United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 AMERICAN WOMAN'S LEAGUE CHAPTER HOUSES IN ILLINOIS

and/or common

2. Location

street & number (See continuation sheet 1) not for publication

city, town vicinity of congressional district

state ILLINOIS code 012 county code

3. Classification

Category: X building(s) Ownership: public

Status: x occupied

Present Use: agriculture

X thematic group being considered

Present Use: X educational

Accessible: yes: restricted

Present Use: X private residence

X both

Present Use: X museum

site

Present Use: X entertainment

Public Acquisition in process

X accessible

Present Use: X radio: unrestricted

Present Use: X transportation

(See continuation sheet 2)

4. Owner of Property

name (See continuation sheet 3)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. (See continuation sheet 4)

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (See continuation sheet 5) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state
ANDOVER - On Locust St. N.W. of intersection of 5th Ave. (State Highway 81) (HENRY CO. 073)
ANNawan - 206 S. Depot St. (CODE: HENRY CO. 073)
CARLINVILLE - 111 S. Charles St. (MACOUPIN CO. 117)
MARINE - Silver St. across from the City Park (MADISON CO. 119)
CARMI - 604 W. Main Street (WHITE CO. 193)
EDWARDSVILLE - 515 W. High Street (MADISON CO. 119)
NORTH CHICAGO - S.E. corner of 17th St. and S. Park Av. (LAKE CO. 097)
ALTON - 509 Beacon St. (MADISON CO. 119)
ZION - 2715 Emmaus Ave. (LAKE CO. 097)
PRINCETON - 1007 N. Main St. (BUREAU CO. 011)
ANDOVER - Private home
ANNAWAN - Private home
GARLINVILLE - Private home
MARINE - Gravius Memorial Library
GARMI - Private home
EDWARDSVILLE - Private home
NORTH CHICAGO - American Legion Post 397
ALTON - Private home
ZION - Private home
PRINCETON - Matson Public Library
United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

ANDOVER - Mrs. Velda Williams
221 E. First Ave.
Milan, IL 61264

ANNAWAN - Mr. and Mrs. Peter G. Tom
231 N. Canal St.
Annawan, IL 61234

CARLINVILLE - Mr. Fred M. Jewel
111 S. Charles St.
Carlinville, IL 62626

MARINE - Gravius Memorial Library Assn.
Silver St.
Marine, IL 62061

CARMI - Mr. and Mrs. Donald Drone
604 W. Main St.
Carmi, IL 62821

EDWARDSVILLE - Mrs. Finis A. Bishop
515 W. High St.
Edwardsville, IL 62025

NORTH CHICAGO - American Legion Shavin Post 397
17th St. and S. Park Av.
North Chicago, IL 60064

ALTON - Mrs. Gilmar Wyatt
509 Beacon St.
Alton, IL 62002

ZION - Mr. and Mrs. Ray Philyan
2715 Emmaus
Zion, IL 60099

PRINCETON - Matson Public Library Assn.
North End Library
1007 N. Main St.
Princeton, IL 61356
ANOVER - Recorder's Office
Henry County Courthouse
Cambridge, IL 61238

ANAWAN - Recorder's Office
Henry County Courthouse
Cambridge, IL 61238

CARLINVILLE - Recorder's Office
Macoupin County Courthouse
Carlinville, Illinois 62626

MARINE - Recorder's Office
Madison County Courthouse
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

CARMI - Recorder's Office
White County Courthouse
Carmi, Illinois 62821

EDWARDSVILLE - Recorder's Office
Madison County Courthouse
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

NORTH CHICAGO - Chicago Title and Trust Co.
Lake County Division
15 South County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

ALTON - Recorder's Office
Madison County Courthouse
Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

ZION - Chicago Title and Trust Co.
Lake County Division
15 South County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

PRINCETON - Recorder's Office
Bureau County Courthouse
Princeton, Illinois 61356
Lewis conceived the League as a giant subscription gathering agency for Lewis Publishing Company's periodicals. He offered to build chapter houses for chapters that could meet the following membership quotas:

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<td>7,500</td>
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Lewis chose a St. Louis architectural firm, Helfenstein, Hirsch and Watson, to design the five classes of chapter houses for the League. He instructed the architects to design houses that reflected women's highest function— that of homemaker. Zolnay made plaques called "Woman's Mission" that were included over the mantle of every fireplace. It depicted woman performing her duty as mother, educator, and protector of childhood. The cruciform layout included a salesroom at the front, a kitchen to the rear, and in the center, a big, light, airy room that could be made into one large and one smaller meeting room by closing folding doors. The building materials used were natural woods, stucco and brick. Tints of nature's best color schemes were used to decorate the interior. "Built-ins," inglenooks, stenciled wall borders, beaten copper fixtures, and stained glass windows also reflected the craftsman ideal prevalent at that time. The hearth was an important feature of the house.

A fireplace, by its presence alone, symbolized the natural nucleus for wholesome family life. Imbedded in the fireplace was George Julian Zolnay's "Woman's Mission." On the exterior of every house was the emblem of the League; it was a wreath of acanthus leaves surrounding the letters A.W.L. The type of architecture used in the building of the chapter houses across America was to be easily identifiable by League members visiting towns anywhere in the United States. The houses were generally built well because Lewis awarded the contracts for construction of chapter houses to local builders whom the ladies watched carefully during construction of their chapter houses. One of Lewis's mottos was, "The end is to build well."

The architects plans for all five classes of chapter houses reflected the progressive architecture of the Chicago School of architects and the influence of Mission style. The dominant horizontal character of the chapter houses reflected the contemporary architectural qualities of the "prairie style" which had recently evolved out of the Chicago school of architects led by Frank Lloyd Wright. The building materials and interior details exemplified the ideals of the arts and crafts movement taking place in America at that time.
Today the chapter houses are used mostly as homes. When the houses were built in 1909-10, not every town had sewers and running water or electricity. Most of the Class I Chapter houses are the ones with most changes due to the addition of a bathroom. Another change is the addition due to the advent of the automobile. Two of the chapter houses (Class I in Andover and Class III in Alton) have garages added to the houses. Although the houses are miles apart, the garages are tacked on to the right side of the chapter houses on the facade. The bathrooms are added to the left side at the rear, probably due to the fact that a back door was to the right side of the back room. Fireplaces have been removed or altered in some of the houses. The Class III chapter house was designed with the fireplace at the center of the house, as was the Class IV chapter house. All remain viable parts of the interior of the house, and the Zolnay plaque is still visible and is the focal point of the living room in the houses at Zion, Alton, and in the libraries at Marine and Princeton. The other plaques may be discovered if the wall panels are removed.

Considering the fact that the houses are seventy years old, the majority are in very good condition. Until recently the Class IV chapter house at Princeton, Illinois, the only Class IV built, was used as a library. The library board has just decided to close the library due to lack of money, but a local preservation group has formed to save the library. All the Mission style furniture, the inglenook, the built-ins, the fireplace with its "Woman's Mission" and the Moravian Pottery tiles, the Lighting fixtures and plumbing all remain in original condition. The exterior is also in fine condition. It looks like Lewis and the League members just left after the official opening in May of 1911, and Lewis and his party are about to board the train traveling from the nearby station in Princeton to University City in Missouri. Lewis always insisted that the lots on which the chapter houses were built be located near public transportation. He also insisted that the lots be in the best parts of town, and be located in the central downtown area close to public transportation.

For details of each house, see photographs and written descriptions that accompany photos, and continuation sheets number 7-11.

The above information gleaned from Lewis Publishing Company's periodicals including the Woman's National Daily, the Woman's Magazine, and brochures as follows: "Local Chapter of the American Woman's League," "The American Woman's League and the Peoples University," and the American Woman's League Convention Program, June 1910.
Description of American Woman's League chapter houses in 1909.

Class I American Woman's League Chapter House

Architect: Helfensteller, Hirsch and Watson, St. Louis, Mo.
Size of lot: 50 x 100 feet
Size of house: 31 x 38 feet approx. Prairie style architecture
Cost: $1,200 approx.
Plan: one story, cruciform structure containing assembly room, salesroom and kitchen. Basement optional (built at local chapter's expense)
Exterior: Walls - stucco and wood
Foundation - concrete
Roof - shingle, wide overhang, gable
Windows - sash
Details - chimney is brick (fireplace and kitchen chimney) flower boxes with copper lining are at each corner of assembly room built-in bookcase projects on exterior wall and has separate roof leaded light glass panel in front door (A.W.L.) ornamental plaster panel and name panel over front door (A.W.L. and American Woman's League)

Interior: Walls - plastered and painted
Floors - wood floors
Rooms - Assembly room divided by folding doors to make one larger room called the general meeting room, and one smaller room called the chapter room and library. General meeting room has fireplace, and the chapter room and library has built-in bookcase.
Kitchen has built-in cabinets
Salesroom has bookshelves
Fireplace is of brick and has George Julian Zolnay's "Woman's Mission" plaque imbedded in it.
Furnishings - Mission style furniture, fixtures, and rugs.

Class II American Woman's League Chapter House

Architect: Helfensteller, Hirsch and Watson, St. Louis, Mo.
Size of lot: 50 x 100 feet
Size of house: 33 x 41 feet approx. Prairie style architecture
Cost $2,500 approx.
Plan: one story, cruciform structure containing assembly room, salesroom and kitchen
Exterior: Walls - stucco with wood trim
Foundation - concrete
Roof - shingle, wide overhang, gable
Windows - casement and sash
Details - chimney is brick (fireplace and kitchen chimney) flower boxes with copper lining are at each corner of assembly room
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Continuation sheet Item number 7 Page 4

leaded light glass panel in front door (A.W.L.)
ornamental plaster panel and name panel over front
door (A.W.L. and American Woman's League)

Interior: Walls - plastered and painted
Floors - wood floors
Rooms - Assembly room divided by folding doors to make
one larger room called the general meeting room, and
one smaller room called the chapter room and library.
General meeting room has fireplace, and the chapter
room and library has built-in bookcase.
Kitchen has built-in cabinets
Salesroom has bookshelves

Fireplace is of brick and has George Julian Zolnay's
"Woman's Mission" plaque imbedded in it. Built-in
benches are one each side of fireplace located in
general meeting room.

Furnishings - Mission style furniture, fixtures and rugs.

Class III American Woman's League Chapter House

Architect: Helfensteller, Hirsch and Watson, St. Louis, Mo.
Size of lot: 60 x 100
Size of house: 34 x 42 feet approx.
Cost: $4,000 approx.

Plan: one story cruciform structure containing assembly room, salesroom,
kitchen, toilet room and porch. Mission style architecture

Exterior: Walls - Stucco with wood trim
Foundation - concrete
Roof - shingle, wide overhang, gable
Windows - casement and sash
Details - Original plans show Assembly Room layout to
resemble Class I and II interiors. When Chapter
Houses Class III were built the plans changed
to Class IV interior layout. Therefore fireplace
is on interior wall, and brick chimney is not on
exterior wall to one side; instead it is located
at center of roof. (No toilet or anti-room)
copper lined flower boxes on exterior walls
leaded light glass panel in front door (A.W.L.)
ornamental plaster panel and name panel over
front door (A.W.L. and American Woman's League)

Interior: Walls - plastered and painted
Floors - wood floors
Rooms - Assembly Room divided into three rooms; two chapter rooms
and one general meeting room, by folding doors. General
meeting room has fireplace. Chapter rooms have bays.
Kitchen has built-in cabinets
Salesroom has bookshelves

Fireplace is of brick and has George Julian Zolnay's "Woman's
Mission" plaque imbedded in it. Wooden benches face
each other in front of the fireplace to form inglenook.
Furnishings - Mission style furniture, fixtures and rugs

Class IV American Woman's League Chapter House

Architect: Helfensteller, Hirsch and Watson, St. Louis, Mo.
Size of lot: 75 x 100 feet approx.
Size of house: 42 x 52 approx.
Plan: one story, cruciform structure containing assembly room, salesroom, kitchen, anti-room, toilet room, and terrace. Basement included.
Mission style.
Exterior: Walls - stucco with terra-cotta details
Foundation - concrete
Roof - shingle, gable and flat
Windows - casement and sash
Details - brick chimney center of roof; fireplace on inside wall bays have individual roofs copper lined flower boxes on exterior walls facade has terra-cotta decorative details leaded light glass panel in front door (A.W.L.)

Interior: Walls - plastered and painted
Floors - wood floors
Rooms - Assembly Room divided into three rooms; two chapter rooms and one general meeting room, by folding doors. General meeting room has fireplace of brick. Chapter rooms have bays and built-in benches. Kitchen has built-in cabinets Salesroom has bookshelves Anti-room Toilet room has all fixtures
Fireplace - it is of brick and has George Julian Zolnay's "Woman's Mission" plaque imbedded in it. Wooden benches face each other in front of the fireplace to form inglenook.
Furnishings - Mission style furniture, fixtures and rugs.

DESCRIPTION OF AMERICAN WOMAN'S LEAGUE CHAPTER HOUSES IN ILLINOIS - 1980

ANDOVER - Class I Chapter House
Changes - Aluminum storm windows added Garage added to facade Frame addition of bathroom at rear
Wood on rear wall covered with tar paper
Needs repairs. Roof needs attention.
Interior layout changed

ANNANAWAN - Class I Chapter House
Changes - Aluminum storm windows added
Gutters added to existing gutters
Chimney has addition at top
Wood painted white
Frame bathroom added at rear
In general good repair
Interior layout changes

CARLINVILLE - Class I Chapter House
Changes - Porch added to facade
Addition to chimney at top
Wood painted white, stucco painted peach color
Frame addition of bathroom added at rear
House in general good repair
Landscaping needs attention
Interior layout changed

MARINE - Class I Chapter House
Changes - Aluminum storm windows and door added
Air-conditioning added (central air)
Wood painted red, stucco yellow, trim white
No additions
Interior layout; recently renovated (Bathroom added to interior)
House in very good repair

CARMI - Class II Chapter House
Changes - Windows one pane of glass
Central air-conditioning added
Roofing overlaps edges of roofline
Trim painted white; emblem removed
Many additions to rear and second story added at rear
House in excellent repair and attractively renovated

EDWARDSVILLE - Class II Chapter House
Changes - Porch added at front entrance
Stucco painted white, trim black; emblem removed
Fireplace removed; windows and brackets at eaves replace it.
Interior layout changed
No additions to exterior
House in general good repair

NORTH CHICAGO - Class II Chapter House
Changes - Drastically changed
Only windows of facade, fireplace wall, and general cruciform
shape remain visible. Many additions. Top of chimney removed. Road and buildings additions have eaten away the lot size. Building now covers entire lot.
Interior layout changed drastically
House in general good repair

ALTON - Class II Chapter House
Changes - Aluminum awnings added to facade
Stucco painted white, trim yellow; house in general good repair.
Garage added to facade
Frame bathroom added at rear
Exterior entrance to basement covered with frame addition
Interior layout changed

ZION - Class II Chapter House
Changes - No Changes
Interior layout somewhat changed
House in excellent condition

PRINCETON - Class IV Chapter House
Changes - Facade roofline changed
Exterior basement entrance has frame addition for covering
House in excellent condition

The interiors of chapter houses now used as private homes all have some interior changes. Most walls added are placed where folding doors once served the same purpose. Additions to exteriors are bathrooms and garages. Only the Class IV came with a toilet room; outbuildings served the purpose of a toilet room. The local chapter at Edwardsville had a basement built at their own expense and the toilet was installed in the basement. Both Class II chapter houses also had basements.

Out of all the chapter houses built in America, the ten in Illinois are in the best overall condition, and all chapter houses built for the League in Illinois remain standing. See photos and slides for visual view of the chapter houses.
8. Significance

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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In the early decades of the twentieth century, Edward Gardner Lewis, publisher, promoter, and founder of two "dream cities" University City in Missouri and Atascadero in California, also founded the American Woman's Republic. In University City, the capital of the American Woman's Republic, there are several buildings now listed on the National Register that were designed by noted architects including Eames and Young. In Atascadero, the Republic's first colony, the administration building was designed by Walter D. Bliss and is also on the Register.

The American Woman's League was founded in 1908 by Lewis who published newspapers and magazines aimed at female readership. In his publications sent by mail to subscribers across America, Lewis announced the formation of the American Woman's League which was to advance, protect, and uplift American womanhood through its own united efforts.

Woman suffrage was a major issue at that time. Lewis believed that suffrage was inevitable, and that the formation of such a League with a powerful publishing company behind it would be a force in the cause of woman suffrage.

He thought that it was necessary for women to prepare for their new role by educating themselves on matters of government. Lewis therefore founded the Peoples University and built the Art Academy with the idea of making it the art center of the world. The faculty of the Academy included Tuxile Doat of Sevres, France, and Mrs. Adelaide Robineau of New York. George Julian Zecni, internationally renowned sculptor, was Director of the Art Academy. The Academy made its mark on the history of art pottery.

Lewis conceived the League as a giant subscription gathering agency for his publications. Membership was obtained by selling $52 worth of subscriptions to any of Lewis's numerous publications. Lewis offered to build chapter houses for local chapters that could meet membership quotas.

Lewis chose a St. Louis architectural firm, Helfenstaller, Hirsch and Watson, to design the five classes of chapter houses for the League. He instructed the architects to design houses that reflect woman's highest function—that of homemaker. The chapter houses, like the ideal home, were to serve as social and educational centers of the community.

He also wanted a separate room for the Women's Exchange where League members could sell the Lewis Publishing Company's periodicals and ceramics produced at the Art Academy, plus the members own handicrafts and homemade food. He thought this would give women business experience. He encouraged women to take the free correspondence school courses from the Peoples University which were offered for free to members of the League.

(See continuation sheet 16)
These courses prepared women for jobs. Other courses available were art, sculpture, music, writing, and law.

In 1910, 1,000 of the 100,000 League members met for the first time at a convention in University City. In 1911 when the League's Republic was founded the members held their first congress at University City. The members elected Mrs. Lewis the President of the American Woman's Republic, and Mrs. Belva Lockwood, the Republic's Attorney General who had been the first woman to run for President of the United States in the election of 1884, swore Mrs. Lewis in as a president.

The members attending the congress signed the Declaration of Equal Rights and adopted a constitution that began, "We, the Women of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union...." Lewis had patterned the Woman's Republic after that of the United States. He reasoned that any republic that had been so beneficial to men should be equally beneficial for women. He said that the Woman's Republic would naturally merge into the Republic of the United States when woman suffrage was granted.

The Woman's Republic did merge after suffrage was granted to women in 1920, but University City and Atascadero remained as viable communities where citizens of the Republic of the United States of America continue to carry on the great experiment in government. All but six of the thirty-nine chapter houses built in sixteen states remain standing. Four of them are still used as clubhouses for women. The other chapter houses have become homes, church parlors, libraries or places of business. The first chapter house built for an active chapter of the League was built at Edwardsville, Illinois. Illinois has ten chapter houses built between 1909 and 1910. All are still standing and in use. Illinois claims the only Class IV chapter house built in America. It is located at Princeton.

Many of the League members from Illinois left for Atascadero where they purchased land and built homes in the Republic's colony. Others remained in Illinois and met in member's homes or public buildings if they were not lucky enough to have a chapter house which became a district headquarters after the Republic was founded.

Lewis told the League members of the Republic that they must "pull together" if they expected to obtain a chapter house or woman suffrage. The chapter houses stand today as reminders of what women can do when they "pull together." Lewis had many favorite mottoes. Another was "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows." The members of the League kept their faces to the sunshine even when suffrage looked doubtful. Lewis's mottoes are timeless.

The above information was taken from Lewis Publishing Company's periodicals, brochures, and convention programs including the meeting of the Republic's first congress in 1912 when the Declaration of Equal Rights and the Constitution were signed. Other Illinois newspapers were also used in reference to the ten communities in Illinois that received chapter houses. Recent visits to those communities added up-to-date information.
9. Major Bibliographical References


Lewis Publishing Company's Woman's National Daily, a newspaper published in University City, Missouri, 1907-1916

10. Geographical Data

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- national
- state [ ]
- local [x]

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

[Signature]

For NCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] date 11/28/80

Keep of the National Register

[Signature] date 11/28/80

Attest

[Signature] date 11/28/80

[Signature] date 11/28/80

Newspapers include: Alton Evening Telegraph, Alton, Illinois
Bureau County Record, Princeton, Illinois
Waukegan Daily Sun, Waukegan, Illinois
Carlinville Democrat, Carlinville, Illinois
White County Tribune, Carmi, Illinois
The Chronicle, Cambridge, Illinois
Highland Journal, Highland, Illinois
ANDOVER - Beginning fifty (50) feet North from the South East corner of lot one hundred and two (102) in the Village of Andover, Henry County, State of Illinois, running thence fifty (50) feet North, thence sixty (60) feet West, thence fifty (50) feet South, thence sixty (60) feet East to the place of beginning.

ANNAWAN - Twenty-two (22) feet of the South half of Lot two (2) Block five (5) and the North one half of Lot three (3) consisting of thirty-two (32) in Block five of the original plat of the Town of Annawan, County of Henry and State of Illinois.

CARLINVILLE - Fifty (50) feet of uniform width off the South end of Lot number one in Block Number sixteen in Alice Goods Addition to the town now city of Carlinville on the east.

EDWARDSVILLE - Lot three (3) of Terry Terrace Addition to the City of Edwardsville, County of Madison and State of Illinois, as recorded in Plat Book seven (7) at page 79.

MARINE - Lot Number Nine (9) in Block Number Ten (10) of the Original Town of Marine.

GARMI - Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot 21 in Block 6 of Stewart's Addition to Carmi, running West along the North line of said lot 21 to the middle point of said line Seventy-one feet, more or less, thence running South at right angles to aid North line of lot 21, through lots 21, 20 and 19 to the Northwest line of Main Street, thence running Northeast along said Northwest line of Main Street to the West line of the Alley on the East side of said lot 20 and 21, thence running North along East line of said lots 20 and 21 Sixty-six and one-tenth feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, in Carmi, County of White, Ill.

NORTH CHICAGO - North fifty (50) feet and West one hundred and twenty-five (125) feet of Northeast corner of Block 23 on the Southeast corner of Park and 17th Street in the town of North Chicago, County of Lake and State of Illinois.

ALTON - A certain tract of land in the Northwest part of Block Numbered Ninety five (95) of Godfrey and Gilman's Addition to the City of Alton, County of Madison and State of Illinois, described as follows: to-wit:- Beginning at a point in the East line of Beacon Street, Sixty (60) feet South of the Northwest corner of said Block Numbered Ninety-five (95) thence Southerly along the easterly line of Beacon Street sixty (60) feet to a point; thence Easterly at right angles to Beacon Street Seventy (70) feet to a point; thence Northerly parallel with Beacon Street, Sixty (60) feet to a point; thence Westerly, at right angles to Beacon Street, Seventy (70) feet to the place of beginning; situated in the City of Alton, in the County of Madison, in the State of Illinois.
ZION - Zion City subdivision, Section 21, Tri-lot, 90.96'x90.96'x128.58' lying 97' West of Block 83 between Calidonia and Emmaus Ave, in the town of Zion, in the County of Lake, in the State of Illinois.

PRINCETON - Lot Fourteen (14) and the North one half (N½) of Lot Fifteen (15) in Stoners Addition to the Town now City of Princeton, situated in the County of Bureau State of Illinois.
**AMERICAN WOMAN'S LEAGUE CHAPTER HOUSES**

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<th>Location</th>
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