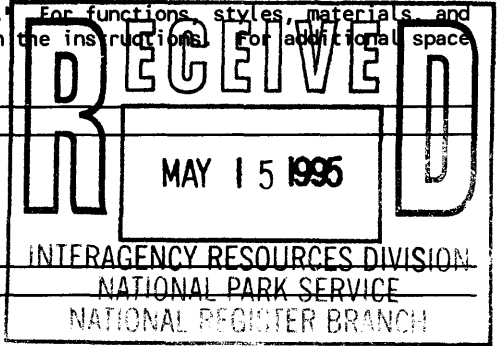


738

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 **ROCKMART WOMAN'S CLUB**
other names/site number **N/A**

2. Location

street & number **North Marble St.**
city, town **Rockmart**
county **POLK** code **GA 233**
state **Georgia** code **GA** zip code **30153**

(N/A) vicinity of

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

5/11/95
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Edson H. Beall
Entered in the
National Register

6/20/95

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

SOCIAL/clubhouse

Current Functions:

SOCIAL/clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
BUNGALOW/CRAFTSMAN

Materials:

foundation	rock
walls	wood
roof	asphalt
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Rockmart Woman's Club is a one-story, three-bay, symmetrical side-gable bungalow with Craftsman and Colonial Revival influences. The house has a centered, almost full-width, rear ell with a hip roof. The chimney is centered at the juncture of the central block and the ell. There is a porch across the full front facade.

The house has 8" clapboard siding and an asphalt shingle roof. There is a continuous foundation of small round native stones topped with a header brick drip course. The same type of small stones are used in the chimney.

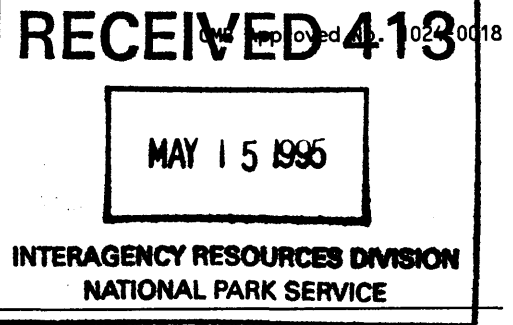
There are 12-light double front doors with a 5-light transom. The windows are 6/6 sash with original raised panel shutters with club-motif cut-outs on the shutters of the main block. There is a 5-light eyebrow window centered on the roof facing the front porch. The porch has square columns, grouped in 3's at the corners with lattice between. There is diamond-shaped trim on the porch cornice. There are old semicircular gutters on the front and an original downspout with fleur-de-lis brackets and trim. There are exposed rafters on the front, rear, and ell. Braces in the side gables have pyramid cut ends. There are centered circular vents in both end gables. The back door has 4 panes over a flush panel.

The main block of the house is one large room used for meetings and receptions. The rear ell contains the kitchen and a bath/dressing room.

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National Park Service

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There are 2" wide oak floors and wainscoting in the large reception/meeting room. The boards on the dressing room walls are approximately 5 1/2". There are plaster walls in the kitchen. The original kitchen linoleum floor is covered. There are flush 4-panel doors between the rooms and flush 2-panel doors on the closets.

The reception/meeting room has papered walls above the wainscoting, as well as painted woodwork and original cased ceiling beams. There are wide baseboards and door and window trim throughout. The original arched fireplace has running bond, and a simple mantle supported by beamed ends identical to exterior gable supports. There are window seats under both centered end windows. The north end wall has built-in, leaded-glass bookcases on either side of the window seat.

The kitchen has original cabinets with large glass panes trimmed with beading. Later cabinets have been added.

Original, 1922 furnishings include two wicker settees, three wicker armchairs, two long wicker tables, carpets, pottery, dressing table and bench. The original hardware on the doors also remains. There is an original kitchen table.

The original bathroom and kitchen fixtures are intact. This includes the historic gas range. The refrigerator is a replacement. The fireplace was originally used for heat, with the floor furnace added later.

The grounds include a broad concrete front walk. There are large water oaks in the front and side yards.

There are no outbuildings on the property.

The woman's club building occupies the end of a block and is close to the railroad tracks. There are commercial buildings along College St., parallel to the railroad tracks. Intact historic residences line both North Marble and Ivy Streets.

The few changes that have occurred include the removal of a privet hedge about 1986; changing light fixtures; and adding air conditioning in 1966. An analysis of a historic photograph documents that the front steps have been changed and the original side trellises have been removed.

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Section 7

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance:

1922-1945

Significant Dates:

1922

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Reece, W. Roy

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Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Rockmart Woman's Club House is significant in architecture because it is a good example of a club house, a house built for a specific purpose, in this case a woman's club. It primarily consists of one room, the main functional needs of the organization being for meeting space and receptions. It is a good example of the use of the bungalow for such a purpose and reflects Craftsman and Colonial Revival detailing, the prevailing architectural details of the era in which it was built. A significant detail is the use of a "club" design in the top of the shutters. The club house is also significant in social history because it was built for, and continues to be used as, the woman's club of Rockmart. Built in 1922, during a major growth period for the woman's club movement, it was built for a club that was chartered in 1906. The club stressed community clean-up and beautification, with awards at year's end for progress in both white and black areas of town. In 1913, the club affiliated with the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs and became the Rockmart Woman's Club. The permanent club house was designed by W. Roy Reece, a recent Georgia Tech graduate. The club affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (the international organization) just before they moved into the new facility. Besides its use for club functions, the house has been used for all kinds of local community events because of the lack of reception space in the town for several decades. The club has provided other services to the community besides the availability of the club house, including perpetual care for the cemetery, paving sidewalks, a rock fountain in the park, and establishing the local library in 1941.

National Register Criteria

The Rockmart Woman's Club House meets National Register Criterion A because as a local element of the international women's club movement it was a vital part of the same. The women's club movement began in the late 19th century and reached Georgia shortly thereafter. The clubs were important to the role women played in their community and especially so in the club in Rockmart. The women's clubs were founded with altruistic goals, most of them community betterment programs. The clubs have been successful in continuing to exist and the members continuing to be a vital part of their respective communities. The Rockmart club recognized civic beautification with its annual awards, contributed to the same with its erection of a fountain in City Park

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Section 8

and in the creation of sidewalks. The club also helped the local public library get started.

The club house also meets National Register Criterion C because it reflects an architect-designed building that was specifically designed for its use: that of a meeting place for a woman's club. The main block of the building is one large meeting room. It has important functional elements: a fire place, several built-in window seats, and built-in bookcases to house the club's materials and scrapbooks. One of the ways the club made money was by renting out the large reception room with its attached kitchen and dressing room. The club house reflects Craftsman and Classical Revival details which were prevalent in the era in which it was built. The club has had little changes, thus it reflects almost exactly the way it was built in 1922, down to many of its original furnishings and treatments.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance runs from the construction of the clubhouse (1922) until the end of the historic period (1945) since the club is still a viable organization.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The only resource on the property is the clubhouse.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The town of Rock Mart was chartered in August, 1872 by the Georgia Legislature. The village had been a center for rock production and marketing for many years and developed rapidly, due in part to generous gifts from Seaborn Jones, who had helped secure rail service to the town.

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The town's prosperity increased after 1880 when the old slate quarries were reopened. The 1890s were the quarries most productive decade and contributed to the town's growth and prosperity.

In 1906 thirteen women organized Rockmart's Reading Club. Early meetings were held twice monthly in members' homes and featured selected topics for discussion and refreshments.

During 1912, the club's agenda stressed community clean-up and beautification. At the end of the year, members awarded prizes for progress in both white and black sections of the city.

On June 16, 1913, the Reading Club became an affiliate of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs. It was at this time that it officially became the Rockmart Woman's Club. Members began raising money for a permanent meeting place. They found a lot available on Sciple Street, a side street, and made plans for the construction of a log cabin, a popular style for club houses of the time. Members held "silver teas, sold sandwiches, and other items to increase their building fund" (Georgia Life, article by Leonora Mintz, Spring 1978). Rockmart citizens made contributions and by February, 1922, \$800 had been raised.

On May 27, 1922, three lots on North Marble Street, a main thoroughfare, were purchased for \$550 and the trustees abandoned plans for building a log cabin style club house at the other location. The club hired W. Roy Reece, a Georgia Tech graduate who had assisted his father in building the Rockmart City Hall in 1921. A fourth lot was purchased in 1927, east of the club house. The deed mentioned that on another side it bordered on a tennis court.

Rockmart Woman's Club became affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs in May, 1922. This organization had begun in 1890 to coordinate the activities of similar clubs throughout the U.S. By becoming a member of this national organization, as well as the Georgia Federation, the local club helped transmit national policy and goals to the local and state federations. Their national conventions were another way they disseminated ideas and assistance to local groups. The national organization has municipal reform as one of its early goals. The impetus to work toward establishing local libraries began at the national level as early as 1899 and was thereafter one of the goals of the national organization. As a whole, the women's club movement, as directed by the national Federation covered a wide range of issues, many--such as civic projects--were far removed from the original culture or reading/literary issues around which they were organized. According to author Karen J. Blair, the women's club movement was part of the early feminist movement, a forerunner or

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siderunner of many more activist movements later in the 20th century. The activities of the Rockmart Club show some of the wide range of interests they were involved in over the years presumably as a result of their affiliation with the state and national federations.

The Rockmart clubhouse, which was 1320 square feet in size, officially opened in September, 1922. O. T. Flournoy, president of Southern States Cement Company, presented furnishings for the building.

To pay off their \$5000 building debt, the 53 members "held bazaars and rummage sales, sponsored movies and stage plays, served junior-senior class banquets and lunches to civic clubs" including the Kiwanis, Rotary, Lion's Club, and Retired Teachers. (Georgia Life article by Leonora Mintz, Spring 1978).

Over the years, Rockmart Woman's Club has served the community in a number of ways. When the club house was built, there was no similar meeting space in the community-no bank conference rooms, no church fellowship halls. The building has been used for parties, concerts, receptions, proms, and weddings.

In addition to providing a meeting place for the community, Rockmart Federated Woman's Club has provided a number of other services to the community: perpetual care for Rose Hill Cemetery; paved side-walks in the downtown area; the construction of the rock fountain in City Park; furnishings for a room in Rockmart-Aragon Hospital; and help in establishing Rockmart's public library in 1941 as a part of the Work Projects Administration (WPA) efforts in Georgia.

The membership of the club has never been enormous. The club had 53 members when the club house was dedicated in September, 1922. In 1992, there were 28 members. From the Reading Club days until now, the membership has varied from 15, 18 members and up. Members have been public school teachers, artists, musicians, authors, Sunday School teachers, business women and home makers. The requirements are few and are listed in the by-laws.

The by-laws, as revised, stress that membership shall be non-political and non-sectarian. Members can be women over age 18. The club's colors are green and white and the club flower is the Cherokee Rose, also Georgia's state flower.

There have never been many other competitive clubs in town. The first Women's Club in Georgia was formed in Rome in 1895. The Georgia

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Federation of Women's Clubs was formed in Atlanta in 1896, so Rockmart was a little late in the movement.

On November 1, 1981, a 75th Anniversary Tea was held to honor the twenty-four founders of the Reading Club.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Houston, Kitty. "Rockmart Woman's Club" HISTORIC PROPERTY INFORMATION FORM, on file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, dated October 20, 1991 with supplemental information supplied by Leonora F. Mintz, club historian.

Blair, Karen J. The Clubwoman as Feminist: True Womanhood Redefined, 1868-1914. New York: Holmes & Meier, 1980.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) 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:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 681200 Northing 3763630

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of the original four city lots upon which the house has always been located. Now designated Parcel 175 on Polk County, GA, Tax Map R-16. A copy of this map is marked and enclosed with the nomination.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all that the club owns at this location and which is associated with the clubhouse.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** March 9, 1995

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property:	ROCKMART WOMAN'S CLUB
City or Vicinity:	ROCKMART
County:	POLK
State:	Georgia
Photographer:	James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed:	December, 1993

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 6: Front facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 6: South Facade; photographer facing north.
- 3 of 6: South and East Facades; photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 6: Reception/Meeting Room; photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 6: Reception/Meeting Room; photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 6: Reception/Meeting Room, mantel closeup; photographer facing south.

