

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0668257

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAY 5 1978  
OCT 1 1978  
DATA SHEET

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Ladies Literary Club Clubhouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

850 East South Temple

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

02

\_\_VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

CODE

049

COUNTY

Salt Lake

CODE

035

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

\_\_DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_SITE

\_\_OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_PUBLIC

PRIVATE

\_\_BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_PARK

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

OTHER: Clubhouse

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Ladies Literary Club

STREET & NUMBER

850 East South Temple

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

\_\_VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah 84102

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City and County Building

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is a two story structure over a full basement of poured concrete. It is basically rectangular in shape with the exception of the 1926 addition at the rear of the building.

The exterior walls are of red brick with the upper one third of white stucco with wood inlays. The roof is medium hip with asbestos shingles. There are three brick chimneys, one on the northeast corner, one on the southwest corner and one in the 1926 addition. A three foot eave extends around the entire structure. There is a plain box cornice and all roof trim is wood.

The main windows are those of the auditorium. They are 5 feet by 12 feet with wood sash and leaded glass in a decorative pattern, creating multi-lights. Other casement windows occur throughout the entire structure.

The most striking feature of the main facade is the open porch which extends along the entire elevation. A roof at the second story level, supported by brick piers, extends over the right side of the porch, sheltering the entrance. This roof extends over the driveway to the west of the building to form a 'porte cochere'.

One enters the interior from the porch and is in the 20 foot by 15 foot reception room. There is a stairway to the right and a 26 foot by 20 foot drawing room. Beyond the hall and drawing room is the two story high auditorium which can seat 350 people. Tall casement windows occupy practically all of the wall space to the right and left of the stage.

Upstairs over the drawing room and part of the entrance hall is a 36 foot by 20 foot room called the library. It has an original fireplace and glass doors which open onto a balcony overlooking the auditorium. It is lined on two sides with built-in bookcases. This room will seat about eighty people. In the basement there are dressing rooms for men and women; a kitchen connected to the auditorium, drawing room, and library near a dumb waiter and a caretaker's apartment of three rooms and a bath. At the rear below the stage are dressing rooms for theatrical use and the furnace room. The floors and woodwork are of hardwood, the walls tinted a dark cream.

Changes were made to the house in 1916 and again in 1926. A kitchenette opening off the auditorium west of the stage was installed in 1916. In 1926 this kitchenette was expanded into a large, fully equipped kitchen by adding to the rear of the building. The basement was also finished into rooms used for lockers, a board meeting room and a workshop for the caretaker.

The only repairs made to the house have been minor roof replacements, painting and redecorating. The general appearance of the clubhouse today is just as it was when built.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

MAY 5 1970

## PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Albert O. Treganza & Walter E. Ware

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Ladies Literary Club lies in its history, as well as its architecture. Historically, it is important because it is the home of the oldest women's club west of the Mississippi. The Ladies Literary Club had its beginnings in 1877 and was incorporated in 1882. In 1896 the Club was a major force behind the Library Bill, which established the first free public library in 1898. Since then, the Club has undertaken many tasks to beautify Salt Lake City, and expand the cultural and educational base of the city.

Architecturally, the building is significant because it is a good example of the Prairie School influence in Utah. Its architects, Albert O. Treganza, and Walter E. Ware formed a well known architectural firm in Salt Lake City in 1901, which lasted a quarter of a century. Their buildings reflect various architectural styles, but some of their best efforts, including the Ladies Literary Clubhouse, were built in the Prairie style.

### HISTORY

A small strictly cultural club called "The Blue Tea" was organized in 1875 at the home of its founder, Mrs. B. A. M. Froiseth. This little club did not develop into the Ladies Literary Club, but the Ladies Literary Club was an outgrowth of "The Blue Tea." The "Blue Tea" had a limited membership and was quite exclusive in character. Among its membership was a small group of women who felt there was need for an unlimited club - a club for the literary/ elite and also for women who were learners.

In February, 1877, this small group of broad-minded, forward-looking women met at the home of Mrs. Tina R. Jones, at 43 Fifth East Street, and laid the foundations of the Ladies Literary Club, which has the distinction of being one of about 12 clubs that began their careers during the nine years immediately following the founding of "Sorosiss" the mother club. "Sorosiss", founded in New York is generally regarded as the pioneer of women's clubs.

The Ladies Literary Club is the oldest woman's club west of the Mississippi. Mrs. Eliza Kirtley Royle was one of the founders of the Ladies Literary Club and became the first president. The club was incorporated in 1882. Club meetings at first were held in homes of the members. Then rooms and space was rented in various places for meetings, including the Barratt Furniture Store on Main Street, Odd Fellows Hall, Continental Hotel on West Temple Street, Deseret Bank Building, a small home on East First South adjoining Dr. Hamilton's home, in rooms owned by Mr. Holden on West Temple Street, rooms over a store on First South between Main and State, later in the government building which became known as the Fifth East Hotel, rented the Knights of Pythias Hall on Main Street, took

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Report prepared by Ethel Louise Bower on Bd. of Directors of Ladies Literary Club.
2. History of Fifty Years, Ladies Literary Club, Katherine B. Parsons (1927).
3. State Register form prepared by Steve Schaffer and Stewart Shusterman, University of Utah, Dept. of Architecture.
4. Peter L. Goss, Prarie School Review, "The Prarie School Influence in Utah", Vol. XII, Number 1, First Quarter, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Fort Douglas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,2 4,2,6,9,0,0 4,5,1,3,3,0,0

B         

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lois Harris

ORGANIZATION

Utah Heritage Foundation

DATE

February 29, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

355 Quince Street

TELEPHONE

533-0858

CITY OR TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah 84103

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Michael D. Gallivan*

TITLE

Michael D. Gallivan, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/13/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William Helbock*

DATE

10/6/78

ATTEST: William Helbock

DATE

Oct 6, 1978

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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temporary quarters in the First Congregational Church on East First South while waiting for their own first clubhouse to be completed.

On January 7, 1898, the formal opening of their first clubhouse, situated on Third East between South Temple and First South took place. In this building the Club conducted its activities for the next 15 years until it outgrew the building, and moved into its present home at 850 East South Temple in 1913.

The Ladies Literary Club has always been an important factor in the literary and civic life of the community. It has recognized and fostered creative talent. In the same year that the Club was founded, the Masonic Library, conducted as a subscription library, was opened to the public. The members helped in its support, from the start by patronizing it and in 1880, during the campaign in behalf of the Library, sold membership tickets to people outside the Club to the amount of one hundred and thirty dollars. In 1891, the Masonic Library turned over its eight thousand volumes to the Pioneer Library Association. This organization had no money with which to buy books and was about to close. The Club members conducted a huge carnival fair, raising \$3,100 which was used to buy two thousand new volumes for the library. In 1896, the Library Bill, providing for the support of the Library by the city was passed in the State Legislature. It was the women of the Club who took the initiative in securing the signatures of the necessary one thousand taxpayers. The free Public Library was opened to the public in February 17, 1898.

The Ladies Literary Club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1892. It was the first club in the state to affiliate with the GFWC. The following year, on April 7, the Utah State Federation was organized in the Ladies Literary Club Room on Fifth East.

The Ladies Literary Club has always taken a very active part in the State Federation.

The Club has held art exhibits, placed pictures in schools, collected books for the use of others, helped to promote a clean city, and the planting of gardens, etc., for the beautification of the city. The members of the Ladies Literary Club have participated very actively in many civic, charitable, and service organizations through the years.

The architects who designed this building, and its architectural style, are noteworthy facts in recounting the history of this building. Architects, Walter E. Ware and Alberto O. Treganza designed this building in 1912, in the Prairie Style.

Walter E. Ware (1861 - 1951) was born in Massachusetts and moved to Salt Lake City in 1889. Alberto O. Treganza (1876 - 1944) was born in Denver, and studied architecture at Cornell University. Ware and Treganza formed their partnership which lasted for 25 years, in 1901. Ware assumed the business responsibilities for the office, and Treganza worked on design. Treganza was known to be volatile in the office, while Ware had a different personality and role in the partnership. Despite their differences, each of their buildings reflected high quality workmanship and careful planning.

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They designed many types of buildings, ranging from houses to warehouses, and schools to club houses. Their earliest buildings are believed to have been influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement. Later they designed buildings such as the Ladies Literary Clubhouse in the Praries Style. One of Treganza's best designs was the Gustav L. Becker house built in 1918 in Ogden, Utah. This house was a variation of a Frank Lloyd Wright plan.

The firm of Ware and Treganza produced many fine buildings in Utah, which remain intact today. In 1926, Treganza terminated the partnership and left Salt Lake City for southern California.