

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

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

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

For NPS use only

received APP 1988

date entered MAY 20 1988

**1. Name**

historic                      Woman's Club of Lodi

and/or common              Same

**2. Location**

street & number            325 W. Pine Street                      N/A not for publication

city, town                    Lodi                      N/A vicinity of

state                         California code            06                      county                      San Joaquin                      code            039

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name                        Woman's Club of Lodi

street & number            325 Pine Street

city, town                    Lodi                      N/A vicinity of                      state                      California 95240

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.              San Joaquin County Assessor

street & number            222 E. Weber Avenue

city, town                    Stockton                      state                      California

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date                                             federal            state            county            local

depository for survey records

city, town                      state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 Lodi Woman's Club is a two-story monumental Neo-Classical structure located on a corner lot in downtown Lodi. The flat roofed, parapeted building is predominantly stucco, but has a red brick plinth and quoins. The building (48'6" x 105') fills almost the entirety of its lot. At the rear is a parking lot which belongs to the Masonic building located just to the east of the Woman's Club. The Club retains a very high level of integrity both inside and out. Except for very minor changes, the building has remained the same over the 66 years it has served the town of Lodi.

The Pine Street facade of the building presents a grand and imposing appearance. A colossal pedimented portico with four 20' high Corinthian columns graces the main elevation. The entry door, centrally positioned, is wood, with twelve panes of glass. Transom and sidelights, lanterns, and a brass club plaque complete the entry treatment. An ornamental ironwork balustrade is symmetrically positioned atop brick steps which lead up from the street level on either side of the entry door. The same ironwork provides a railing around the two balconies at the eastern and western bays of the facade. French doors open onto each balcony. Windows on the lower level are wood casement with six panes in each of the double frames.

The western elevation shows a two-part division corresponding to the interior spatial division of auditorium to the north and entrance hall/exhibit room to the south. At the southern half, a secondary entrance is flanked by two small Corinthian columns and a bowed arched pediment. A small Palladian window above the entry is capped by a bracketed protruding molding. There are four other windows in this southern half of the elevation. They are symmetrically placed, two on each floor level. These windows are double wood casement with six panes to a frame. At the northern half of this elevation are four tall arched windows providing light to the auditorium space within.

The north elevation has a very utilitarian appearance, with windows only at the first floor and basement levels. The eastern side of the building is also virtually unadorned. Arched large windows and smaller windows at basement, first floor, and second floor levels are without decorative elements. A small door facing south has a small lantern over it. There is a stucco covered chimney with recessed designs near the front of the building.

The three interior levels of the building are the basement, entry and auditorium, and balcony/exhibit room. The entrance hall on the main floor is flanked by a library (with original tile fireplace) on the east and a committee room on the west. Through the entrance hall lies the auditorium and stage, approximately 50 foot square. Floors are hardwood, and all original woodwork and light fixtures remain. Bathrooms on this floor are covered in ceramic tile decorated with a gold floral garland design. The auditorium has an interior balcony at the southern end, and across the entire southern side of the building at this level is an exhibit room with two outdoor balconies. The basement of the structure is the only area that appears to have undergone any alteration. This large banquet room, with original stove, has had modern light fixtures and ceiling installed in recent times.

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Photo Log

For all photos the following information is the same:

Property name: Woman's Club of Lodi

Address: 325 W. Pine Street, Lodi, San Joaquin County, California 95240

Photographer: Harold Thayer

Date of Photo: Jan. 19, 1988

Negative Location: 325 W. Pine Street, Lodi. Contact J. Pruss, Historian

Nineteen Photos. Following are Views, Numbered.

1. Facing North, Main Elevation.
2. Facing East, Secondary entrance on Lee Street.
3. Facing East, Main entrance.
4. Facing East.
5. Facing South.
6. Facing North, Main entrance door.
7. View of boiler room and boiler.
8. Basement banquet room.
9. Basement banquet room.
10. Basement Kitchen.
11. Facing South, Auditorium, including balcony.
12. Facing East, Auditorium.
13. Facing West, Auditorium.
14. Facing West, Committee Room.
15. Facing East, Library.

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Photo Log, continued.

16. Facing South, Women's Club on right.
17. Facing East, Exhibit Room.
18. Plaque at main entrance.
19. Facing Northwest.

## 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/ humanitarian				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention						

Specific dates 1923 - 1938

Builder/Architect

Ralph P. Morrell

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lodi Woman's Club is significant under both Criterion A and C, although it is primarily important for its architecture. In the rapidly growing town of Lodi, the building is certainly one of the most attractive of its major structures and is one of only a handful of historic non-commercial public buildings. The monumental yet graceful structure is an architectural landmark for the citizens of Lodi, many of whom have known it as a favorite location for weddings, theater productions, and social gatherings of every kind. And for more than 60 years, the building has been the home of the Woman's Club, an organization formed during the Progressive Era (1906) and priding itself on its community service perspective.

The Lodi Woman's Club is an excellent example of Neo-Classicism, exhibiting the characteristic monumentality and detailing of that style, yet also designed to reflect its use by the women of the community. The delicate ironwork of entryway and exterior balconies, the scaled back Palladian window and refined secondary entrance on the west elevation, and the use of brick to relieve an otherwise nearly monochromatic stucco combine to bring a lightness to this large and impressive building. The "feminine" interpretation of Neo-Classicism presented in the Woman's Club building is also reflected in the interior spaces with such details as flower encrusted metal light fixtures in the entrance hall and the floral garland design incorporated into the bathroom ceramic tile. The southern exposure of the entrance hall, library, committee room, and exhibit room imparts a sunny warmth to these spaces and contrasts nicely with the greater formality of the auditorium.

The historical significance of the building lies in its association with the Woman's Club, formed in the fall of 1906 and dedicated to the betterment of the town of Lodi. The Lodi Sentinel of October 4 of that year called for women to gather at the Methodist Church on October 10th in the interests of forming a "Woman's Civic Improvement Club". A number of subcommittees of the new organization took up projects for beautifying Lodi's streets, parks, and school grounds. A literary committee was charged with broadening clubmembers' awareness and appreciation of music, history, art, and literature. A typically "Progressive" meeting in that year consisted of a discussion of garbage removal from alleys and backyards, a musical presentation, and two lectures. The first, by Mrs. Camden Keen, was a talk on American intervention in Cuba. The second, by clubmember Mrs. Bridelle Washburn, was on "Woman's Relation to Reform". As the Lodi Sentinel (Nov. 15, 1906) noted, "In her able way Mrs. Washburn laid before the club the ways in which women could change for the better the home life, the educational, the religious, and the political".

By the end of the teens, the Club's efforts focused on the need to provide the town with a suitable auditorium for lectures, theater events, dances, and other social activities. A new building which could serve those functions and provide a meeting place for the organization became the major objective. By 1923, the new building opened with gala

## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

Lodi Sentinel, October 4, 10, 18, 22, and November 15, 1906; February 24, 1923.  
 Pruss, Janet C., personal communication, February 2, 1988.

## **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Lodi, North, California

UTM References

<b>A</b>	1   0	6   5   1	0   8   0	4   2   2   1	9   5   0
Zone	Easting	Northing			
C					
E					
G					

<b>B</b>					
Zone	Easting	Northing			
D					
F					
H					

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The property consists of Assessor's Parcel 037-280-11, in the City of Lodi, San Joaquin County. This is all that remains of the historic property.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## **11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Maryln Bourne Lortie, Historian
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organization	Office of Historic Preservation	date	February 17, 1988
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street & number	1416 Ninth Street	telephone	(916) 322-9601
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city or town	Sacramento	state	California
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## **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 Kathryn Shallenbach

title	State Historic Preservation Officer	date	3/31/88
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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Andrews

5/20/88

(for) Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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celebrations and with the Sentinel's headlines proclaiming: "Most Important Social Event in City's History Will Take Place in Elegant New Structure". Mrs. J. S. Montgomery, President of the Lodi Woman's Building Association, proclaimed that "this clubhouse will meet a demand that this community can not well get along without".

For the decade of the 1920s, the Woman's Club was the only facility in Lodi for dramatic performances, lectures, and the like. Local theater groups and traveling companies used the Club, as did wedding parties and social and civic organizations. No other location in Lodi was capable of holding so many people. The auditorium could accommodate 200 to 400, and the banquet facilities in the basement were also spacious enough to handle large crowds.

Paying off the debt incurred in the construction of the building occupied the women of the Club for a number of years. In the 1920s, the Club women catered weekly lunches for the Rotary Club in order to raise funds. Other fund raisers helped to pay off the mortgage in 1934, during the height of the Depression.

Down to the present time, the Woman's Club of Lodi has continued an ideal of community service. Recent projects and activities have included the painting of the town's entry arch, a state landmark, and fund raising for scholarships, a Christmas dinner for rest home patients, and other worthy causes. Club women provide staffing for Lodi's Ambliopia Clinic. The Club also sponsors a club for Lodi High School girls, helping them to organize dances and other fund raisers that have provided several thousand dollars a year in contributions to local charities.

Mrs. Janet C. Pruss, the Club's historian, emphasizes that "this building has been of great service to the whole community ever since its completion. In addition it has brought together a cross section of the women in this community, whose objective is, as shown in our bylaws, 'to stimulate intellectual, cultural, moral and civic development, to promote good fellowship among its members, and, to strengthen by organization, their individual efforts for humanity.'"

The significance of the Club has continued into the present. However, because this significance has not been shown to be exceptional, the period of significance has arbitrarily been ended at 1938.

Woman's Club of Lodi  
325 West Pine Street  
Lodi, California  
San Joaquin County

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