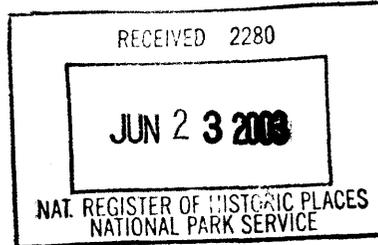


(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1724



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: ALAMOGORDO WOMAN'S CLUB

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: SE corner of 12th Street and Indiana Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

CITY OR TOWN: Alamogordo

VICINITY: N/A

STATE: New Mexico

CODE: NM

COUNTY: Otero

CODE: 035

ZIP CODE: 88311

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.)

Trishene Sledge

Signature of certifying official

18 June 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):

Edson H. Beall

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

8/4/03

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: PUBLIC: local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	1	0 OBJECTS
	2	0 TOTAL

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

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: New Mexico Federation 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
OTHERWOOD

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: 1937-1953

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1937

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Works Progress Administration work-relief laborers, builder.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-9).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-10).

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: Alamogordo Woman's Club

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing
 1 13 041062 3640601

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-11)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-11)

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: David Kammer, Ph.D.

ORGANIZATION: consulting historian

DATE: May, 2003

STREET & NUMBER: 521 Aliso Dr. NE

TELEPHONE: (505) 266-0586

CITY OR TOWN: Albuquerque

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 87108

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS see attached Alamogordo North Quadrangle U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute series map

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-12)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Otero County (county contact: Ruth Hooser, Manager)

STREET & NUMBER: 1000 N. New York Avenue, Room 101

TELEPHONE: (505) 434-1304

CITY OR TOWN: Alamogordo

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 88310

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Alamogordo Woman's Club
Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico

Description

The Alamogordo Woman's Club is a one-story building located at the southeast corner of 12th Street and Indiana Avenue within the Original Townsite of Alamogordo. Since its construction as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project in 1936, it 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 of the public works projects undertaken during the New Deal in New Mexico, the building incorporates a number of details and materials associated with the Pueblo Revival style, including the locally manufactured adobe blocks used in the building's construction. Featured prominently within its main hall are three paintings done by J.R. Willis, a Federal Arts Project artist in New Mexico. Except for the modernization of its mechanical and plumbing systems, a slight alteration of the bathroom area, the sealing of three windows, and the addition of a wheelchair ramp, the building retains its original appearance and continues its historic function within the community.

The building has a rectangular plan and measures approximately 80 by 52 feet, including the ten-foot wide porch, or *portal*, extending 53 feet along the principal north-facing elevation. The foundation consists of 12-inch concrete walls and a concrete floor. A partial basement housing the mechanical unit and accessible from exterior concrete stairs is located in the northeast section of the building. The walls consist of adobe bricks with concrete stucco facing. Tapered pilasters are located at the corners of the walls around the auditorium portion of the building. The roof is a flat, built up asphalt roof with stepped parapets. The auditorium section of the roof drains to the south elevation where waterspouts, or *canales*, carry water to the ground. Similar canales drain the stepped north section along the north elevation. The highest elevation is the auditorium, denoted with a mixtilinear parapet punctuated by decorative piers at each corner of the roof. The roof is stepped at the portal and at the north end of the building containing the kitchen, meeting and rest rooms and bathrooms. A decorative molded coping lines the parapet. An exterior chimney is located along the south wall.

The portal extends the length of the auditorium (see Photo 1). Enclosed with a slightly battered wall at each end, it is supported with five round wood posts topped by corbels and beam. Exposed vigas extend slightly beyond the porch, while decorative vigas extend from the upper elevation of the auditorium over the portal (see Photo 2). Broad concrete steps with three risers offer access to the portal, and a concrete ramp with a metal railing has been added at the northwest corner. Windows and doors along the portal are symmetrically placed. The two main entries are double, 10-light wood doors, and the windows are double 10-light double wood casement. Additional smaller windows along other elevations are also wood casement. According to longtime Alamogordo Woman's Club members, the block glass windows were added in the 1950s to reduce light during afternoon meetings. A four-light wood panel door is located at the rear of the north elevation, offering access to the kitchen.

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Section 7 Page 6

Alamogordo Woman's Club
Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico

The interior measures approximately 3,220 square feet and includes nine rooms. In addition to the large auditorium, a kitchen, two conference rooms, a checkroom, a storage room, a small foyer at the rear entrance and two bathroom are located at the north end of the building. The partition wall between the auditorium and the rooms to its north is also adobe covered with plaster. Two entrances flanking the checkroom offer entry for grand marches at dances from the conference rooms into the auditorium. The auditorium retains its original oak floor and ceiling fixtures. Its focal point is a 3 x 4-foot stone fireplace with an eight-foot long concrete hearth and massive stone mantle (see Photo 3). Two large paintings done by Federal Arts Project artist J.R. Willis and purchased by the Alamogordo Woman's Club when the building was formally opened flank the fireplace while a third smaller painting, also by Willis, is located above the mantle. The three paintings are considered as a contributing resource. Both of the large canvases depict fall scenes with adults and young people. One portrays an Apache family on horseback climbing a wooded slope with Sierra Blanca in the background. The other depicts a mother and child in an upland Hispano village.

The building is set along the edge of an older residential district at the northeast corner of the city's early downtown commercial district. A few trees and evergreen bushes on the south lawn where the building's sign is located as well as along the front elevation, integrate the property with surrounding residences. The scale of the building, its setting on the property, and its relatively unaltered appearance contribute to its feeling as a woman's clubhouse and community hall dating to the first half of the 20th century.

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Section 8 Page 7

Alamogordo Woman's Club
Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico

Statement of Significance

The Alamogordo Woman's Club building is historically significant for its long association with the civic life of Alamogordo and the contributions that the Alamogordo Woman's Club has made to the community. Since its construction as a WPA project in 1936-37, the building has served not only the woman's club but also the community at large, functioning as a gathering place for cultural, political and social events, high school proms, scholarship fund dinners, reading programs, and fund-raising rummage sales. The building is also significant architecturally as a well-preserved example of the Pueblo Revival style popularized through many of the WPA projects in New Mexico. Continuing to serve the woman's club and the community at large, the building is popularly viewed as an Alamogordo landmark. Because of its association with the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs and its notable use of Pueblo Revival style elements, it is eligible at the local level under Criteria A and C.

Alamogordo was platted by Charles B. Eddy, president of the El Paso and Northeastern Railroad in 1898. Serving as the railroad's headquarters with offices, shops and the railroad's hospital, the town quickly attracted settlers so that by 1899 ten women, led by Mrs. Carrie Sutherland, formed a woman's club. Setting as its goals the establishment of a public library, the study of New Mexico's history and expanding its members' cultural horizons, the organization met in members' homes where they shared their love of literature and music through recitations and recitals. Undertaking fund-raising activities ranging from selling ice cream in the town's Alameda Park to selling wagonloads of mesquite roots, the club pursued its goal of establishing a library. By 1910, the club had expanded its fund-raising activities to include maintenance of the town's cemetery, deriving income from the sale of plots, and had renamed itself the Civic League. With committees overseeing the operation of the town's nascent library as well as its cemetery, the club also formed the Linen Closet Committee to distribute sick room supplies to many of the tuberculosis patients, or healthseekers, who came to the town hoping that its warm dry climate would heal them. Still intent upon studying literature, some members of the Civic League formed another club, the Shakespeare Club, in 1911. With the advent of World War I, however, the club decided to give greater emphasis to volunteerism, founding the Otero County Chapter of the Red Cross, completing sewing projects for Belgian Relief and making infant layettes (NMFWC 1919:53).

In 1918, this goal of contributing to the community prompted the club to join the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs (NMFWC). Its federation with the state organization was not completed, however, until 1923 after the club became inactive in the wake of the influenza epidemic of 1918-19. During the 1920s, the Alamogordo Woman's Club, as it was now called, made numerous contributions to the community. It sponsored a Camp Fire Girls group as well as a Boy Scout troop, supporting camping trips for both groups. As early evidence of the Depression began to gather in New Mexico and unemployment increased, the club also began relief programs for underprivileged children. These programs would continue, especially in the 1930s, when the club worked closely with the state's Child Welfare Bureau to institute the county nurse and

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Alamogordo Woman's Club
Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico

children's clinic programs. In describing its activities for its annual report in 1925, the club noted that over the past decade it had been transformed from a literary club to a voluntary organization (NMFWC 1926:49).

In this same report, noting that it had been alternating its meeting between members' homes, the Masonic Hall and rooms in a local bank, the club began a campaign to build a "new Club House that will serve also as a community house." As discussed in the historic context (*New Mexico Federation of Women's Club Buildings in New Mexico*), the effort to establish clubhouses that would serve both the needs of the club and the greater community reflected the wider role that women's clubs began to play in the community, prompting historians to describe this role as "municipal housekeeping." During the early 1930s the club continued its voluntary work in Alamogordo, initiating a nursery school to provide "school training for underprivileged children" and serving noon meals to needy children while their mothers worked in a WPA-sponsored sewing project. Simultaneously the club pursued its goal of constructing a clubhouse.

The solution to their quest appeared in the form of a WPA project sponsored by the Otero County Commission. After George Abbott, attorney for the Alamogordo Improvement Company, in 1935, gave the club a lot on which to build, the club then deeded the property to the county commission. It did so with the provision that the Alamogordo Woman's Club would serve as the building's agent, making it available to all civic groups. The commission then applied for a WPA grant that was granted in March, 1936. Totaling \$5,875, the grant provided for relief-eligible workers to construct the building with the county furnishing materials such as the building's adobe bricks and vigas. Most likely designed by the project foreman, as were other WPA-funded women's clubs in New Mexico, the project began slowly, prompting the club president to write to fellow-NMFWC member Carrie Tingley, wife of Governor Clyde Tingley, asking her "to talk the matter over with the governor" (Tingley WPA File 1936). In the letter she compared the building to the one in Albuquerque where Mrs. Tingley was a member, noting that it is "really to be a community building, to take care of all women's and young people's activities, and for the use of any organization which has need for it."

By late year the project was underway, and by the spring of 1937 the building was completed. On May 6, 1937 the building was dedicated. An exhibit of paintings by J.R. Willis of Albuquerque marked the occasion, and the club purchased two of his works that continue to flank the fireplace. Club minutes note that at the first meeting, Aubrey Dunn, son of the club president and, later, speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives, sang "Alice Blue Gown" with his nine-year old soprano voice (Alamogordo Woman's Club 1999:np).

In addition to its significance to the social history of Alamogordo, the building is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of the Pueblo Revival style commonly used in public works projects in New Mexico during the 1930s. More widespread in private buildings in Santa Fe and northern New Mexican communities, the style is most readily apparent in public buildings in southern New Mexico. With the WPA practice of providing funding to pay the crews of workers on relief, local sponsoring authorities, such as the Otero County Commission, were able to fulfill their matching portion of project through the provision of

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Alamogordo Woman's Club
Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico

building materials. Since adobe and vigas milled from logs, most likely cut from the nearby Lincoln National Forest, were readily available and familiar materials to work crews, they were appropriate for many of these public works projects. The plan of the building with a number of small rooms adjacent to the larger hall or auditorium also lent itself to the stepped planes characteristic of the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style. Similarly, the broad portal lining the paired double-door entries conveyed the building's strong sense of place. This feeling was further enhanced with the slightly battered walls framing the portal and the post and corbel supports and exposed vigas punctuating its length.

The Alamogordo Woman's continues its voluntary role within the community, having adopted one of the city's public schools where it supplies books and other school supplies as well as supporting student teachers. It also continues to work with families, with members serving as victim advocates in domestic violence cases. Following public discussion at meetings of the Otero County Commission in the late 1990s regarding the future of the building, the community has renewed its interest in preserving this building, which has been in continuous use since its completion. The club and the public at large regard it as community landmark and view register listing as a means of recognizing its historic and ongoing role in Alamogordo.

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Alamogordo Woman's Club
Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico

Bibliography

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Alamogordo Woman's Club Centennial History Committee. *History Report on the Alamogordo Woman's Club*. Alamogordo Woman's Club Centennial History Committee, 1999.

Glisson, Ruth. Interview with David Kammer, November, 2002.

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New Mexico Federation of Women's Club. Annual Yearbooks and Bulletins, 1911-1930. Housed in the Museum of New Mexico History Library.

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Tingley, Clyde. WPA Correspondence 1935-1938. Housed in the Governor Clyde Tingley Manuscript Collection at the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives.

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Section 10 Page 11

Alamogordo Woman's Club
Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 10 of Block 72 of the Original Alamogordo Townsite, Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Alamogordo Women's Club.

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National Park Service

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Section Photo Page 12

Alamogordo Woman's Club
Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico

Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs unless otherwise noted:

Alamogordo Woman's Club
SE corner of 12th Street and Indiana Avenue
Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico
Photographer: David Kammer
November 18, 2002
Location of Negatives: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

Photo 1 of 3
Main façade and streetscape
Camera facing southwest

Photo 2 of 3
Portal details
Camera facing southwest

Photo 3 of 3
Interior fireplace with J.R. Willis paintings
Camera facing south