

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME Longview Women's Clubhouse
Historic

and/or Common N.A.

2. LOCATION UTM References: Kelso, WA-OR Scale: 1:24,000
Zone 10 Easting 504155
Street & Number 835 Twenty-first Avenue Northing 5108560
- not for publication

City, Town Longview - vicinity of

State Washington County Cowlitz

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both
Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress
Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government
industrial military museum park private residence
religious scientific transportation other: women's club

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Longview Women's Clubhouse

Street & Number 835 Twenty-first Avenue

City, Town Longview - vicinity of State Washington
98632

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bradford. Fey. Women's Club President, 1934-1935. History of Women's Clubhouse.
Unpublished Paper, Longview Women's Clubhouse, Longview.
McClelland, Sr., J. M. "Fine Arts Column", Daily News. Longview. October 19, 1968.
Women's Club, Meeting notes and financial records of expenditures. Longview Women's
Clubhouse. Longview. 1923-1926, 1934-1936.

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title Michael L. Neuschwanger, Architectural Apprentice

Organization City of Longview Date March 31, 1985
Dept. of Urban services & Permits

Street & Number 1525 Broadway Telephone 577-3330

City or Town Longview State Washington

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Circle one: unaltered altered
Circle one: original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance
attach photo

The Longview Women's Clubhouse is a one story wood frame structure located in the residential neighborhood of the West Side Addition, with Kessler Boulevard and Lake Sacajawea Park a block away. The L-shaped building is residential in scale, with its long side fronting Twenty-first Avenue. The Clubhouse is Rustic Style, characterized by the complex, stepping gabled forms; rough sawn weather boarding; and massive rubble chimney. The largest building form is the trussed meeting room, with an ancillary wing abutting its end, stepping down and to the rear. The entry hall, fireside room, and kitchen are contained within the supportive wing. The stone chimney breaks the ridge at the end of the collar trussed fireside room which projects from the larger wing.

The building is wood frame construction, set on a concrete foundation, with a partial basement. It is sheathed in weather boarding to the eaves, with vertical board and batten on the end gables. Windows are wood casement, six or eight sash, and are coupled in the meeting room. The doors are braced framed, vertical boards, with metal strap hinges. The entry hall doors are double-leaf, protected from the weather by a small, braced shed roof. The barge boards of the eaves exhibit decorative projecting wood blocks (see continuation sheet)

Verbal boundary description: City Lot #1, Block # 196
Longview Addition # 8
55' X 132" in size

Acreage: less than one acre

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates 1934-1935

Builder/Architect W.P.A., et. al./ MacPherson

Level of significance: local

a. History

In August of 1923, the month after Longview was founded, the Community Service Club was founded as the predecessor to the Longview Women's Club, organized to aid in the welfare of the city's incoming residents. An article written by Fey Bradford, president of the organization when the clubhouse was built, summarizes the group's early activities. The organization supported the Red Cross in the prevention and treatment of small pox, typhoid, and dysentery in the city. Many of the early settlers were temporarily housed in auto parks, tents, and skid houses. Mrs. Bradford states that the club fulfilled various welfare roles, such as "even manning our own Thrift Shop to take care of the needy... As our town grew other agencies took over the welfare aspects of the club, so we could add cultural, educational, philanthropic and social courses to our curriculum." The club joined the National Federation of Women's Clubs in 1929.
(see continuation sheet)

b. Evaluation of Significance

The Longview Women's Clubhouse is notable for its historical significance to Longview as a center of cultural and social activity in the settlement and evolution of the city. The numerous services and activities sponsored by the Women's Club as well as the variety and quantity of functions held at the Clubhouse attests to the important role of the women and their facility in Longview's history. Built by donations from numerous local contractors and suppliers, as well as Works Progress Administration labor, the building demonstrates the depth of community involvement and support for the institution. The Clubhouse, designed by a prominent local architect, George MacPherson, is a unique example of the Gothic influenced Rustic Style to Longview's cultural, civic or commercial buildings.

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET

1. NAME Longview Women's Clubhouse

7. DESCRIPTION - continued

which are suggestive of purlin ends. The interior is characterized by paneling of vertical beveled boards and the exposed, collared trusses of the meeting and fireside rooms. The fireplace features a heavy wood mantel supported by the butt ends of small logs set in the rubble chimney. The wood framed plaster board ceiling remains in the entry hall, but has been covered in the meeting and fireside rooms by thin insulative panels of a similar color, set between the principles of the trusses. The kitchen has been altered significantly.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

a. History - continued

The Service Club originally met in the St. Helen's Inn -- one of the workers' dormitories built by Long-Bell for single working men. Preceding the building of the clubhouse, the Women's Club met in the Longview Community Center- Y.M.C.A. and were supporting institutions such as the Longview Public Library and projects such as tree planting and the construction of two small parks. Mrs. Bradford comments on the decision to build a clubhouse, "We were all aghast when some one mentioned building a clubhouse of our own. Why, our dues were only \$1. 20 a year and we had just one dollar in our treasury marked 'CLUBHOUSE FUND'. But then, perhaps this was the logical time to build. Because of the Depression, our industries could not sell their products--perhaps they would give them to us. And this they did."²

The clubhouse was built on lots donated by the Long-Bell Lumber Company, the city's developng firm, with lumber from the Weyerhauser Timber Company, which had opened its huge mills in Longview's Industrial District in 1929. A prominent local architect, George MacPherson, drew up the plans for the building, which was constructed by Works Progress Administration labor. The massive rubble chimney was constructed by " the finest brick mason in Longview, as a gift to the Longview Women's Club. Many others, not to be outdone, local dealers of all sorts -- hardware, electrical contractors, and suppliers, plumbers, painters, etc. came forward with donations of labor and materials."³

A swearing in of new officers was held at the partially completed building in May of 1935. By August of 1933, the first meeting of the new year was held in the new clubhouse. An October 19th, 1968 Daily News article by J. M. McClelland Sr. summarizes the importance of the Women's Club to Longview's history:

We can say from thirty odd years of obsevation that there is not another building in the city that has had as varied and as many worthwhile activities take place under its roof than this particular clubhouse. It's hard to think of any cultural social, philanthropic, educational, civic and religious activity in some form that hasn't made use of the facilities of this particular building."

A log of its activities indicates such items as church services, piano recitals, bazaars, style shows, plays, meetings of such organizations such as those seeking to aid the handicapped, or obtain blood donations for the Red Cross, wedding

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8. SIGNIFICANCE - history - 2

receptions and silver and golden wedding anniversary parties, teas, luncheons and dinners without number...

Their clubhouse has an astonishing history and was born out of love and devotion and civic pride of some of the residents of the community at the most difficult economic period in the city's history."

The exterior of the building, its meeting room, entry hall, and fireside room retain a high degree of integrity with regard to original appearance.

¹ Fey Bradford, "History of Women's Clubhouse" ... (Unpublished Paper, Deposited in Longview Women's Clubhouse, Longview) p. 1

² Ibid., p. 1.

³ Ibid., p. 1.