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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 10 2000

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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**1. Name of Property**

=====

historic name Tempe Woman's Club

other names/site number n/a

=====

**2. Location**

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street & number 1290 South Mill Avenue not for publication n/a  
city or town Tempe vicinity n/a  
state Arizona code AZ county Maricopa zip code 85281

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**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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     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.)

James W. Granville AZSAP  
Signature of certifying official

3 APRIL 2000  
Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
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

Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa, Arizona

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

*Edson A. Beall* 5.11.00

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*for*  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa, Arizona

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**6. Function or Use**  
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   SOCIAL   Sub:   meeting hall  

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   SOCIAL   Sub:   meeting hall  

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
**7. Description**  
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

  Late Nineteenth & Early Twentieth Century    
  Other: National Folk  

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   concrete    
roof   asphalt shingles    
walls   stucco on adobe    
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa, Arizona

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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 values, 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 (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1936-1949 Significant Dates 1936  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa, Arizona

Architect/Builder Goodwin, Kemper / Carr, Leonard

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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: Tempe Woman's Club

Name of repository: Tempe Historical Museum; SHPO; "Tempe MRA Update"

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**10. Geographical Data**
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Acreage of Property .45 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 4 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row 1: 1, 12, 412660, 3697510, 3, blank, blank, blank. Row 2: 2, blank, blank, blank, 4, blank, blank, blank.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa, Arizona

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title Eric M. Hansen/Planning Technician  
organization City of Tempe date July 1999  
street & number 132 E. Sixth Street, St. #101 telephone 480/350.8028  
city or town Tempe state AZ zip code 85280  
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**Additional Documentation**  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**  
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Kathryn Whalen (Tempe Woman's Club)  
street & number 501 E. Balboa telephone (480) 967-3420  
city or town Tempe state AZ zip code 85282  
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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   1  

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Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa County, AZ

**Description**

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**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION -**

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The Tempe Woman's Club is a single-story adobe building with an asphalt-shingle roof. The building is rectangular in plan with a short façade and south wing. The roof form is a medium-pitch gable with a perpendicular center gable for the south wing section. The primary portion of the building (approximately 36' x 76') houses the main meeting hall and stage area, while the smaller south wing (16' x 57') houses the receiving area, lounge, kitchen and bathrooms. The exterior wall surfaces are stucco with wood siding at the gable ends. The main entry on Mill Avenue is offset from the main façade into the south wing section. Although professionally designed, the building reflects the National Folk vernacular style of the day, albeit with minimal Neoclassical detailing at the gable eaves and vent openings. The building is encircled by a drive to the north and parking areas to the south and west.

Modest in detail, and constructed of locally available, low cost materials; the Tempe Woman's Club is a prime example of depression-era Arizona architecture. Historically, it evidences the social and economic status, as well as the architectural character of the period. This building is prominently located on a corner lot serving as terminus to the residential row of houses along Mill Avenue. It is one of a very few adobe buildings still in existence in Tempe. One of the first executed designs of noted Arizona architect Kemper Goodwin, the Tempe Woman's Club maintains virtually all of its original 1936 fabric.

**HISTORIC INTEGRITY-**

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The Tempe Woman's Club has remained in continuous use as a woman's clubhouse and community meeting house since its construction in 1936. The building has been well maintained and changed little in that time, retaining a high degree of integrity. Its adobe bearing wall construction, rare for a non-residential structure built since territorial days, is indicative of the depression-era methods of its day. For over six decades, this building has served the City of Tempe as a host for various cultural and social activities. For its significant contributions to the social fabric and integral aspect of local Tempe history, it is very fitting that the Tempe's Woman's Club be considered a serious candidate for a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   2  

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Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa County, AZ

Narrative

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT, WOMAN'S CLUBS IN ARIZONA -**

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Woman's Clubs have been a part of Arizona's social fabric since the late 1800s. Two of the earliest woman's clubs included the Prescott History Study Club formed in 1891, and the Safford Improvement Club, which was established in 1896. The Arizona Federation of Woman's Clubs was organized on November 19, 1901, when the Woman's Club of Bisbee, the Ladies' Village Improvement (Florence), the Monday Club (Prescott), The Woman's Club (Phoenix), and the Woman's Club (Tucson) met in Phoenix and formed an alliance.

The 1903-1905 Yearbook indicated the existence of twelve clubs with a total membership of 373. By 1916, the Arizona Federation of Woman's Clubs boasted 44 affiliated clubs with a total membership of 2,227. Though each club independently developed and worked toward its goals, there were issues that concerned each club. The federation focused on education. "The Woman's Club is the instrument and symbol of a woman's new place," stated Margaret Wheeler Ross, a prominent Club member, and president of the Arizona Federation of Woman's Clubs (1914-1916). "The Club is the cooperative school of social service where all topics that seem to women to pertain to the welfare of the state are taught and discussed." There was also a strong interest in civic improvement and philanthropy.

Commenting on hospitality, Mrs. T. H. Cureton, president of the Federation of Woman's Clubs in 1924, felt that "Arizona Club women have, by preference, made their homes in a country where life is at its best, and they want others to enjoy it with them." She further asserted that "the character of any country is reflected in the nature of its people, so the ever-present sunshine and blue skies of Arizona foster a genial attitude toward the stranger in our midst."

**HISTORIC CONTEXT- TEMPE WOMAN'S CLUB**

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In December of 1912, a group of 14 ladies met at the Eighth Street and Mill Avenue Schoolhouse to form a Mother's Club. There are no minutes from that meeting, but about a month later, on January 24, 1913, the Club formally organized. From that time on, minutes were kept. During the January meeting of 1913, the name Tempe Woman's Club was chosen, the First Constitution and Bylaws were drafted, and the motto was adopted, which is still in use today:

*In Essentials, Unity  
In Non-Essentials, Freedom  
In All Things, Charity.*



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   3  

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Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa County, AZ

Narrative (continued)

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Also during the first organized meeting, the pink rose was chosen, as well as the club colors pink and green, which are still used today. Mrs. C. C. Cash was the first President, residing for two years and actively working for the club for many years. The new club's stated purpose was, "To enable women to work more efficiently for the benefit of the schools and the city in general". This mission statement is at the heart of the Tempe Woman's Club's significant relationship to the community, and the continuing commitment to the betterment of life here in Tempe.

The work of the Tempe Woman's Club was underway. The ladies immediately surveyed Tempe for its worst eyesores and reported them to the Marshall, who promised to speak to the owners. One community involvement project example included the Tempe Buttes, which had become a dumping ground. The Woman's Club organized a group of volunteers to clean it up. On the school playgrounds, they also quickly pinpointed problems of sanitation and lack of supervision.

The early years saw approximately ¼ of their time and energy spent on finding places to meet. Finally, in 1928, they found a lot at Mill Avenue and Lovers Lane (now 13<sup>th</sup> Street), and voted to buy it. Shortly after their purchase, they heard that the American Legion was about to build their clubhouse. The Woman's club negotiated to collaborate on building construction with the American Legion, but in the end, it ultimately fell through, and then decided to build on the lot at Mill and 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mrs. J. C. Grimes wrote a memorandum some years later in which she recalls, "There was some criticism about buying a lot (Mill and 13<sup>th</sup> St.) *way out there*, as some of the ladies would never attend a meeting if they had to go that far. But there weren't many two-car families in those days, and it probably meant walking about five extra blocks. The lot now seems very close to the old town-center."

In the spring of 1936, the ladies had about \$2,860 cash on hand, and they voted to go ahead and buy a house. They looked into the zoning and tax laws, the costs of different types of construction, and estimates of the costs of furnishing and upkeep. Kemper Goodwin, a young local architect, step-son of Club secretary Charlotte Goodwin and member of the Arizona pioneer family, volunteered architectural services for the design of a new clubhouse (Mr. Goodwin went on to become one of Arizona's most prominent architects). On May 6, 1936 the contract was given to Leonard Carr for the construction of "an adobe clubhouse". The Woman's Club borrowed \$3,200 from Mrs. Margaret Minson on a secured note, looked over the final plans, and the construction began. Mrs. Prather remarked that if railroad ties were used as floor supports, it would eliminate termite problems, but Lucille Snavely, president in the years they actually did have termites, wasn't around in those days.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   4  

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Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa County, AZ

Narrative (continued)

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November 4, 1936 saw the Incorporation of the Club with every member owning one share of the building. On November 8, the Clubhouse Dedication Ceremony, arranged by Mrs. Bertleson, Mrs. Wexler, and Mrs. Vihel, took place. At this ceremony, Dr. Grady Gammage, President of the Arizona Teacher's College (now Arizona State University) gave the main address, the Arizona State Teacher's College band played, Reverend Gorsage gave the invocation, Thanks Anderson spoke, and the American Legion presented the Tempe Woman's Club with an American flag.

Various amenities also had to be added to the site. In addition to being landscaped, the exterior received a paved parking lot and cement parking blocks. The interior was equipped with 100 chairs, as well as housewarming necessities from the members.

The bulk of the money for the house came from dinners and banquets served and cooked by Club ladies. They had thirteen dinners at the Clubhouse in 1936-37 and a similar number every year for about seven years thereafter, including dinners for the Lions Club, Rotary, Eastern Star, the A.S.T.C. Football Banquet, and many others. The Club even charged a \$0.25 per plate fee for their own events such as dinners, and the annual Mother-Daughter Banquet. In addition to the dinners, the Tempe Woman's Club used to have three or four large parties every year, some of which raised as much as \$160 per function.

It should be mentioned that the dinners and parties were in addition to other benefits and plans to raise money for charities, schools, and hospitals. The regular projects for the community were constant. This building was paid for by numerous additional projects by women who worked hard and wasted nothing. In December of 1941, it was necessary to borrow \$750 to refinance the Clubhouse. Mrs. Charlotte Goodwin provided the loan, and on December 29, 1943, the announcement was made that the building was paid for.

**TEMPE WOMAN'S CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS -**

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Since its conception, the Tempe Woman's Club and its members have played an integral role in the local community. One outstanding member was Mrs. Edna Vihel who was selected in 1955 for the Tempe Citizen of the Year Award, presented by Bob Finch Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mrs. Vihel's selection for this annual honor was based on her efforts to promote youth welfare and recreational programs for the youth in the community, as well as "many other civic activities". Vihel had the support of the Tempe Woman's Club, and was the first woman to ever receive this award. Through her many diverse activities, Edna Vihel was an active member until her death in 1994. The Tempe Woman's Club nominated her the 1999 Susan B. Anthony Luminary Award.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

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**Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa County, AZ**

**Narrative (continued)**

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The Tempe Woman's Club has also contributed to the statewide and national community. Nationally, TWC members observed the Washington bicentennial by planting a tree on the grounds of the American Legion home. Through annual contributions, the support of time, and use of facilities, the Tempe Woman's Club has supported the following local organizations:

TWC Music Student Award	Chevron Music	Special Olympics
Tempe Paramedics	Veterans Association	KAET, Channel 8
Child Crisis Center	Sunshine Acres	Cook Christian School
Ladmo's Boy's & Girl's Club	Salvation Army	Scholarship programs
HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth program)	Meals on Wheels	Friends of the Library
Tempe City Library Society	Tempe Historical Society	Getz School
American Heart Association	Tempe Beautification	Tempe Action Council
Center for Academic Precocity (ASU)	Tempe Historic Preservation Commission	
Cook Christian Theological School (Native Americans)		

**SUMMARY -**

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The Tempe Woman's Club is historically significant at the local level, under Criterion A of the National Register Criteria, for its contribution to the broad patterns of American history. It is locally significant for the role it has played in the social history of Tempe, and for its continued use by the Woman's Club of Tempe. Beginning with its establishment in 1936, the clubhouse has been the center of social and civic activity for many women residing in Tempe whose influence is felt throughout the community. The following is a brief historical account of the establishment of the Woman's Club both in Arizona, and here in Tempe, and more particularly their Clubhouse at 1290 S. Mill Avenue.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8, 9, & 10 Page 6

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Tempe Woman's Club  
Maricopa County, AZ

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**SOURCES -**

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Arizona Historic Property Inventory Form, Tempe Multiple Resource Area, T-431, Ryden Architects, 1997.  
Luhrs Collection at Arizona State University, Hayden Library, Arizona Collection.  
Tempe Historical Museum, Minutes of the Tempe Woman's Club on file.  
Tempe Woman's Club History, manuscript at Tempe Historical Museum.  
Tempe Woman's Club Yearbook "1995-1996".  
Whalen, Kathryn, Tempe Woman's Club member.

**Verbal Boundary Description-**

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Section 22, T1N, R4E, Park Tract, Block 3, Lots 13 & 14, Parcel No. 132-45-043.

**Boundary Justification-**

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The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the meeting hall.