjacent lot with League financing and a pledge to sell 25 additional subscriptions. A local contracting firm was hired to execute the plans sent from St. Louis.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Meyer, Pauline, Keep Your Face to the Sunshine, A Lost Chapter in the History of Women's Suffrage, Alcott Press, Edwardsville, Illinois 1980  
 "The Women's Republic " 1911, University City, St. Louis, Missouri

# 10. Geographical Data **BOUNDARY NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property less than one  
 Quadrangle name Deer Lodge, Montana Quadrangle scale 1:62500

**UMT References**

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Lot 1 and 2, Block 1 Central Addition, City of Deer Lodge  
 T7N, R9W, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 33

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Genevieve Hostetter, V. P. and Patricia Bick  
 organization Deer Lodge Women's Club date \_\_\_\_\_  
 street & number 219 Claggett Street telephone 846-3089  
 city or town Deer Lodge state Montana 59722

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

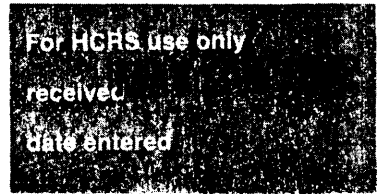
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marcella Steffy  
 title Deputy SHPO date 3-10-82



**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

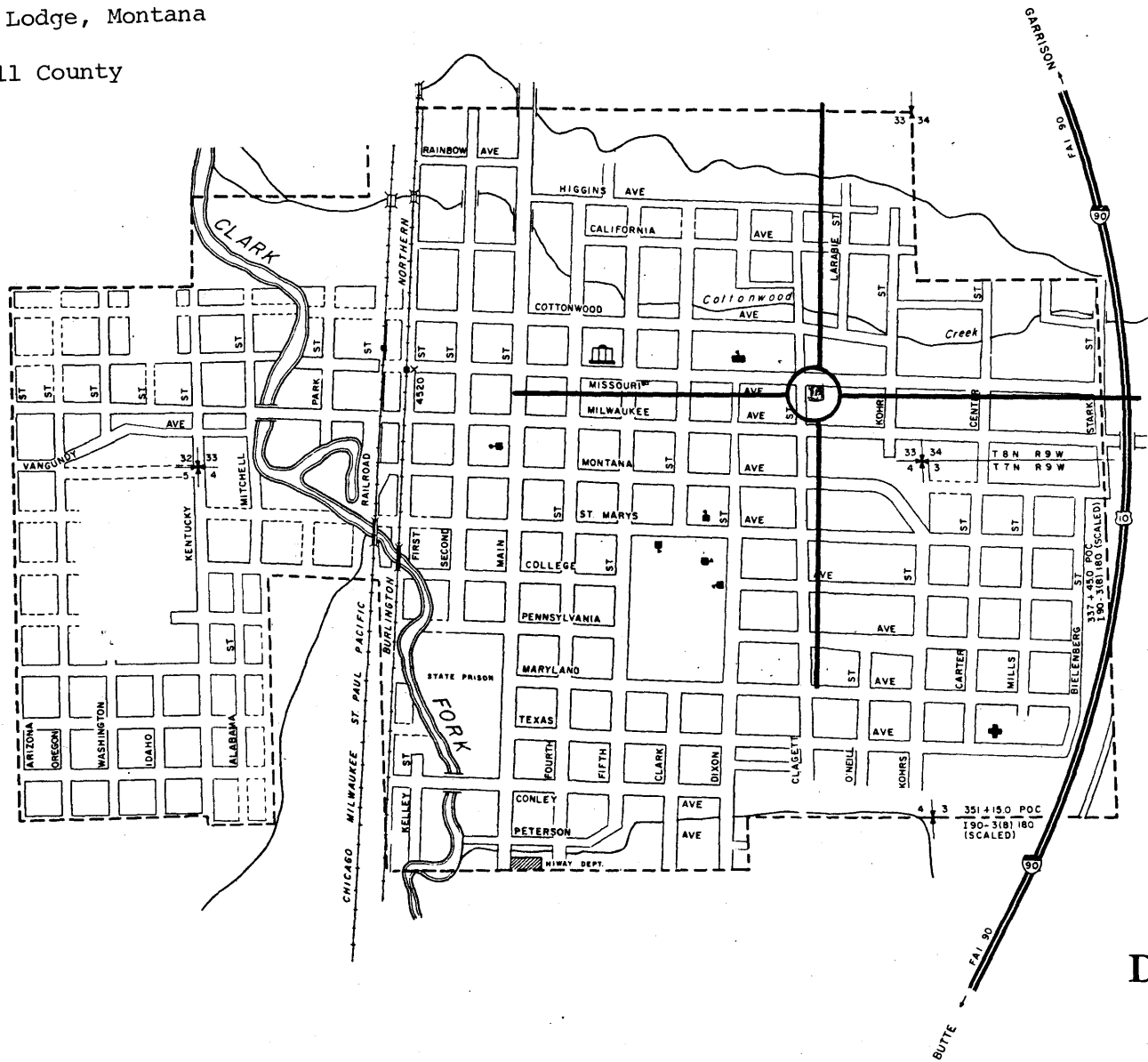
Page 2

A financial reversal sent Lewis' publishing business into bankruptcy by 1911. This spelled financial difficulties for the Deer Lodge chapter as the workmen and creditors had yet to be remunerated. Alma Beilenberg Higgins, one of the founding members, took the problem to her father who decided to buy the mortgage and donate the property as well as the building to the women of Deer Lodge to commemorate the memory of his other daughter Augusta Kohrs Beilenberg who had died in 1901.

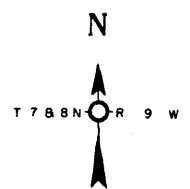
All activities of the Deer Lodge Women's Club have centered around this building. The club has hosted numerous art, music, and literary events, participated in city beautification and school programs, sponsored scholarships, well baby clinics, and flower shows, collected fat for World War II, and launched numerous fund raising drives for tuberculosis research and many other causes. The building continues to serve the women of Deer Lodge in its original capacity, as a place to meet, organize, and stage public presentations.

Deer Lodge American Women's  
League Chapter House  
802 Missouri Ave.  
Deer Lodge, Montana

Powell County



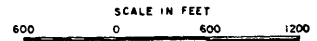
- LEGEND**
- PROPOSED ROAD
  - ▨ GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD
  - ▧ LOW TYPE BITUMINOUS ROAD
  - ▩ PAVED ROAD
  - ▬ DIVIDED ROAD - TRAFFIC FLOW
  - FA1 FEDERAL AID INTERSTATE SYSTEM
  - FAP FEDERAL AID PRIMARY SYSTEM
  - FAS FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM
  - 90 INTERSTATE ROUTE MARKER
  - 13 U.S. NUMBERED ROUTE MARKER
  - 382 STATE ROUTE MARKER
  - OTHER ROUTE MARKER
  - CORPORATE BOUNDARY LINE
  - NON-EXISTENT DEDICATED STREET
  - CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
  - URBAN EXTENSION BOUNDARY
  - RAILROAD AND STATION
  - POST OFFICE
  - COURT HOUSE
  - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
  - HIGH SCHOOL
  - HOSPITAL
  - X 2020 ELEVATION



**MAY 28 1982**

CITY PLAT  
**DEER LODGE**  
POWELL COUNTY  
**MONTANA**

1970 CENSUS 4,306



Copies of this map are available for a nominal cost at the Montana Department of Highways—Helena, Montana 59601

REVISED DEC. 31, 1976