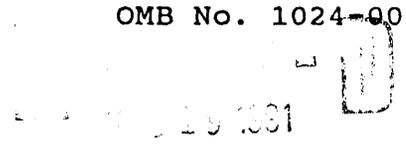


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Tuna Club of Avalon \_\_\_\_\_

other name/site number: Tuna Club \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 100 St. Catherine Way \_\_\_\_\_

not for publication: NA

city/town: Avalon (Catalina Island) \_\_\_\_\_

vicinity: NA

state: CA county: Los Angeles \_\_\_\_\_ code: 037 zip code: 90704

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3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private \_\_\_\_\_

Category of Property: Building \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
__1__	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
__1__	__0__	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: \_\_0\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: NA \_\_\_\_\_

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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 x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria.      See continuation sheet.

Kathryn Guethrie Signature of certifying official 2-11-91 Date

California Office of Historic Preservation 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 Autawietti A Lee 4/2/91  
     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):

da Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Social      Sub: Clubhouse       
Current : Social      Sub: Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Bungalow/Craftsman

Other Description:

Materials: foundation: wood roof: asphalt
walls: shingle other
weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation
Conservation

Period(s) of Significance: 1916-1939

Significant Dates : N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X 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: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	11	376580	3690200	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 Avalon Tidelands adjacent to lots 1 and 2, block 26, City of Avalon.  
 Also described as 100 St. Catherine Way.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 The boundaries encompass the historic property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Charles Davis/Albert Herbold (OHP revisions, Dec., 1990)

Organization: Tuna Club of Avalon \_\_\_\_\_ Date: November 13, 1990 \_\_\_

Street & Number: 5151 Oceanus Drive, Suite 107 Telephone: (714) 891-5779

City or Town: Huntington Beach \_\_\_\_\_ State: CA ZIP: 92649 \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number      7                                      Tuna Club of Avalon                                      Page 5  
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The Tuna Club of Avalon is a two story wood frame building constructed in 1916. (It replaced the first clubhouse of the organization which was built in 1908 and burned down in 1915.) The present clubhouse sits on pilings over the water at Avalon Bay, giving access to the building by boat at the rear. The entrance faces the waterside street St. Catherine Way.

The Tuna Club is a rather simple yet attractive building showing elements of the Craftsman style. It has a hipped roof of asphalt shingles. Its walls are covered in horizontal wood siding at the first floor level and in wood shingles at the second floor level. The shingles and siding are painted.

Windows throughout the building are mostly six over one double hung, either placed singly or in pairs. At the waterside elevation, first floor level, windows are twelve light over large fixed panes. On this same side, a large deck provides outdoor space for clubmembers.

At both the streetside and waterside elevations, the building is arranged in a tripartite division, with a longer central bay ending in a hipped roof tower section at either end. Under the extended eaves of the tower sections, open crosswork provides a decorative element. Also, at both elevations, a central low-pitched dormer provides additional interest. On the St. Catherine Way elevation, the main entrance is a slightly recessed and offset doorway surrounded by glass panes. A small portico with balconet is supported with simple columns and curved brackets. At the north end of the building a simple exterior staircase leads to an entrance on the second floor of the north elevation. On the south elevation, first floor, waterside, a large fixed pane window is flanked by one over one smaller panes. A small balcony is centrally located at the second floor.

Since 1916, all maintenance and repairs have been accomplished by the Tuna Club, with funds donated by the membership. The most costly, and extensive were accomplished in the year 1989, when a great many pilings, underpinnings and subfloors were replaced by a marine contractor. No physical or cosmetic changes resulted in this work, which was necessary as a result of age, and a severe winter storm the previous year. The only change in appearance, from original construction in 1916, occurred in the years 1946 and 1947, when a small increase in the size of the exterior deck on the seaward side of the club was built, and a short extension was projected onto the upper level of the front porch/deck area of the clubhouse proper, for the new Ladies Annex, where the club's ladies had an area of their own for showers, changing and cleaning up after a day on the water. The annex did very little to change the look of the original clubhouse.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TUNA CLUB, CONSISTING OF SEVEN PHOTOS (7), AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE ORIGINAL, PRE-1915 FIRE, TUNA CLUB VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH
2. THE ORIGINAL, PRE-1915 FIRE, TUNA CLUB, LOOKING FROM SOUTH TO NORTH
3. THE ORIGINAL. PRE-1915 FIRE, TUNA CLUB, LOOKING FROM NORTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST
4. A 1990 PHOTO OF THE TUNA CLUB, FROM THE WATER, LOOKING SOUTH.
5. A 1990 PHOTO OF THE TUNA CLUB, LOOKING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH
6. A 1990 PHOTO OF THE TUNA CLUB, LOOKING FROM EAST TO WEST.
7. A 1990 PHOTO OF THE TUNA CLUB, LOOKING FROM WEST TO EAST.

All photographs above, including reproductions of pre-1915 photos were taken by photographer Bill Meister. All negatives are on file with him at:

P.O. Box 1194  
Avalon, CA 90704

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Tuna Club of Avalon

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The Tuna Club of Avalon is significant both for its architecture and its historical associations. It is one of the oldest non-residential buildings in the city of Avalon. The original large Hotel Metropole burned down at the turn of the century, and a number of subsequent fires destroyed other prominent buildings. The Tuna Club is the city's major example of Craftsman architectural styling applied to a non-residential building. In addition, the building is the home of the Tuna Club, which originated sportsfishing in the nineteenth century, and continued to be the most prominent big game fishing club in the world after moving into this structure in 1916.

Prior to the 1890s, ocean fishing was merely the "sport" of killing as many fish as possible, without any regard to the size of the tackle used versus the size of the quarry pursued. In most cases, the fish killed were for the "enjoyment" of the killing. Little if any fish were used for human consumption, and the fish were either left to rot on the beaches, or hauled back to sea for the sharks.

In the late 1800s, Dr. Charles Frederick Holder came to California, and is generally credited with being the founder of the Tournament of Roses in Pasadena and the football game which came to be known as the the Rose Bowl. As a prominent member of the Valley Hunt Club, Dr. Holder soon learned of the wonderful fishing which then existed in California's waters, particularly in the area of Catalina Island. He then started there the first rod and reel fishing for what were then known as the "leaping tuna," the species now known as bluefin tuna.

Although his angling efforts were successful, he was appalled at the waste of what he considered to be an invaluable resource. In 1898, Dr. Holder and some of his fishing associates decided to do something about what they considered to be criminal waste, and founded the Tuna Club on land they purchased on the bay in Avalon, Catalina Island. At that time, they promulgated the very first rules for the sporting take of fishes, with tackle matched to the size of the quarry, and the first rules of conservation for ocean resources. It was the common concept at that time that the ocean was a resource that could not be damaged by man, and that no matter how many fish were taken, there would always be more. Dr. Holder's scientific knowledge was to the contrary, and the voices of this small club were the very first of what is now known as ocean conservation.

The rules they laid down for the sporting take of fishes were the first ever promulgated, and were adopted throughout the world as the word of the club's successes spread. They were generally adopted as the basis for all angling clubs and eventually as those of the International Game Fish Association to determine world record catches.

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Tuna Club of Avalon

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The very first clubhouse was located on the present lot still used by the club. Fire destroyed the building in 1915 but the new structure was immediately built and completed in 1916. Prior to the fire, fishing was just in its beginning stages, with very few anglers, primitive fishing tackle and very small fishing vessels. The years after 1915 were, in reality, the period of most importance in the club's history. It was during the years from 1916 until the early 1940s that the Tuna Club became the most prominent big game fishing club in the world, drawing visiting anglers from around the globe. The club's records from 1916 onward are intact in its archives, and the names of the prominent men of their day are inscribed in the guest books. It was during this period that big game fishing came of age the world over, and much of the early pioneering of fishing tackle and boats suitable for the taking of fish of many hundreds of pounds took place. Manufacturers such as J.A. Coxe, Arthur Kovalovsky and Vom Hoffe all contributed to the making of reels for the Tuna Club and its members. The small craft designed between 1916 and 1928 and built by the Fellows and Stewart Boatyard of Wilmington, California, became the standards by which small fishing craft were judged. These reels and boats were designed with and for members of the Tuna Club, and are so recorded in club records.

The club's growth prior to 1916 was modest compared to that in the period after the fire. President C.F. Holder's annual report of 1910, for example, showed a membership of only 65 active members. By 1916, membership had grown to the maximum of 250, and has so continued, with few years excepted, until now. The excitement of big game angling accounted for the first true "World Class Angler" in member Zane Grey. This famous writer/outdoorsman pioneered waters of the world and became the first non-native to fish in Australia, New Zealand, tropical Mexico and numerous islands, such as the legendary Cocos of Costa Rica. In so doing, he carried the name of the Tuna Club far and wide during the era between 1919 and his death in 1939. This twenty year period can rightly be called the Tuna Club's "golden years" since big game fish were still readily available, and the commercial take of game fish had not yet depleted them. It was during this period, however, that the club's voice was condemning the unlimited use of nets to take those fish, and was strongly warning the world of what was to come if netters were allowed to continue, unchecked. Sadly, these prophesies have all come true. The Tuna Club remains, to this day, a staunch supporter of ocean conservation.

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