

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001524

Date Listed: 10/4/90

Coolidge Woman's Club  
Property Name

Pinal  
County

AZ  
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.

*Autawietta A. Lee*  
for Signature of the Keeper

10/26/90  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Description: Under materials, stucco should be listed for the "wall," rather than mudbrick (adobe).

This information was confirmed with Jay Ziemann of the Arizona SHPO.

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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



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Coolidge Woman's Club  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 240 West Pinkley Avenue NA  not for publication  
city, town Coolidge NA  vicinity  
state Arizona code AZ county Pinal code 021 zip code 85228

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Shoreen Kessler 8/28/70  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 10/4/90  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/ClubhouseSocial/Civi

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Clubhouse

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Early 20th Century Revival/ Spanish

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Colonial Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Rockwalls Mudbrick (adobe)

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roof Shingleother Hardwood floors

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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Summary

Constructed in 1928, the Coolidge Woman's Club is a Spanish Colonial Revival style building located in the town of Coolidge, Pinal County, Arizona. Well repaired and maintained over the years, the building has retained a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the historic period (1928 through 1940).

Setting

The clubhouse is located at 240 West Pinkley Avenue in downtown Coolidge, one block north of Central Avenue and one-half block west of Main Street. A block from the town's business district, the building is situated on a large parcel measuring 140 by 100 ft and consisting of one whole lot and two half-lots. The clubhouse occupies the central lot (Lot 14), with small parking facilities occupying the half-lots (Lots 13 and 15) to either side of it. The only vegetation which the property has had in historic or modern times are three palm trees along the main facade (south elevation).

Architectural Description

The architect for the Coolidge Woman's Club was C. Louis Kelley of Phoenix. The original clubhouse was rectangular in plan, measuring 67 by 34 ft and built of adobe. Its foundation walls were of rock two ft wide, with mudbrick walls above measuring 18 in at their bases. Exterior walls were finished in pebble dash stucco. The building had a simple gabled roof of low pitch covered with wooden shingles. Wooden windows (opening like French doors) with iron balconies to either side of an iron-grilled front door, with wrought iron lantern above, served as ornamentation along the main facade. The west facade had two small windows toward the south and three larger windows toward the north. Opening in the east facade consisted of two small windows toward the south, a side door in mid-building, and three larger windows toward the north.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Social History

1928 to 1940

1928

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

C. Louis Kelley

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The Coolidge Woman's Club is significant under Criterion A at the local level for the important role it has played in the social history of Coolidge. The clubhouse was the first building constructed in Coolidge for public activities. It housed many civic groups and soon became the social center of the community. Its period of significance, 1928 through 1940, reflects the continuing importance of the building from its date of construction through the end of the historic period.

Historic Context

Women's Clubs in Arizona

Women's clubs have existed in Arizona since the late 1800s. Two of the earliest women's clubs included the Prescott History Study Club formed in 1891 and the Safford Improvement Club formed in 1896. On November 18, 1901, five women's clubs met in Phoenix and formed an alliance called the Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs. The charter members of this Federation were the Woman's Club of Bisbee, the Ladies Village Improvement Club (Florence), the Monday Club (Prescott), the Woman's Club (Phoenix), and the Woman's Club (Tucson). In 1927 the Coolidge Woman's Club sent the first delegate to the Southern District Federated Women's Clubs Convention at Willcox, Arizona and paid \$10.00 toward her expenses. The following year three delegates were sent to the State Federation of Women's Clubs Convention. Whether or not help for their expenses was given is not determined, but it is reasonable to surmise that it was.

In 1916 The Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs boasted forty-four affiliated clubs with a total membership of 2,227 women. While each club had its own priorities concerning its mission or goals, according to Margaret Wheeler Ross, President of the Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs between 1914 and 1916, there were several common themes. She states that club women:

"have had their part in the making of the laws for the protection of women and children; and for the betterment of the state morally. They have ever been on the lookout for the raising of the educational standard; and have always worked

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Kelm, Arnold R., 1941 "The History of Coolidge and Vicinity". Printer-Cuthers - a thesis submitted to the faculty, of the Department of History and Political Science in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in the Graduate College, University of Arizona, Tucson. 82 pages. Copy can be read at the Coolidge Historical Museum, 161 Harding Ave, Coolidge, Arizona. Copy at the Coolidge Public Library, 160 West Central Ave, Coolidge, Arizona.

Coolidge Townsite Amended, Lot 14, Block 13 and East 1/2 of Lot #13, Block 13, Town of Coolidge, Parcel #20505177, Section 22, Township 58, Range 8 E, Pinal County, Arizona - Pinal County Recorders Office.

Minutes of the Coolidge Woman's Club meetings since 1928 to the present, 1990.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:  
State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona  
State Parks, Phoenix

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	2
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4	5	1	5	6	10
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3	16	4	18	8	19	10
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

"E 1/2 of Lot 15, All of Lot 14, and the W 1/2 of Lot 13, Block 13, Coolidge Townsite Amended Plat" The boundary is shown as the "property line" as indicated on the accompanying map entitled "Coolidge Woman's Club."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the whole lot (Lot 14) and two half-lots (13 and 15) that have historically been associated with the property known as the Coolidge Woman's Club. This parcel measures 140 ft N-S by 100 ft E-W.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Ina Reed  
organization Coolidge Woman's Club date 5-16-90  
street & number 240 West Pinkley telephone 602-723-3052  
city or town Coolidge state Arizona zip code 85228

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"The clubhouse was built more with co-operation than with money," Mrs. P. W. Hamilton, chair of the building committee, stated in 1929. "The building as it stands now [1929] cost \$3,500," she said at the dedication ceremony, "and we had only \$2800 in money." Indeed, contributed services and supplies counted heavily in the construction of the building. Lot 14 was donated by R. J. Jones, the adobe bricks were manufactured on-site by George Laymon, and carpentry was donated by Tom Wall. The Hammond Lumber Company of Los Angeles contributed the imposing, iron-grilled front door.

The floor plan of the 1928 building as designed by architect Kelley was rather simple. Its southern 18 ft were to be allotted to a reception area to the left (west) and a "lounging room" to the right (east). One would pass through a central corridor between and past these little rooms to a 48 by 34 ft meeting room terminating with a stage along the north wall. However, insufficient building funds caused the floor plan to be simplified even more: the stage was never constructed.

Alterations

Except for the following changes, the clubhouse looks as it did when constructed.

In 1933 the "lounging room" at the southeast corner was partitioned into a kitchen and restroom. In 1941 a hardwood floor was installed over an original pine floor.

The most substantial alteration occurred in 1949, when a woodframe addition measuring 18 by 14 ft was constructed at the northeast corner of the clubhouse, providing space for another restroom and two storage rooms. The addition was covered in pebble dash stucco to match the rest of the building. Its gabled roof, although approximately two feet lower than that of the main building, was pitched and shingled to blend with the original architecture. The addition is not visible from the main (south) and west elevations, and is unobtrusive from the east and north elevations.

In 1974 the ceiling was dropped, acoustical tile was installed, and air conditioning was added. In 1975 three wooden posts were installed down the center of the meeting room to help support the roof. In 1958 and 1966 the roof was replaced with in-kind materials. In modern times (exact date unknown) a wheelchair ramp with handrail was constructed leading to the French door/window to the east of the main door on the south facade. The door/window of this opening remains intact, although wheelchair conversion has necessitated removal of the original balcony grill. During some months the main door is partially blocked from view by an aluminum screen door. The screen door does not enhance the character of the building, but it is easily removeable/reversible.

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### Integrity

The Coolidge Woman's Club retains a high degree of integrity. It has remained in continuous use as a women's clubhouse and community meeting house since its construction in 1928. The wheelchair ramp along the main facade and the woodframe construction at the northeast corner have had little visual impact on the building. It looks remarkably as it did when constructed in the late 1920s.

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for civic improvement. While the federation has never assumed to be a charitable organization, its work along the lines of philanthropy has been extensive."

The local clubs subscribed to the philosophy of their parent national organization, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which asked its members to "Open your club doors, make all women welcome, make of them social centers".

Ironically, the General Federation of Women's Clubs' emphasis on self-culture and self-improvement stopped short of political involvement. The subject of women's suffrage was officially excluded from the realm of topics allowed to members for debate. Allegations from the press that the Federation was composed of "disciples of suffrage" were met with indignant denials from its leaders. While a woman was not barred from joining the Federation for her political views, she was not allowed to "agitate the question". In fact, the issue was perceived as so volatile, that in 1915, the Constitution of the General Federation incorporated an amendment which stated that: "Clubs shall not be eligible for membership in this federation which are political or sectarian in purpose." Nonetheless, woman's suffrage in Arizona was granted in 1912, eight years before women got the vote nation-wide.

#### The Coolidge Woman's Club

The Town of Coolidge, Arizona, was founded in 1925. The railroad was aligned through the present area of Coolidge in 1924 and plans were underway in Congress for the establishment of the San Carlos Irrigation Project with the building of Coolidge Dam on the Gila River.

On September 27, 1926, a group of women from the town and surrounding countryside met at the home of the Postmistress, Mrs. W. E. Nutt, and organized the Coolidge Improvement Club for the cultural and social betterment of themselves and their new community. On November 20, 1926 the group joined the Southern District Federated Women's Clubs of Arizona and changed the name to the "Coolidge Woman's Club". Thus these frontier women became a part of the larger national movement for the formation of woman's clubs. In 1927 a lot was donated by Mr. R. J. Jones, the founder of the original townsite, for the specific purpose of building a Woman's Club building. Mr. Jones was interested in having a cultural and educational meeting place for public groups in his very young town.

The building was started on June 1, 1928. It is Early 20th Century Revival/Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture. It was built of adobe block from materials obtained on the site. No other large building of this architectural style remains in Coolidge.

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The first cornerstone laid in Coolidge was in this building. The building was completed on September 1, 1928.

It is a tribute to the early founders of this town and club that these people were so interested in the cultural development and welfare of the residents of this very new townsite that they had established a Woman's Club and built a building when the town was only three (3) years old. From that time to the present, this building has been a center for area and community educational, cultural and other activities.

In 1929 the building was rented to the Elementary School before a school house was built. It was also rented to the American Legion and as the only local theatre. The Club also started community card parties that have continued to the present. In 1930 the Club started serving meals to the newly formed Coolidge Lions Club and this went on for many years. The only library in town was established here in the same year and was the only public library available until the Coolidge City Library was established in 1956 with books from the Woman's Club Library.

Parties for school children and a reception for teachers as well as a baby clinic were started in about 1931. In 1934 a junior department of Women's Club was started for younger women and later became Coolidge Junior Woman's Club and their meetings and activities were held in the building.

In 1935 the building was rented as a High School until a suitable building was built.

In 1940 the debt was paid off and the mortgage burned.

In the ensuing years the building was used for Red Cross activities, Girl Scout Meetings, a very busy well-child clinic, chest X-rays, Lions and Rotary meals and meetings, church groups and many other social activities such as weddings, receptions and dances.

Since it was built in 1928 this building has been of significant value to the town of Coolidge and surrounding area as a meeting place for social and cultural activities and for the benefit of the town of Coolidge.

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Davis, Mrs. D. S. (Beth), "History of the Coolidge Woman's Club 1926-1952, from the minutes of the meetings." Copy at the Coolidge Woman's Club, Coolidge, Arizona. Was placed in the Coolidge Woman's Club Library, May 1954, at clubhouse when library was given to the city. Not printed, typed in 7 X 9 notebook.

Ross, Margaret Wheeler "The Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs, Arizona, Vol. 6, No. 2" (September 1916), pp 3, 4, 14.

Yearbook of the Coolidge Woman's Club from club year 1927-28 to present, at club house.

Nowell, Ethel S. Typed paper written in February 1958 for the National Community Achievement Contest of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Copy in club house.

Brown, Margaret, "History of Coolidge Woman's Club from 1952-1976." Stored at club house.

Coolidge Examiner, newspaper. 1927 to present.

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Photo 1:

- 1) Coolidge Woman's Club
- 2) Coolidge, AZ
- 3) Unknown
- 4) September, 1928
- 5) Coolidge Woman's Club
- 6) View to north/northeast.

Photo 2:

- 1) Coolidge Woman's Club
- 2) Coolidge, AZ
- 3) Henry S. Wand
- 4) April, 1990
- 5) Coolidge Woman's Club
- 6) View to north

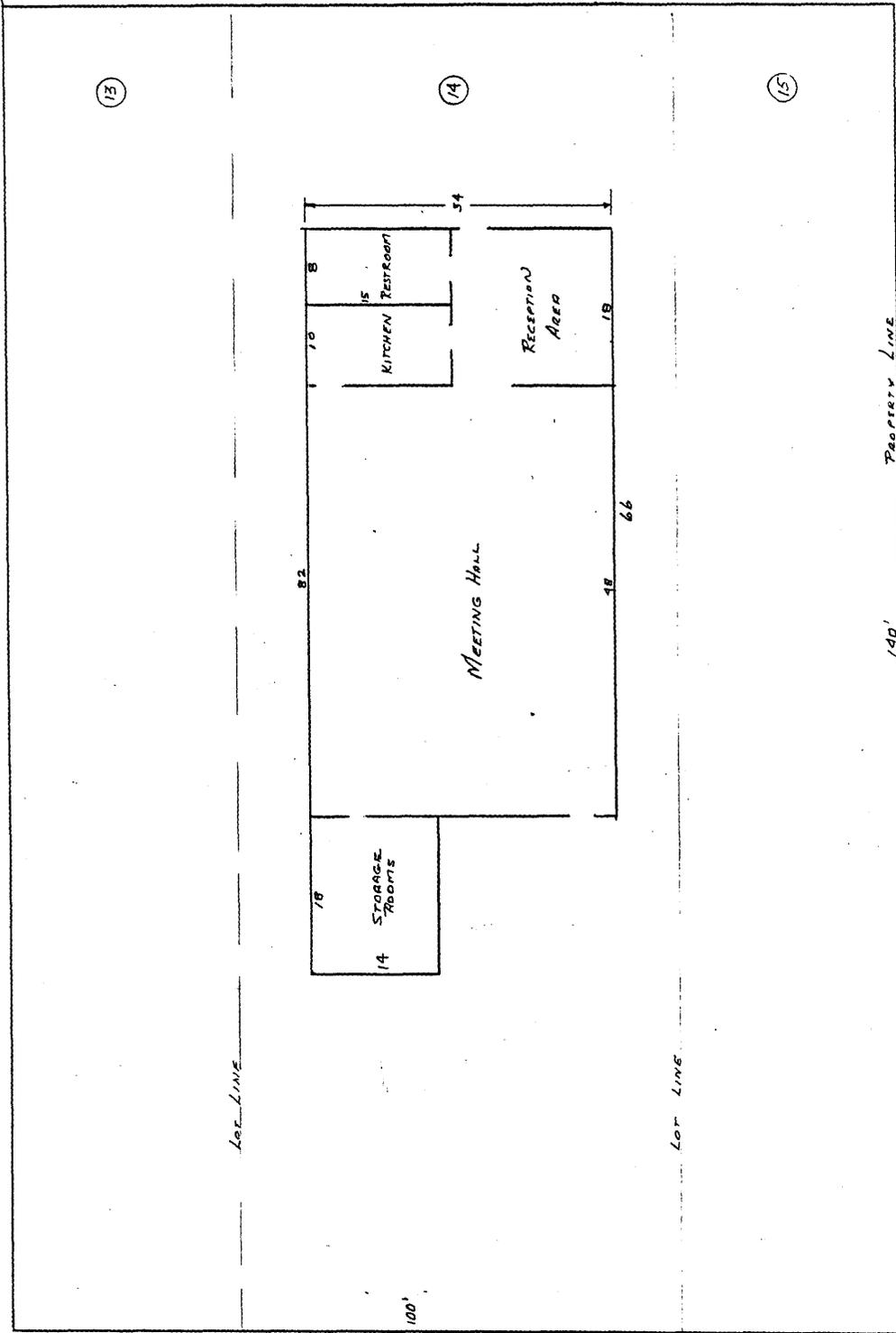
Photo 3:

- 1) Coolidge Woman's Club
- 2) Coolidge, AZ
- 3) Henry S. Wand
- 4) April, 1990
- 5) Coolidge Woman's Club
- 6) View to northwest

Photo 4:

- 1) Coolidge Woman's Club
- 2) Coolidge, AZ
- 3) Henry S. Wand
- 4) April, 1990
- 5) Coolidge Woman's Club
- 6) View to northeast

# PINKLEY



COOLIDGE WOMANS  
CLUB  
240 W. PINKLEY  
COOLIDGE, ARIZONA

LEGAL: E 1/2 Lot 15  
ALL OF Lot 14  
W 1/2 Lot 13  
BLOCK 13

COOLIDGE TOWNSITE REMODED  
(ORIGINAL - JONES TOWNSITE)

