

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

For NPS use only

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

received JAN 4 1985  
date entered

JAN 31 1985

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

**1. Name**

historic Bisbee Woman's Club Clubhouse

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 74 Quality Hill, corner of Ledge and Cross Avenues N/A not for publication

city, town Bisbee N/A vicinity of

state Arizona 85603 code 04 county Cochise code 003

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social

**4. Owner of Property**

name Bisbee Woman's Club

street & number P.O. Box 1735

city, town Bisbee N/A vicinity of state Arizona 85603

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cochise County Recorder's Office

street & number Cochise County Annex Building - Ledge Avenue

city, town Bisbee state Arizona 85603

**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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

#### SUMMARY/CONTEXT

The Bisbee Woman's Club was constructed in 1902 on Quality Hill in Bisbee, Arizona. Designed by Frederick C. Hurst of the local architectural firm of Perkins, Holden, and Hurst, this one story, frame, clapboard-sided structure is a vernacular interpretation of the Craftsman style. Bisbee is located in the Mule Mountains in south-eastern Arizona, approximately six miles from the Mexican border. It is the site of the Lavender Pit, the best known open pit copper mine in the State of Arizona.

#### EXTERIOR

The building's major facade faces north and is a three-bay composition consisting of two sets of diamond-paned casement windows flanking a central portico. The windows are in the upper portion of the facade and rest on a projecting sill molding which wraps the buildings.

The portico is constructed of wood and is supported by two sets of square Tuscan columns resting on a wood deck. Each set consists of three columns located at the outer corners of the deck. The portico has a low-pitched hip roof with exposed sculpted rafter ends detailing the broad eaves and extending beyond the roof line. This detail is consistent on all elevations and is present on two dormers, resulting in a major design element.

The main entry, centered beneath the porch, consists of paired, solid panel doors framed by a simple wood surround. Centered above the entry is a hipped dormer with shingled sides, exposed rafter ends, and two symmetrically placed louvered vents.

Each of the side elevations (east and west) is characterized by six pairs of diamond-paned casements, again located in the upper half of the wall above the sill molding. The east elevation features a second dormer identical to that on the front.

The rear (south) elevation is defined by the solid clapboard surface and a small shed roofed ell projection (a 1951 8'x17' kitchen addition) at the southeast corner. The rear of the addition is finished with shiplap siding, and a steel casement window is positioned in the center. Direct access is provided through a door on the east.

The walls of the Clubhouse are surmounted by a low pitched, hipped roof finished with rolled roofing. The low profile design of the roof gives the building a marked horizontal appearance. This horizontality is reinforced by the narrow clapboard wall sheathing present on all elevations.

#### INTERIOR

In plan, the Clubhouse consists of a central hall flanked by two rooms of equal size. To the right is a small office, and to the left is a storage room. Immediately ahead are double doors leading into the main meeting room.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JAN 31 1985

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 2

The focal point of the meeting room is a small proscenium framed by Tuscan pilasters identical to the columns on the portico. To the left of the stage is a doorway leading to the kitchen, and to the right is another door providing access to the restroom. A large, heavily scaled brick fireplace characterized by corbelled brick piers and a tapered, exposed chimney is located on the east wall. The upper and lower sections of the fireplace are separated by a brick mantel resting on brick corbels.

The north wall of the meeting room consists of a bank of solid panel doors leading into the anteroom, the office, and the storage room.

INTEGRITY

The only modifications on the exterior have been the application of the rolled roofing (1949) over the original wood shingles and the 1951 rear addition. The rolled roofing results in a minor impact to the original appearance through a loss of texture. The Craftsman Style appearance of the building would be enriched with the future replacement of the existing material with cedar shingles. The addition is located on the rear of the building, resulting in a minimum of impact to the significant exterior qualities of the Clubhouse.

The interior retains a high degree of integrity throughout, with original doors, frames, chair rail, baseboards, and picture molding intact. The original wood floor was replaced with an oak floor in 1942. Suspended ceilings were installed in 1949, but the original ceilings presumably remain in place above.

## 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 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** 1902                      **Builder/Architect** Frederick C. Hurst

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

The Bisbee Woman's Club Clubhouse, constructed in 1902, is historically significant for its role in the social life of Bisbee during the early twentieth century and for its stature as the oldest, continually used women's clubhouse in the state of Arizona.

#### HISTORIC BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

During the period 1885 through World War I, Bisbee was a bustling copper mining community (although the local industry continued through the mid-1970's). By 1898 the town was populated by several thousand people housed on the mountain sides surrounding the operations of the Copper Queen Mine, owned by the Phelps-Dodge Mining Company. It was first and foremost a "man's town", with both mine and smelter working twenty-four hours a day. Saloons and gambling halls lined Main Street, catering to the primary off-hours interests of the mine laborers.

Within this context, very few social or educational amenities were available other than a grade school, a library, a YMCA, an opera house, and two community churches. In response to the general lack of more refined activities, women who were not employed (typically the wives of the mining company administrators and local merchants) established small sewing and reading clubs. They realized that, in order to be stimulated intellectually and to have any social life resembling that which they had enjoyed elsewhere, they had to obtain these amenities through their own efforts.

On October 24, 1900, a town-wide Woman's Club was organized with twenty-one charter members. The group met at various locations throughout the community, including the Copper Queen Library and the Copper Queen Hotel. This federation was consistent with contemporaneous developments in this part of the country, because by 1902 there were four other Woman's Clubs established throughout the Arizona Territory.

Due to the inadequacies of the available meeting locations, the idea of a Clubhouse for the organization was conceived. (Among other factors, the constant noise of the town posed an obstacle to the total success of their activities.)

Funds were secured, and land was obtained on Quality Hill for the construction of a more permanent and less central location. The architect was Frederick C. Hurst.

Hurst came to Bisbee from Canada ca. 1900 and was employed until 1906 as the structural engineer for the Phelps-Dodge Company. During this period, Hurst designed the Copper Queen Hospital, the Central School, the Copper Queen Library, the Bisbee Woman's Club, and the Copper Queen Store in Douglas, among others.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet 4.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less acre

Quadrangle name Bisbee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	2	6	0	2	9	8	0	3	4	7	8	7	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 80, Block Q, Quality Hill, Bisbee, AZ

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bill Perreault, with information provided by Carmen Graham, Chairperson, Bisbee Woman's Club

organization Arizona SHPO date October, 1984

street & number 1688 West Adams telephone (602) 255-4174

city or town Phoenix state Arizona 85007

# 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 Donna J. Schuber

title SHPO date December 13, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in 1985  
National Register

date 1-31-85

J. Andrew Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JAN 31 1985

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 8

Page 2

Hurst left the employment of Phelps-Dodge on January 1, 1906 to begin private practice. Many of the buildings on Main Street, including the Rinehart Building, Letson Block, Masonic Lodge, and the Elks Building were designed by him during this period, as well as many of the private residences in the Quality Hill area.

It may be surmised that Hurst selected the residential design of the Clubhouse for its compatibility with his other Quality Hill structures, and for its expression of the "woman's place" in Bisbee -- the home, which served as a springboard for educational and social advancement.

The construction of the facility was completed in October, 1902 for a total cost of \$2,805.95. Since that time, for a period of eighty-two years, the building has continued to house the activities of the Bisbee Woman's Club.

SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Bisbee Woman's Club Clubhouse possesses historical significance as an embodiment of the role of the Woman's Club in the social and cultural developments in Bisbee during the early years of the community.

As described earlier, Bisbee exhibited all the characteristics one would expect to find in a booming mining community located in a remote and isolated setting. From its founding in 1900, the Bisbee Woman's Club stated that the betterment of the community was one of its larger goals:

"A Woman's Club is not a benevolent society, nor a reformatory. Neither is it a religious or political organization, but it partakes of all these elements, and more in that it seeks only the moral and those who desire mutual improvement as members. Its aim is the betterment of the individual member and through her, the family and community.

Where there has been a club of long standing, the improvement in the community is very noticeable." 1

The works of the Club were divided into four primary functions: literary, educational, current events, and social. The first major civic project of the Club was a kindergarten, and, through their influence, a kindergarten room was included in community plans for a new school. Through the years, the school remained a project for the Woman's Club.

---

1. Bisbee Daily Review. Woman's Club Edition, November 3, 1902.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JAN 31 1985

Continuation sheet 3

Item number 8

Page 3

Social and educational affairs were an important part of the Club activities. It became the center of social life in the young mining town with elaborate teas frequently held in the building, as well as the presentation of papers on topics of current interest.

As one might expect in a town of this nature, the city jail was always crowded, and its condition declined rapidly. The Club took on the responsibility of cleaning and maintaining the facility, thereby setting a higher standard than what otherwise would have been established.

As the town grew, the Clubhouse saw increasing activity. Card clubs, costume parties, dancing classes, Spanish classes, musicals, bazaars, and public dances were all held in the building. During World War I, the members concentrated their energies on the making and packaging of wound dressings.

In the twenties, the Club participated in the collection of historical documents to be added to the Pioneers Library in Tucson. This was undertaken in conjunction with other Woman's Clubs in the state. During the early forties, the Club participated in national wartime drives and programs to aid local youth groups.

These varied functions, responding to local and even national needs, have continued to the present day as fundamental components of the Bisbee Woman's Club. Throughout its existence, the Club has "promoted the cultural, intellectual, moral, and social life of the raw mining town and has continued its efforts for community betterment through the years." 2

The Bisbee Woman's Club Clubhouse also holds a special distinction as the oldest, continually used Woman's Clubhouse in the state of Arizona. Although a few other clubs were in existence in the Arizona Territory when the building was constructed, no other group could claim ownership of a clubhouse.

As the oldest structure serving in this capacity, it provides evidence of the historic role of women in our nation's 48th state.

---

2. 70 Years In Federation, Bisbee Woman's Club. March, 1972.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JAN 31 1983

Continuation sheet 4

Item number 9

Page 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Walker, Henry P. and Bufkin, Don. Historical Atlas of Arizona. University of Oklahoma Press. 1979.

70 Years In Federation, Bisbee Woman's Club. Published manuscript. 1972.

Durley, Mrs. E. M. Bisbee Daily Review. Woman's Club Edition. November 3, 1902.

Trishka, Emily. "History of Bisbee Woman's Club". Date unknown.

Hart, Mrs. C. P. Paper presented to Bisbee Reading Club (forerunner of Bisbee Woman's Club). 1900.

Personal correspondence from Tom Vaughan, Museum Administrator, Bisbee Council on the Arts and Humanities. June 21, 1983.