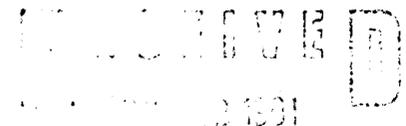


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Mesa Woman's Club  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 200 North Macdonald N/A not for publication  
city, town Mesa N/A vicinity  
state Arizona code AZ county Maricopa code 013 zip code 85201

3. Classification

| Ownership of Property                       | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                  |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
|   |   | Contributing                        | Noncontributing  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <u>1</u>                            | _____ buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | _____                               | _____ sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | _____                               | _____ structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | _____                               | _____ objects    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>1</u>                            | _____ Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing:  
NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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  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.  See continuation sheet.

Shereen Jensen 6/25/91  
Signature of certifying official 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. 8/5/91

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Alous Byers \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brickroof clay tile

other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

## SUMMARY

Constructed in 1931, the Mesa Woman's Club is a Spanish Colonial Revival style building located in the city of Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona. It stands two blocks north of Mesa's Main Street. The clubhouse is a one-story, brick building distinguished by a corner turret capped with a clay tile roof. Well-preserved and maintained over the years, the building has retained a high degree of integrity of architectural form, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

## DESCRIPTION

Setting: The clubhouse is located at 200 North Macdonald within the one square mile original town site and two blocks north of Main Street. Main Street and Macdonald were once considered the center of the downtown business district. The corner of West Second and Macdonald where the clubhouse stands is in the midst of a residential neighborhood. Many of the nearby houses which were constructed in the late 1920s and early 1930s, are still extant and the feeling and character of the original neighborhood remains.

Original Framing and Construction: The architect for the Mesa Woman's Club was Henry C. Grote of Phoenix, Arizona. The contractor was Joseph Nesbitt, who lived a few blocks from the building site on Grand Avenue. The building is of brick construction sitting on a concrete foundation raised approximately one foot above grade. The exterior brick is painted white. A brick cap detail runs along the top of all the exterior facades. The plan is rectangular, measuring approximately 70' by 42' with a 15' by 12' protrusion in the northwest corner which houses the kitchen. The building has a flat roof with a gabled rise that is also flat on top. There is a round corner turret that is finished with painted stucco and roofed with terra-cotta, straight barrel, mission tile.

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The most distinguishing feature of the clubhouse is the round, corner turret. Above the entry centered directly above the door is a Spanish tile detail comprised of tiles placed in a diamond pattern. Just below the eaves of the tile roof is a corbel arch that encircles the top of the turret.

The chamfered corner entry below the turret is located on the northeast corner of the building. There is a semi-circular fanlight above the door and a sign shaped like a banner that reads, "Woman's Club of Mesa" above the fanlight. On each side of the recessed entry is a brick column topped with a bracket-like medallion. The base of the brick columns step outward to form low walls that define the porch. There are three curved steps up to the porch and an iron handrail. On the right side of the step, a ramp has been added for wheelchair access.

The original steel casement windows of the clubhouse are still extant. They are six panes wide by six panes high in a combination of casement and fixed panes. Over each window is a brick Roman arch with articulated impost blocks and keystones and brick tympanum panels. Two wooden French doors are located on the west side of the building. There are four more doors at the back or north side of the clubhouse: one exits from the kitchen, two flank either side of the stage, and a double door is centered at the back of the stage.

There are three brick chimneys, one on the west side of the kitchen, one on the north built straight and unornamented, and another on the south side of the clubhouse. This south chimney is Spanish in feeling with four graduated steps up and tapered mass.

## Interior

The interior is an open hall/auditorium with a stage on the north of the room. The walls are lath and plaster with coved ceilings. A chair rail runs along the walls approximately 3 feet above the floor. There are arabesque plaster work details which surround the south fireplace, flank the stage and are on one wall of the entry. On the north side of the building is the kitchen, backstage, storage and the restrooms. The original hardwood flooring throughout the main hall remains, while the entry has been carpeted, and linoleum has been placed in the kitchen. Both the carpet and the linoleum have been replaced at least once.

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Current Appearance and Alterations: Except for the following changes, the clubhouse looks as it did when constructed.

In 1931, the "Junior" members of the club raised money to put hardwood flooring over the pine subflooring. This was completed in 1934 or 1935. In 1937, the first swamp cooler was added and in 1989 central air conditioning was installed.

In 1988, a wheelchair ramp and handrail were constructed leading along the east side of the building and turning onto the porch. The handrail is a decorative black wrought iron. This addition keeps with the Spanish theme and yet is subtle enough so as not to disturb the original integrity of the clubhouse.

In the front entry there has always been a screen door to help with air flow but the modern, aluminum screen door is not original. The modern door does not markedly detract from the building's integrity.

Site: The Mesa Woman's Club occupies the same 65' by 160' parcel of land that it did when it was constructed in 1931.

Integrity: The Mesa Woman's Club retains a high degree of integrity. The addition of a wheelchair ramp along the east side and into the entry of the building has had little visual impact on the building. The clubhouse looks almost exactly like it did when it was constructed.

**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)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Social History

Period of Significance  
1931-1941

Significant Dates  
1931

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Henry C. Grote/Architect

Joseph Nesbitt/BUILDER

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY

The Mesa Woman's Club is significant under Criterion A at the local level of significance for the role it played in the social history of Mesa and its continued use by the Woman's Club of Mesa. The clubhouse was a center of social and civic activity for many women residing in Mesa whose influence was felt throughout the community. Its period of significance, 1931 through 1941, reflects the continuing importance of the building from its date of construction through the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register.

HISTORIC CONTEXT-WOMAN'S CLUBS IN ARIZONA

Woman's clubs have been 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 Year Book indicates 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 woman and president of the Arizona Federation of Woman's Clubs, between 1914 and 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.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Cureton, Mrs. T. H. "The Part that Woman's Clubs Play in the Life and Up-building of the State." Arizona: The State Magazine. Vol. 13 No. 10 (January 1924) pp. 8-11.
- Mead Tray C. and Robert C. Price. Mesa: Beneath the Shadows of the Superstitions. Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, 1988.
- Ross, Margaret Wheeler. "The Arizona Federation of Woman's Clubs." Arizona: The State Magazine. Vol. 6 No. 2 (September 1916) pp. 3-4.
- Minutes of the Mesa Woman's Clubs meetings, 1917-1945.
- Mesa Journal Tribune.
- Yearbooks, papers and ledgers of the Mesa Woman's Club, 1926-present.

See continuation sheet

**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

**Specify repository:**

Mesa Southwest Museum, Mesa Woman's Club

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property less than one

**UTM References**

A 1 2 4 2 2 4 8 0 3 6 9 7 9 5 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The building site lies on a parcel of land described as the south 65 feet and the east 160 feet of Lot 1, Block 28 of the town of Mesa, Arizona.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire parcel of Lot 1 which has been associated with the Mesa Woman's Club since the clubhouse was constructed in 1931.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Katherine Harmon

organization Arizona State University date April 8, 1991

street & number 922 South Longmore #279 telephone (602) 461-0686

city or town Mesa state Arizona zip code 85202

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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 asserted further 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-MESA WOMAN'S CLUB

The site that would become Mesa was first settled in 1877 by the Lehi Company, a group of Mormon settlers coming south from Utah under the auspices of Brigham Young. The first post office was established in 1881 under the name of "Hayden" and served a population of 300. The name Mesa was being used and gaining popularity but another settlement called Mesaville precluded the official use of that name. The name Mesa became official in 1889 after the demise of Mesaville. From that time on, the settlement has enjoyed steady and continued growth.

Through the initiative of Mrs. J. F. Kelly and Mrs. M. J. Dougherty, about sixty women were invited to meet at the Episcopal Guild Hall on March 1, 1917, to consider the organization of a woman's club. Former state association president, Margaret Wheeler Ross, addressed the group and inspired them to meet and organize. On March 9, 1917, 53 women signed the charter for The Woman's Club of Mesa. Promptly, they chose: the club color, yellow; the club flower, columbine; and the club motto, "In media res" (in the midst of things). The purpose of the club was that of "encouraging and fostering a feeling of good fellowship, promoting literacy, social and educational interests and municipal improvements." The club joined the central district and state Federation of Woman's Clubs in 1918, becoming part of a larger national movement for the formation of woman's clubs. The Woman's Club of Mesa incorporated in October 1919.

The desire for a club building in which to meet was present from the inception of the club, but until that could be realized, the Woman's Club of Mesa rented the Guild Hall for its meetings. The building fund for the clubhouse was started on March 15, 1918, with the purchase of a \$100 liberty bond. The lot of land on the corner of Macdonald and West Second Street was purchased from a Mr. Rodgers, who lived next door to the property, for \$900 cash in September 1921. The fund for the building grew through various means, including card parties, plays, luncheons and collections from "Silver Teas" at each club meeting. The contract between the architect, Mr. Henry C. Grote and the Mesa

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Woman's Club was signed on May 14, 1930. The bid for the contract went to Mr. Joseph Nesbitt, whose wife was a member of the club, for the low bid of \$10,580. The building was designed in a Spanish Colonial Revival style of architecture. Construction began in June 1931 and was completed in time for the first meeting in the clubhouse held on October 30, 1931.

The membership of the club consisted of a variety of the local neighborhood women of varying economic classes and social backgrounds. Mrs. H. L. Chandler, president of the club from 1929-1931 when the clubhouse was first opened, was the wife of a prominent land owner and farmer. Mrs. H. W. Tice, her successor, was the wife of a plumber. A feeling of community existed among the women of the club and all were welcome.

The members of the woman's club were keenly interested in the cultural development and welfare of their families, their town and their country. The 1930s were a time of growth and modernization for Mesa. The city's population doubled between 1930 and 1940. The club kept abreast of current affairs and social issues by inviting speakers to discuss such matters as child welfare or asking a representative from the department of health to discuss current issues.

The 1930s were a difficult economic period throughout the country and the Mesa Woman's Club continually found ways and means to support those in need. In 1932, the club donated services to the Red Cross. In 1933, they raised \$1801.28 for the local hospital and also raised funds for parks in Mesa. In 1939, they worked on a fund which supported hungry school children. Also on a regular basis, the club set aside time for a hospital sew day. The club members would bring their sewing machines to the clubhouse and sew all day to provide the hospital with supplies.

The club building was used by the Mesa Musicians Club for concerts and by the Junior Musicians Club for their weekly meetings. The Mesa Woman's Club also served meals for the local Rotary Club meetings. The "Juniors," a group of younger girls who wanted to belong to the club but were unable to meet during the day, were organized during the summer of 1933. They met in the evening on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. The club building was used through the years for church groups, weddings, receptions and dances. The debt on the building was paid in April 1940.

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Integrity: The Mesa Woman's Club has remained in continuous use as a woman's clubhouse and community meeting house since its construction in 1931. For six decades this building has served the city of Mesa as a host for various cultural and social activities. For its contributions to the social fabric and history of Mesa, it is deserving of both recognition and preservation.