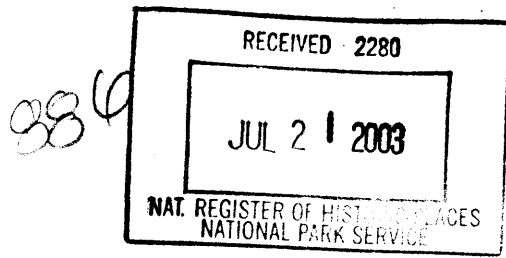


(Oct. 1990)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



1. NAME OF PROPERTY Silver City Woman's Club

HISTORIC NAME: Silver City Woman's Club
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 411 Silver Heights Boulevard **NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A
CITY OR TOWN: Silver City **VICINITY:** N/A
STATE: New Mexico **CODE:** NM **COUNTY:** Grant **CODE:** 017 **ZIP CODE:** 88062

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Katherine Slich

Signature of certifying official

17 July 2003

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this 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]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
SEP 2 2003

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: New Mexico Federation Club of Women's Club
Buildings in New Mexico

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL: meeting hall

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19th CENURY AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Pueblo
(Revival)

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE
WALLS STUCCO
ROOF ASPHALT
OTHER WOOD

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- 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 VALUE, 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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Social History; Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1936-1953

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1936

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Richard Tatsch, builder

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-8).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-9).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- 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 (*Historic Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Silver City Woman's Club

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing
 1 12 075552 3630310

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-10)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-10)

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: David Kammer, Ph.D.

ORGANIZATION: Consulting historian

DATE: May 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 521 Aliso Drive, NE

TELEPHONE: (505) 266-0586

CITY OR TOWN: Albuquerque

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 87108

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS see attached Silver City Quadrangle U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series topographic map

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-11)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Silver City Woman's Club

STREET & NUMBER: 411 Silver Heights Boulevard

TELEPHONE: (505) 388-5186

CITY OR TOWN: Silver City

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 88062

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Silver City Woman's Club
Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico

Description

The Silver City Woman's Club is a one-story building with a flat roof. Located in the Silver Heights Addition on a rise slightly above the highway, its front grounds are attractively landscaped with the sides and rear of the property serving as a parking area. Since its construction in 1936, the building has been in continuous use as a gathering place for many of the community's social and voluntary activities and is considered a landmark within the city. Typical of many public and organizational buildings constructed in New Mexico during the 1930s, the building incorporates a number of details and materials associated with the Pueblo Revival style including adobe brick construction, exposed *vigas* and ceiling beams. One of the best examples of the style in the community, the Silver City Woman's Club has undergone only minor alterations to its original plan and retains a high degree of integrity as to setting and location, design, materials, and workmanship.

Facing on U.S. 180 in the Silver Heights Addition approximately a mile from downtown Silver City, at the time of the lot's purchase in 1923, the parcel was regarded as "far out in the country" (NMFWC 1991:48). As the city has grown, the area has evolved into a long commercial strip extending along the highway. Located on a hill rising above the highway, the lot is irregularly shaped, approximating a triangle framed by local roadways. A parking lot flanks the building's sides and extends across the rear of the property. Low masonry retaining walls and a sidewalk extending some 50 ft. from the highway to the entry have been added in recent decades. Near the entry, the sidewalk is joined by walkways extending to the side parking lots. Evergreen trees and bushes, some planted as memorials to past club members, fill the two front plots. A sign reading "Silver City Woman's Club" flanked by two metal posts is located near the southwest corner of the property.

The building has a concrete foundation and is one story with a flat roof. Characteristic of the Pueblo Revival style, the parapet is curvilinear with a slight decorative bell tower rising above the main entry and a similar decorative detail at the southwest corner of the building (see Photo 1). The varied parapet is further evident with the stepped roof at the entry porch. The thick walls of the white stucco-faced building suggest its adobe brick construction. Decorative *vigas* project above each of the three window groupings and the main entry along the front elevation. Fenestration includes grouped wood-sash double-hung windows with 6/6 lights in the kitchen and at the rear elevation of the meeting room. The door at the main entry is a double three-panel wood door with multiple upper lights. Two double wood frame multi-light glass doors located along the south side of the auditorium also line the front elevation but are no longer used for security reasons. Of note are the five-light transoms above the main entry and the two double glass doors that the builder slightly tapered as if to suggest lintels often placed above windows in the Pueblo Revival style (see Photo 2).

The walls at some of the building's corners and at the main entry have slight pilasters. With three steps and a recently installed ramp, the main entry has two exposed sides both framed with exposed beam and corbel supports. The eastern exposure leads to a small patio framed by a three ft. stucco wall lining the auditorium portion of the building. Just beyond the eastern wall of the patio the building has a slight setback denoting the

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Silver City Woman's Club
Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico

stage lining its eastern side. Slight wrought iron railings flank the passage from the main entry to the patio, and original lantern-like wrought iron lighting fixtures appear along the wall. A panel door offers entry to the kitchen along the west elevation.

The plan of the building is an approximate L with a rectangle containing the kitchen, storeroom, bazaar room and utility/mechanical room and bathrooms located along the west side of the building. Perpendicular to this line of small rooms is the rectangular meeting hall extending to the east measuring approximately 43 x 69 ft. Principal features within this large public space are a brick fireplace with a stucco-faced hood located at the center of the north wall and a stage with a crawlspace along the width of the eastern wall. Six milled beams line the ceiling. Apparent along those beams are anchors that formerly held chandeliers that have been removed because of their excess weight. Paintings are also mounted along the walls, including one entitled "Cooke's Peak" (1938) by William Riddle Warner that dates to the one of the early art exhibits held in the building but is not considered a contributing object to the nomination. During the 1990s a carpet was installed over the hardwood floor.

Through the use of mixed parapet lines and stepping the asymmetrical front elevation achieves a harmonious balance. This balance is further achieved with its diverse but compatible window groupings and the vigas articulating them and the patio wall extending from the stepped entry to complete the composition of the front elevation. Although the kitchen has been remodeled and an air cooling system added and the walls were restuccoed, the building retains a high degree of integrity as to plan, design, materials and workmanship, contributing to its feeling as a woman's clubhouse and community meeting space dating to the 1930s.

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Section 8 Page 7

Silver City Woman's Club
Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico

Statement of Significance

The Silver City Woman's Club building is historically significant for its long association with the civic life of Silver City and the contributions the club has made to the community. Since its construction financed by club members in 1935-36, the building has served not only the woman's club but also the entire community of Silver City. It has functioned as a gathering place for cultural, political and social events as well as fund-raising events whose proceeds are used to support women's voluntary projects that benefit both individuals and groups within Silver City. The building is also significant architecturally as a well-preserved example of the Pueblo Revival style popularized in many public and civic buildings during the period of significance. Continuing to serve the woman's club and the community at large, the building is popularly viewed as a Silver City landmark and is eligible for listing at the local level under Criteria A and C.

As discussed in the historic context treating the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs (NMFWC), the late territorial period in New Mexico saw the formation of numerous independent women's club, many of which voted to form the NMFWC in 1911. Reflecting this pattern was the Mother's Club of Silver City organized on April 28, 1909 when 15 women gathered together and chartered the club. Much of the impetus came from Mrs. Clyde Edwin Barton, the club's first president, who had come to Silver City with her husband, a physician, to be with their son, a healthseeker residing at the New Mexico Cottage Sanatorium (*Silver City Independent* 5/23/1911). In 1910, the club voted to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) and then, a year later, participated in the formation of the NMFWC with club member Mrs. M.W. Porterfield elected as one of the state's four delegates to the 1912 GFWC conference in San Francisco.

With its club structure reflecting the departmental organizational practices of the GFWC, the Silver City club embraced four departments including music, literature, home economic and philanthropy. Together, they represented a balance in which the two former departments reflected members' interests in self-improvement and the two latter departments reflected members' voluntary efforts to help their community. Of particular interest were the club's efforts to include both younger and older women so that young mothers might garner advice in raising their children (*Silver City Enterprise* 12/5/1913).

By the 1920s, the club was regularly involved in the distribution of food to needy families and working with the New Mexico Child Welfare Bureau with making home visitations (NMFWC *Yearbook* 1929:54). During these early years, however, finding a permanent meeting place remained an ongoing problem. From its founding through the early 1930s, the club found temporary quarters at the Elks club, the Oddfellows Hall, the Premier Theater, and the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Prior to World War I, the club obtained access to the National Guard Armory, where members spent much time and money cleaning the facility only to be displaced with the outbreak of war.

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Silver City Woman's Club
Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico

By the 1930s, as the club's emphasis shifted to its voluntary activities, members determined that building a Community House for the club and the city offered the best way of solving their need for a permanent meeting place. To a great degree, this decision represented the urging of longtime club members Mrs. Benjamin James Gilchrist, who advocated the need for a clubhouse since the early 1920s. In 1934, members took their first step toward realizing that goal when they purchased four lots in the then distant Silver Heights Addition. Later adding two more lots to complete the parcel, in 1935 the club sought Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA) funding for construction of a clubhouse, conveying the land to the City of Silver City to act as the sponsoring agency for the purpose of qualifying for the federal grant. Tentatively naming the envisioned building Casa Loma, denoting the site's elevated location, the intended project was similar to that later carried out by women's clubs in Alamogordo, Carrizozo, and Fort Sumner where clubs collaborated with local municipalities to construct community houses in which the clubs then acted as operating agents. In Silver City, however, when the grant was denied, the club determined to undertake the construction project independently.

Fortunately, the club encountered Richard Tatsch, a young builder who had recently arrived in Silver City from California. Anxious to display his construction skills in hopes of garnering additional work, Tatsch agreed to build the club at a cost of \$6,100. To augment their building fund, the club borrowed \$2,500 and then undertook a variety of fundraisers while soliciting donations from local businesses. On March 13, 1936 members gathered to dedicate the new clubhouse.

The building they celebrated offered one of the best examples of the Pueblo Revival style found in southwestern New Mexico. Perhaps more familiar with the earlier, less regionally accurate Spanish Mission and Mediterranean Revival styles popular for decades in California, Tatsch conveyed to would-be clients both his familiarity with a regional design vocabulary and the programmatic needs of the woman's club. A varied parapet and judicious stepping of planes combined with a restrained use of vigas placed the building with its elevated location clearly in the public eye. At the same time, a plan that combined two rectangles embracing both private and public spaces permitted the building to serve both the needs of clubwomen and the larger public activities they intended to host. In fact, the small private spaces combined with the larger meeting hall and stage captured the spirit of a woman's club building as "a larger home" that Julia Ward Howe had once extolled (Kammer 2003:E-3).

Almost seven decades later, the Silver City Woman's Club building continues to function as its proponents envisioned. The building continues to serve as a gathering place for meetings, weddings and dinners, cultural events, and polling. It also continues as the center for the volunteerism of the Silver City Woman's Club, which continues to support educational efforts in Grant County through scholarship programs, especially for nursing students and reading programs for the visually handicapped, as well as food distribution programs to needy families. The club and the community regard the building as an important civic landmark and consider register listing as a means of recognizing its historic and ongoing role in Silver City.

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Section 9 Page 9

Silver City Woman's Club
Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico

Bibliography

Kammer, David. *The Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico*. Prepared for the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, 1994.

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_____. *Reflections*. 1991.

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Silver City Woman's Club
Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1-6 of Block 21 of the Silver Heights Addition, Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Silver City Woman's Club.

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Section Photos Page 11

Silver City Woman's Club
Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico

Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs unless otherwise noted:

Silver City Woman's Club
411 Silver Heights Boulevard
Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico
Photographer: David Kammer
December 2002
Location of Negatives: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

Photo 1 of 2
Main façade
Camera facing northwest

Photo 2 of 2
Front elevation patio
Camera facing east