

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: The Woman's Club of Minneapolis

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 410 Oak Grove StreetCity or town: Minneapolis State: MN County: HennepinNot For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

	12/7/2021
Signature of certifying official/Title: Amy Spong, Deputy SHPO, MN Dept. fo Admin.	
Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/clubhouse

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Italian Renaissance

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: CONCRETE; Roof: SYNTHETICS/Rubber; Walls: BRICK, LIMESTONE_

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis at 410 Oak Grove Street was designed by Leon Arnal in association with Magney & Tusler Architects and Engineers in 1927. The Italian Renaissance Revival style building is rectangular in plan and sits on an irregularly-shaped lot overlooking Loring Park. The steep lot allows for an entrance at the six-story elevation facing West Fifteenth Street as well as the four-story elevation facing Oak Grove Street. The reinforced concrete building is clad in variegated, orange brick with smooth limestone at the sills, stringcourses, main entrance, and cornice of the flat roof. In 2002 a four-story elevator and kitchen addition, designed to blend with the materials and scale of the historic building, was built at the east elevation. The building retains its historic interiors including the dining room, lounge, ballroom, libraries, and auditorium, which were essential spaces for the Woman's Club programming. The Woman's Club of Minneapolis continues to operate in the club building.

Narrative Description

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Location and Setting

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis is located in the Loring Park neighborhood of Minneapolis, which is comprised of a mixture of residential, commercial and religious land uses and varied building scales.¹ The club property occupies Lots 26 through 29 and the eastern fifteen feet of Lot 30 of the Auditor's Subdivision No. 18. (Fig. 1) The building sits on a narrow, irregular block between West Fifteenth and Oak Grove Streets, which creates a wedge-shaped lot for the neighboring building at the west. The four-story building at the west of the Woman's Club, the Northwestern National Life Insurance Company Home Office (NRHP), faces St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral (1908). The office building was built in 1923 with an annex dating from 1946 and was rehabilitated into apartments in 2012. At the east of the Woman's Club, there is a surface-parking lot with fifty-six spaces; the Club purchased the parcels in 1937 and 1947.² The nine-story, Park Terrace Apartments (1952) is located at the east of the parking lot. The seven-story apartment building across Oak Grove Street at the south, Vue Apartment Homes, was completed in 2012. Two single-family houses remain on the south side of Oak Grove Street. The Daniel B. Lyon House at 419 Oak Grove Street was built in 1892 and the Dr. James Dunn House at 337 Oak Grove Street was built in 1893; both have been converted into office and higher density residential uses.³ Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church (1916) is located two blocks south of the club. At the north, the Woman's Club overlooks Loring Park and the Basilica of Saint Mary (1914, NRHP), which is situated on the north side of the park.

Loring Park, generally bound by Hennepin Avenue at the west, Harmon Place at the north, Willow Street at the east and West Fifteenth Street at the south, was within the Original Town limits of Minneapolis. Residential development surrounding Loring Pond (originally Johnson's Lake) did not begin until after 1883 when the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners purchased the land.⁴ Mansions were built on the ridge overlooking the park at the south where the urban grid gave way to a curving picturesque streetscape.⁵ By 1900, higher-density apartments and rowhouses edged the east side of the park and commercial buildings developed along the west and north sides.⁶ By the 1920s, many families had moved farther out of the city and the single-family houses were replaced with apartment buildings and nonresidential facilities.⁷ The Eitel Hospital (NRHP) at 1367 Willow Street was built at the east of the park in 1911. The Walker Art Gallery was built at the west of Loring Park in 1927 and was replaced with a new museum in 1971.⁸

¹ The Woman's Club of Minneapolis was designated a local landmark by the City of Minneapolis in 1998.

² These two parcels were purchased from members of the Woman's Club. The addition (2002) at the east elevation sits on the 1937 land purchase.

³ Both houses are locally designated landmarks by the City of Minneapolis.

⁴ Judith A. Martin and David A. Lanegran. *Where We Live: The Residential Districts of Minneapolis and Saint Paul* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983), 75. The park was originally named Central Park and was renamed Loring Park in 1890, after Charles Loring, the first president of the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners.

⁵ Larry Millet. *Lost Twin Cities* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1992), 29.

⁶ Martin and Lanegran, 75.

⁷ Ibid, 76.

⁸ The building was renamed Walker Art Center in 1940.

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General Exterior

The Italian Renaissance Revival style building housing the Woman's Club of Minneapolis was built in 1927 and designed by local architect Leon Arnal in association with Magney & Tusler. The six-story, reinforced concrete clubhouse is clad in variegated, orange brick with smooth limestone at the sills, cornice, water table, entrances and balconies. The flat roof has short penthouse towers at the east and west ends. The rectangular plan building measures 110 feet along the north-south elevations and 128 feet along the east-west elevations. Due to the steep nature of the parcel, the building is six stories at the north elevation (15th Street) and four stories at the south elevation (Oak Grove Street). Windows are primarily replacement, double-hung aluminum sash with divided lights. The formal, interior public spaces have casements with transoms and wood French doors.

South Elevation (Oak Grove Street)

The façade (south elevation) faces Oak Grove Street and is four stories with an offset, projecting entrance bay. (Photos 1 and 2) The façade is divided into three horizontal divisions with limestone belt courses and differing windows at each level. The lower level has double-hung windows and wrought iron grills. The window at the west of the entrance bay was converted into an accessible entrance at an unknown date. A double-leaf aluminum entrance (ca. 2002) at the east bay also provides accessibility. The brick at the lower level is laid in a common bond pattern with projecting bands. The second level has four, paired aluminum casement windows with fixed transoms at the east of the entrance, which illuminate the interior dining room. These windows are two stories in height and each has a recessed brick tympanum with a central stone medallion. Limestone flower boxes are beneath each casement window and align with the limestone water table. The double-height windows correspond with two floors of windows at this same level; these windows are double-hung replacement sash with eight-over-eight divided lights and brick headers. A limestone stringcourse runs the length of the building and serves as the window sill for the lower windows. The upper level of the façade has double-hung replacement sash with six-over-six divided lights and a limestone stringcourse serves at the sill. The cornice has limestone coping and a brick dental course. Stair towers rise one story above the roof at the east and west ends of the building. The west tower has a hipped roof and clay tiles and the east tower has a flat roof.

The main projecting entry bay has eight limestone stairs with a limestone balustrade. The entrance is protected by a barrel-vaulted canvas awning, which is supported by metal posts. The double-leaf wood doors have glass in the upper panels and the fixed transom has the club address, 410 Oak Grove, painted in gold letters on the glass. The doors are framed by a limestone surround that has stone pilasters and a stone console, which supports a projecting stone cornice. Above the cornice, there is a limestone medallion, which reads "The Woman's Club," and is surrounded by elaborate ribbon carving. A date stone, located at the east of the entrance, reads "MCMXXVII" referring to the date of construction, 1927. The base of the neighboring stone balustrade has a stone that reads "MAGNEY AND TUSLER INC ARCHITECTS AND

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ENGINEERS.” The upper level of the entrance bay has a double-leaf casement window with a transom. The opening has an arched brick surround and a limestone balconet with an iron railing.

There is a half-circle driveway at the south elevation, which connects to the adjacent surface parking lot at the east. The two entrance piers at the east entrance of the circle driveway are rusticated block. The surface parking lot has a buff brick wall at the west elevation and a limestone wall at the south elevation.

North Elevation (West 15th Street)

The north elevation (West 15th Street) has two stacked, arcaded loggias with double-height floors flanked by projecting bays of single stories. (Photos 4 and 5) The lower loggia has five brick arches supported on stone Corinthian columns and corresponds to the auditorium at the first floor. The inner brick wall of the first floor loggia repeats the arches with a pattern of recessed brick arches, which are void of openings. At the east of the lower loggia, there is a wood entrance door with a stone lintel; this entrance accesses the auditorium stage. An arched, double-leaf, wood window is above the entrance. The auditorium entrance is at the west of the lower loggia and features a wood, double-leaf entrance with a stone surround and canvas awning. A limestone arch frames the entrance system and a stone shield of the Woman's Club crest is centered in the brick tympanum. A second public entrance to the auditorium is in a recessed loggia at the west elevation and features four aluminum, double-leaf doors with transoms. The recessed brick arches over each entrance have stone medallions in the tympanum.

The upper loggia of the north elevation has five brick arches filled with stone balconies and five arched, wood French doors, which access the lounge at the fourth floor. Stone medallions are placed between each brick arch and there is decorative brick fretwork at the cornice. There are two bays of windows flanking the upper loggia. The bays at the west of the loggia have double-leaf, aluminum doors and a decorative iron balconet resting on stone brackets. This balconet and the similar balconet on the west elevation correspond to the Falconer Memorial Library at the interior. The two bays at the east of the loggia have replacement, six-over-six aluminum sash. In 1969, a one-story, brick mechanical room addition was placed over this bay.

At the north elevation, the sixth floor is set back and windows are aluminum replacement sash. The sixth floor accesses a roof top garden with a metal railing.

East Elevation

The east elevation faces the club's surface parking lot. (Photo 3) In 2002, a four-story brick addition,⁹ measuring 53 by 28 feet, was placed at the east elevation. This addition provided room for kitchen expansion at the dining room and ballroom as well as a freight elevator. The addition closely matches the brick of the original building and continues the stone belt courses and decorative cornice. There are four bays of windows with aluminum sash and the elevator bay is

⁹ Minneapolis Building Permit #B3017331, September 30, 2002.

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marked with a decorative brick arch. The addition has a below-grade overhead door for truck deliveries. The recessed bay of the east elevation has the original window openings with replacement aluminum sash. The one-story, rooftop mechanical room (1969) rests on this recessed bay.

The surface parking lot at the east elevation was acquired through purchases in 1938 and 1947.¹⁰ The brick retaining wall along 15th Street (north) was built in 1952 following the construction of the neighboring Park Terrace Apartments.

West Elevation

The west elevation abuts the Northwestern National Life Insurance Company Home Office and is partially obscured at the lower three levels. (Photo 5) Windows at this elevation have replacement, aluminum sash with six-over-six divided lights. One opening at the fourth floor, which corresponds to the Falconer Library, has a double-leaf, aluminum door and decorative iron balconet. An aluminum egress door at the fourth floor leads to a concrete stair that exits to the south.

Interior

At the interior, the Woman's Club has large, central public spaces, which are flanked by elevators, stairs and offices at the west and east ends. The large public spaces, which include the dining room, lounge, ballroom and auditorium, are two stories in height. (See sections, Fig. 18) The first floor, entered from West 15th Street (north elevation), is the lower level of the auditorium. The second floor is the balcony of the auditorium and the ballroom. The third floor accesses the upper auditorium balcony and the coatroom level. In Italian fashion, the fourth floor, entered from Oak Grove Street (south elevation), is a piano nobile with the main entrance, lobby, lounge, dining room, libraries, and offices. The fifth and sixth floors originally provided eighteen bedrooms with shared baths; these rooms have been converted into offices and meeting rooms.

The main entrance of the building is located on Oak Grove Street (south elevation) and enters the building at the fourth floor. At the entry, there is a landing with terrazzo stairs, which leads up to the fourth-floor lobby and down to the coatroom at the third floor. The lobby is two stories in height and has balconies, which overlook the space from the fifth floor. (Photo 6) The dining room at the east of the lobby has four casement windows and a painted box-beam ceiling. (Photo 7) The fireplace at the east wall of the dining room has a copper rendition of the club's crest (ca. 1985) above the mantel. The kitchen is located at the east of the dining room. The lounge at the north of the lobby has a wood-beam ceiling and five, wood French doors that open onto a covered loggia. (Photo 8) The lounge has wood floors and a stone fireplace at the west end. The open stair along the south wall of the lounge accesses meeting rooms and offices on the fifth and

¹⁰ Hennepin County Deed Book 1324, Page 604, 5-6-1927; Hennepin County Deed Book 1625, Page 157, 1-21-1947.

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sixth floors. The Falconer Memorial Library is located at the west of the lounge. (Photo 9) The library has three aluminum casement windows and a fireplace with a carved wood panel depicting a ship. A small lending library is next to the Falconer Memorial Library. The terrazzo stairs at the west of the lobby access all six floors of the building; a glass and aluminum fire enclosure was added to the open stair in 1978. (Photo 10)

The ballroom is at the second floor and is located below the dining room. (Photo 11) The ballroom has wood floors, a narrow stage at the east and four, garden-level windows at the upper portion of the south wall.

The auditorium is next to the ballroom. There are stained concrete floors at the first floor and balcony of the auditorium; terrazzo floors are in the lobby of the auditorium. (Photo 12) The metal seats and lighting of the auditorium were installed in 1958. The wood stage at the east end of the auditorium has backstage dressing rooms and a restroom.

The bedrooms at the fifth and sixth floors have been converted into offices, meeting rooms and a fitness room. Some of the original bathrooms remain. The fifth floor does not extend the full width of the building and the offices are located by the east and west stairs. The sixth floor extends the full width of the building and connects to the east and west stairs. The east stair (2002) is a service stair with poured concrete risers and pipe railings.

Alterations

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis has undergone a few alterations. Previously, the club purchased heat from the neighboring Northwestern Life Insurance Building. In 1969, the club severed the connection and added a boiler mechanical room to the roof of the clubhouse at the east elevation. (Photo 3) In 2002, the club added a four-story brick addition to the east elevation, which allowed for a freight elevator, second egress stair, enlarged catering kitchen, and delivery freight entrance. The addition also provided for an at-grade accessible entrance at the façade (south elevation). The majority of the windows were replaced with aluminum, thermal-pane sash between 1982 and 1989.

Integrity

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis retains excellent integrity. The building retains sufficient levels of all seven aspects of integrity to convey its history from the period of significance, 1927-1971. The seven aspects of integrity are discussed separately, as follows:

Location

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis has not been moved and retains integrity of location.

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Design

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis retains integrity of design at the exterior and interior. The exterior of the clubhouse retains the character-defining features including the formal design and fenestration. The brick elevator and kitchen addition (2002) at the east elevation is a compatible design and does not damage the overall integrity of design. At the interior, the lobby, dining room, libraries, living room, ballroom and auditorium retain their original designs and circulation patterns.

Setting

Integrity of setting remains intact. The building's relationship to the surrounding neighborhood and Loring Park continues to reflect the period of significance.

Materials

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis retains integrity of materials. At the exterior, the building retains its historic brick cladding and limestone details. The majority of the windows have been replaced with compatible windows that replicate the original windows and do not damage the overall integrity. At the interior, the building retains excellent integrity of materials. The original wood and terrazzo floors remain throughout the building. The distinctive elements including woodwork, decorative mantels, plaster ceilings and iron railings continue to convey the period of significance.

Workmanship

The building retains integrity of workmanship. The building was constructed as the clubhouse for the Woman's Club of Minneapolis and the building's exterior and public spaces reflect a high level of workmanship that has been retained.

Feeling

The building continues in its original use as a social club and the exterior and interior spaces continue to evoke the feeling of the Woman's Club of Minneapolis.

Association

The building continues as the clubhouse for the Woman's Club of Minneapolis and retains integrity of association with the original occupant.

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Conclusion

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, located at 410 Oak Grove Street, in Minneapolis, Minnesota was constructed in 1927 as a women's social club. The building's period of significance, 1927-1971, represents the date of construction and acknowledges the club's continued prosperity and use through the present day. The building retains excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and continues to convey the club's history from its period of significance, 1927-1971.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1927-1971

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/ A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arnal, Leon Eugene with Magney & Tusler (architects)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis at 410 Oak Grove Street is significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with the national Women's Club Movement and women's roles in Minneapolis' social, cultural and civic development. A group of the city's most prominent women organized the club to encourage involvement and philanthropy in education, conservation, public health, libraries, political reform and other issues. Typologically, the Italian Renaissance Revival style clubhouse is an excellent example of an urban club building, placed on a prominent location overlooking Loring Park. It includes the spaces—ballroom, dining room, lending library, and auditorium—necessary for the club's programming. The Woman's Club of Minneapolis served the social reform and cultural enlightenment causes by supporting programs and achievement that empowered women. The Woman's Club of Minneapolis relates to the Minnesota statewide context "Urban Centers, 1870-1940" and the period of significance, 1927 to 1971, reflects the date of construction and acknowledges the organization's continuing mission and success. A Criterion C argument was not pursued due to the scope of work, however additional research may also support the building's architectural significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Women's Club Movement

The Women's Club Movement rose out of the Progressive Era, which was a time of reform and determination to improve society that spanned the period between the 1890s and 1920s. Following the Civil War, explosive urban growth and industrialization led to domestic labor-saving devices, which improved the economic and social life of middle-class women.¹¹ Some women were allowed more independence and leisure time in this period and there was increased awareness of social inequities and deplorable conditions in schools, hospitals, and tenements.

During the last decades of the nineteenth century, American women discovered the power of collective action to improve education, advocate for suffrage, seek fair wages and improve living conditions.¹² Nationally, women's clubs were organized for a variety of purposes. Some of the country's earliest women's organizations include the Minerva Society, which was founded in 1859 in New Harmony, Indiana as a literary study club, and the New England Woman's Club,

¹¹ Kasprick, 6; Margaret Lansing Oakey, *Women's Club Movement in Minnesota* (Minneapolis: Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, 1931), 26; Mary Elizabeth Owen, "Three Indiana Women's Clubs: A Study of Their Patterns of Association, Study Practices, and Civic Improvement Work, 1886-1910" (Unpublished paper submitted to Indiana University, 2008), 3.

¹² Nancy Cott, ed. *Women Together: Organizational Life* (Munich: K.G. Saur, 1994), 351.

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which organized in 1868 in Boston for philanthropic purposes.¹³ The Sorosis Club, organized by Jennie Cunningham Croly in New York in 1868, was organized after women were denied access to a Charles Dickens reading.¹⁴ Croly's goal was "to supply the want of unity and secular organization among women."¹⁵ In 1889 the Sorosis Club invited representatives of all women's clubs to their convention in New York to form an umbrella organization. As a result, the General Federation of Women's Clubs was founded to lobby for women's causes on a national level and to create a strong network of clubs. By 1890 there was a shift from self-improvement to civic improvement as club leaders realized their ability to influence the public.¹⁶ By 1900, more than two million women had joined a women's club.¹⁷

Minnesota's Clubs

Early women's organizations in Minnesota centered around literacy and cultural pursuits. The Ladies' Floral Club of Austin organized in 1869 to study floriculture and established a circulating library.¹⁸ Similar literary clubs were organized including the Reading Room Society (1870) in Stillwater, Grecian Study Club (1873) in Minneapolis, Ladies' Reading Circle-Monday Club (1879) in Northfield and the Ladies' Reading Club (1878) in Faribault.¹⁹

By the 1880s, Minnesota's women's clubs expanded into philanthropic activities and broadened their interests with public service work.²⁰ The St. Cloud Reading Room Society, organized in 1865, assisted in the creation of the town's library in 1883.²¹ The Coterie in East Minneapolis organized as a literary club in 1882, but frequently contributed to civic causes.²² In 1892 the Minneapolis Council was formed to unite the city's seventy-seven women's organizations. Their diverse interests included philanthropy, literature, religion, education, history, temperance, art, and music.²³

In 1894, at the request of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Minnesota formed a state federation.²⁴ The annual meeting was held the following year with 250 representatives from seventeen women's clubs representing Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Anoka, Rochester,

¹³ Oakey 5; Jane Cunningham Croley, *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America* (New York: Henry G. Allen & Co., 1898), 35.

¹⁴ Croley, 15.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Owen, 9.

¹⁷ Ibid, 3.

¹⁸ Oakey, 9.

¹⁹ Ibid, 9-11.

²⁰ Ibid, 13.

²¹ Ibid, 11.

²² Ibid, 12.

²³ Ibid, 14. The Minneapolis Council disbanded in 1899.

²⁴ Croly, 721.

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Northfield and Sleepy Eye.²⁵ In 1896, fifty-five clubs attended the annual meeting held in Stillwater.²⁶ The Minnesota State Federation recommended that the local clubs foster public libraries, promote civic improvements, cooperate with public schools and promote positive exchange between the urban and rural clubs.²⁷ By 1901, the Federation had 140 clubs representing 5,765 women across sixty-one Minnesota towns.²⁸ In April 1907, the General Federation held a meeting of the Fifth District (Minneapolis region) with thirty-five clubs representing 2,000 women from Minneapolis.²⁹

Founding of the Woman's Club of Minneapolis (1907)

Between 1880 and 1910, the population of Minneapolis grew from 46,887 to 301,408; this rapid growth was accompanied by unsafe living conditions and overcrowded schools and hospitals.³⁰ Women's clubs recognized the opportunities to advocate for improved social and civic conditions.

In 1907, Mrs. Charles (Ruth) Keyes, Mrs. Albert (Jean Sherwood) Rankin and Miss Gratia Countryman met to discuss the creation of a departmental club like those in Denver and Chicago.³¹ The Chicago Women's Club, founded in 1885, created committees on reform, home, education, philanthropy, art and literature.³² On March 23, 1907, sixty women met at the Minneapolis Public Library to discuss the creation of a women's club to work on "city-wide interests" and hear from representatives of the women's clubs in Denver and Chicago.³³ The women met again in April and named the club officers: Mrs. Thomas (Alice Ames) Winter, President; Mrs. Andreas (Clara Hampson) Ueland, First Vice President; Mrs. Thomas (Beatrice Goodrich) Lowry, Second Vice President; Miss Nellie Merrill, Treasurer; and Miss Hope McDonald, Secretary.³⁴ The club's constitution was adopted on October 29, 1907, and three departments were created: Arts and Letters, Home and Education, and Social Economics.³⁵ The club's mission of "charitable and educational purposes, civic and social services; study and friendly association" continues to the present-day.

The club founders were affluent, white, well-educated, well-traveled women who were active in the community.³⁶ The majority of the founders were married with children, but the club had a

²⁵ Ibid, 722-724.

²⁶ Ibid, 724.

²⁷ Ibid, 726.

²⁸ Oakey, 25.

²⁹ "Minneapolis Clubs to Meet," *Minneapolis Tribune*, March 31, 1907.

³⁰ Kasprick, 9.

³¹ Jeannette Ludcke, *You've Come a Long Way, Lady! The Seventy-Five Year History of The Woman's Club of Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, 1982), 7.

³² Chicago Woman's Club Records 1877-1998, Loyola University, Chicago. The club was renamed the Chicago Woman's Club in 1895.

³³ Ludcke, 7.

³⁴ Ibid, 8.

³⁵ Ibid, 9.

³⁶ Kasprick, 27-28; Garneth O. Peterson, "The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, City of Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission Registration Form, 1996, 9. The Woman's Club currently admits members of all races and religions, but the club records do not indicate when this change was made.

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large number of single women as charter members.³⁷ Membership was not exclusive of religion and, while the majority of the members identified as Christians, some of the original members were Jewish. The club was distinguished by many members who earned distinction in their own right and whose individual achievements were significant in Minneapolis' history.³⁸

For example, the club's first president, Alice Ames Winter (1865-1944), entered public life in Minneapolis as an advocate with Clara Ueland (1860-1927) in the kindergarten movement.³⁹ Winter also served as president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and wrote *The Business of Being a Club Woman* in 1925.⁴⁰ Ueland, also a club founder, formed the Minneapolis Kindergarten Association and the Minneapolis Equal Suffrage Club.⁴¹ She was the first president of the League of Women Voters.⁴² Founder Gratia Countryman (1866-1953), was director of the Minneapolis libraries from 1904 until 1935 and first president of the Minneapolis Women's Welfare League.⁴³

In April 1907 the officers leased a meeting room in the Handcraft Guild Building at 89 South Tenth Street. By November, the goal of 150 members was met and annual dues were ten dollars.⁴⁴ By May of 1908 membership had grown to more than 300.⁴⁵ The Social Economics Department offered eight committees: School Cleaning, Smoke Suppression, Suppression of Billboards, Preservation of Native Wild Flowers, Anti-Tuberculosis, Juvenile Court, Audubon Society, and Visiting Nurses.⁴⁶ The Arts and Letters Department committees included Library, Research, Art, Poetry, Music and Civic Beauty.⁴⁷ The Home and Education Department created committees for the improvement of schools, playgrounds and school medical inspection.⁴⁸ These committees were active in city and statewide reforms and, in 1909, the State Labor Bureau asked for the club's assistance with the review of child labor practices.⁴⁹ That same year, the Sanitation Committee worked to improve sanitation at Central High School, built three artesian wells at other schools and provided sanitary cases for all high school girls.⁵⁰ The Smoke Abatement Committee placed placards in streetcars regarding smoking nuisance.⁵¹ Other committees investigated tenement conditions and the white slave trade, enforced clean milk supply, and created a traveling exhibit on tuberculosis.⁵²

³⁷ Kasprick, 19.

³⁸ Peterson, 8.

³⁹ Kasprick, 45.

⁴⁰ Ibid, 46.

⁴¹ Ibid, 66.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid, 51.

⁴⁴ Ludcke, 9-11.

⁴⁵ Ludcke, 12.

⁴⁶ The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, *Yearbook* 1907-08, 10.

⁴⁷ Ibid, 13.

⁴⁸ Ibid, 12.

⁴⁹ Ludcke, 19.

⁵⁰ Ibid, 20.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid, 21.

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The Woman's Club activities expanded and membership grew rapidly. In 1910, the club leased additional space in the Handicraft Guild Building. In 1913, the members purchased the Rufus Rand residence (razed) at 1526 Harmon Place.⁵³ Harmon Place developed in the 1880s as a street of mansions by Central (Loring) Park, but by the turn-of-the-century, wealthy families were moving away from the expanding downtown and the large, single-family homes by Loring Park were purchased for multi-family and institutional use.⁵⁴ In 1914, the club built an auditorium, designed by Elmslie, Fieck and Purcell, at the rear of the building.⁵⁵ With more than one thousand members in 1922, the club created a building committee to investigate a larger clubhouse and launched a capital campaign in 1924.⁵⁶ The building campaign members wanted a permanent clubhouse which provided a "roof to all kinds of movements, artistic, sociological, philanthropic" and a building where women could "get training and self-confidence to go out and do all sorts of special pieces of work."⁵⁷

After reviewing forty-nine sites, the Woman's Club decided against rebuilding on the small Harmon Place site because "we will get something only a little better than we have and it will become obsolete in a few years."⁵⁸ In 1925, the members voted to move to the opposite side of Loring Park and purchased two lots at 404 and 406 Oak Grove Street for \$40,900.⁵⁹

The Woman's Club of Minneapolis (1927)

The building campaign was administered under the direction of club president, Mrs. Charles (Zerelda) Prosser (1869-1960), who appointed a Building Committee, Clubhouse Committee, and a Finance Committee during the campaign. Prosser was also a member of the local Council of Girl Scouts and President of the Woman's Welfare League.⁶⁰ Prosser oversaw the sale of the old clubhouse, negotiated a building loan, started advertisements to fund the club newsletter, *The Bulletin*, and established Junior memberships during her tenure. As she broke ground on the new clubhouse in March 1927, Prosser stated "with the breaking of the sod for the foundation of a new building, hopes long deferred and earnest efforts never faltering, come to fruition."⁶¹

Magney & Tusler with Leon Arnal

⁵³ Ibid, 23, 34.

⁵⁴ Millett, 203.

⁵⁵ Ludcke, 37.

⁵⁶ Ibid, 66, 69.

⁵⁷ "Plan to Finance Woman's Club Home to be Revealed Tuesday," *Minneapolis Tribune*, March 28, 1924.

⁵⁸ "Woman's Club Drive to Raise \$125,000 Toward New Home Will Be Conducted April 7-12," *Minneapolis Journal*, March 28, 1924.

⁵⁹ Ibid, 72-73. The lots were referred to as the "Murton and Hawley properties" and originally included the houses of Stephen J. Murton, owner of Murton Mortgage Company and Newton Hawley, treasurer of the Farmers & Mechanics Bank.

⁶⁰ Ludcke, 71.

⁶¹ Ibid, 82.

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In March 1925, the Woman's Club authorized a contract with the Minneapolis architecture firm of Magney & Tusler stating that the principal designer, Leon Arnal, remain a member of the firm and head architect through the course of the project.⁶² The firm was well known in Minneapolis having just completed two Period Revival style buildings in Minneapolis, the Hardware Mutual Insurance Company Building (1923, NRHP) and the MacPhail School of Music (1923).⁶³ The club members were well acquainted with the firm's Young-Quinlan Department Store (1926, NRHP), a ladies clothing store, which was under construction when the architects were hired.⁶⁴

Gottlieb Magney (1884-1969) attended the University of Minnesota and joined Edwin Hewitt's practice in 1908.⁶⁵ William Tusler (1890-1985) attended the University of Minnesota and the University of Pennsylvania before partnering with Magney in 1917.⁶⁶ The firm, Magney & Tusler, flourished in the 1920s and into the 1930s when other architects struggled to survive the Depression.⁶⁷ Leon Arnal (1881-1963), a native of France and graduate of the École des Beaux-Arts, was hired by Magney & Tusler in 1919 and remained with the firm until 1934. Arnal also taught architecture at the University of Minnesota until his retirement in 1945.⁶⁸ As head designer at the firm, Arnal is credited with leading the designs of the Foshay Tower (1929, NRHP) and the U.S. Post Office (1935, NRHP) in Minneapolis.⁶⁹

New Clubhouse

"The material foundation of this clubhouse is concrete deeply imbedded in earth, but the invisible foundation is the years of work and devotion of these women before you. It is they who have really built this clubhouse, brick by brick, through never tiring service."⁷⁰

President Mary Brackett at club opening

Club members were involved in the building's final design and traveled to other women's clubs, including the Twentieth Century Club (1895, NRHP) in Buffalo and the Ebell (1926, NRHP) in Los Angeles, during the project planning phase. These Italian Renaissance Revival style women's clubs figured prominently in the club members' reports.⁷¹ The Ebell, a six-story clubhouse, was under construction and had a 1,500-seat-auditorium, 350-seat-theater, dining

⁶² Ibid, 73, "Woman's Club Picks Home Architects," *Minneapolis Journal*, March 31, 1925.

⁶³ The Hardware Mutual Insurance Company Building is located at 2422 Nicollet Avenue South and is currently the Waldorf School of Minneapolis. The MacPhail School of Music, located at 1128 LaSalle Avenue South, is a designated landmark by the City of Minneapolis.

⁶⁴ The Young-Quinlan Department Store, at 901-915 Nicollet Mall, is a local landmark designated by the City of Minneapolis. Elizabeth Quinlan was a member of the Woman's Club of Minneapolis during the building campaign.

⁶⁵ Alan K. Lathrop, *Minnesota Architects: A Biographical Dictionary*. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 149.

⁶⁶ Ibid, 216.

⁶⁷ Ibid, 192.

⁶⁸ Ibid, 9.

⁶⁹ Arnal Papers, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota.

⁷⁰ "Brief Rite Opens \$300,000 Building of Woman's Club," *Minneapolis Journal*, February 21, 1928.

⁷¹ "Minneapolis Woman's Club to Build Like Methods Used by Los Angeles Organization," *Minneapolis Journal*, March 23, 1927.

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room, committee rooms and lounge with loggias and balconies.⁷² Magney & Tusler's Italian Renaissance Revival style design for the Minneapolis clubhouse was first revealed to club members in January 1926 and received wide approval. The clubhouse design included an auditorium with 700 seats (eventually reduced to 650), a ballroom, a dining room, a lounge with a loggia overlooking Loring Park, a library, committee rooms and bedrooms.⁷³

The Harmon Place clubhouse was sold to the First Unitarian Society in February 1927 for \$43,000 and the Woman's Club broke ground at the new location on March 15, 1927.⁷⁴ The estimated \$250,000 building was financed with \$125,000 in member subscriptions and \$125,000 in bonds.⁷⁵ The *Minneapolis Journal* commended the financial achievements of the club leaders noting that "the most businesslike feature of the whole plan is the adoption of designs for a revenue-producing building" and applauded the design's ballroom and auditorium spaces, which were available for public events.⁷⁶ The cornerstone of the Woman's Club was laid in August 1927 and included a copy of the club's constitution and by-laws.⁷⁷

The clubhouse officially opened on February 21, 1928 with 1,200 members in attendance and the design was praised by the media.⁷⁸ The six-story building took advantage of the steep lot and provided public access at West 15th Street and Oak Grove Street. The club's crest was carved in stone over the auditorium entrance on the 15th Street elevation and includes two gophers flanking a wave pattern and standing on a banner with the state's motto, "Etoile du Nord."⁷⁹ The crest is placed on a lozenge shield, which, in heraldry, is only used by women.⁸⁰ The auditorium at the first floor accommodated up to 650 people and contained a "modern stage" with a black velvet curtain and dressing rooms; the auditorium sound booth was located above the balcony and was equipped to show plays, musicals and motion pictures.⁸¹ The ballroom, located on the same floor as the auditorium balcony, could accommodate 200 people and was finished with green glazed oak wainscot.⁸² Cloak rooms, rest rooms and an orchestra recess room were located next to the ballroom. The lounge on the main floor (fourth floor) was finished with a stone fireplace and gold damask at the loggia doors.⁸³ A card room, lending library, formal Falconer Library, and a dining room for 150 occupants, were located on the main floor. The fifth-floor mezzanine level provided card rooms and a sewing room, and the sixth floor had 19 bedrooms.

⁷² Norma Foster, Ivada Parker et al. "Ebell of Los Angeles." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1994.

⁷³ "Woman's Club Show Plans for New \$250,000 Building it Will Erect on Loring Park Site," *Minneapolis Journal*, January 4, 1926.

⁷⁴ "Woman's Club Sells Building to Unitarians," *Minneapolis Journal*, February 2, 1927; "Women Dedicate Grounds for New \$250,000 Building," *Minneapolis Journal*, March 15, 1927; Minneapolis Building Permit #A18370, April 11, 1927; Minneapolis Building Permit #A18440, June 6, 1927.

⁷⁵ "View to be Shown for First Time at Luncheon Jan. 4," *Minneapolis Journal*, December 20, 1925.

⁷⁶ "The Woman's Club Achievement," *Minneapolis Journal*, January 2, 1926.

⁷⁷ "Cornerstone Laid For New Home of Woman's Club," *Minneapolis Journal*, August 5, 1927.

⁷⁸ "Woman's Club to Open New Home Here on Tuesday," *Minneapolis Journal*, February 19, 1928.

⁷⁹ *Ibid*, 90.

⁸⁰ *Ibid*. The members have changed the crest by replacing the gophers with pine trees, but the earlier crest remains over the entrance.

⁸¹ "Dedication Rites at Woman's Club set for Tuesday," *Minneapolis Journal*, February 17, 1928.

⁸² *Ibid*.

⁸³ *Ibid*.

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The building design included a kitchen, smoking room and storage rooms as well as laundry and ironing rooms.⁸⁴

The building budget provided an additional \$50,000 for furnishing the club and was supplemented with individual donations. Mrs. Sumner (Henriette) McKnight traveled to Europe to purchase furnishings and arranged a showing for members to sponsor items in their name.⁸⁵ The Kingsley family purchased the Renaissance-era stone fireplace in Florence, Italy for the lounge in honor of the late Mrs. George (Lucy Sinclair) Kingsley.⁸⁶ James Wilson Falconer provided the funds for the Falconer Library in honor of his wife, Jessie. The wood-paneled library, designed by the Bradstreet Company, has a wood carving of a ship placed over the mantel. A portrait of the club's first president, Alice Ames Winter, was painted by Raymond Crosby and placed in the President's Study.⁸⁷

In 1929, the Woman's Club received a Certificate of Honor from the Minnesota Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for its design and the successful relationship with the architect and construction company, Madsen Construction Company.⁸⁸

Ongoing activities of the Woman's Club of Minneapolis

In 1928, the *Minneapolis Journal* reported on the activities of the Woman's Club of Minneapolis,

The club is a well entrenched and recognized factor in the life and progress of the community. Its thousand members are well representative of the progressive thought and of the spirit of service of the womanhood of the city. They are women who keep informed of the world's current doings, who honor traditions only so long as they merit honor, who are willing to help so that what is bad may be followed by what is good, and that what is good may be followed by what is better."⁸⁹

From its founding, the club's three departments and their committees played significant roles in community betterment and provided reform-minded efforts alongside cultural offerings.⁹⁰ The Department of Arts and Letters scheduled lectures, musicals, art salons and provided scholarships to art students. The Department of Home and Education established school health screening and hygiene and worked with the School Board and Department of Education on funding and programs. The Department of Social Economics advocated for a cleaner, safer city and was responsible for nursing programs, community funds, and civic reform legislation. In

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ "Antiques Collected for Woman's Club House Given First Showing," *Minneapolis Journal*, December 13, 1927.

⁸⁶ "Antique Fireplace Bought for Club is 400 Years Old," *Minneapolis Journal*, December 6, 1927.

⁸⁷ Ludcke, 93.

⁸⁸ Ludcke, 99.

⁸⁹ "Minneapolis Women's Achievement," *Minneapolis Journal*, February 20, 1928.

⁹⁰ Peterson, 8.

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each of these departments, new committees were started each year while others, no longer relevant, were dropped.⁹¹

During the Depression, the Club lowered the price of shows and lunches and managed to maintain 1,455 members.⁹² Club members advocated for funding a psychiatric hospital, a levy for public libraries and support for a Federal Child Labor Amendment.⁹³ Throughout the Depression, the Club provided scholarships for female students at the University of Minnesota and Minneapolis School of Art and continued Powers Day, which allowed club members to operate the Powers department store for charity.⁹⁴

During World War II the club members increased their civic activities, and the three club departments were changed to Liberal Arts, Social Service and Public Affairs.⁹⁵ During the war, the Club offered space to the Red Cross and sponsored blood drives, charity knitting groups, War Bonds sales and bake sales. In 1945, the Woman's Club received an Award Flag for reaching a hundred percent of its goal during the Seventh War Loan Drive and the club secretary won an award for providing more than five thousand hours as a nurse's aide.⁹⁶

The Woman's Club continued to attract prominent women in the community. For example, the *Bulletin* of 1940 featured some of the "Leading Ladies" of the club including Mabeth Hurd Paige (1869-1961), chair of the Legislative Committee advocating for school bills and vocational training and a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives; Elizabeth Quinlan (1863-1947) owner of the Young-Quinlan Department Store in Minneapolis, and Elizabeth Wallace (1865-1960), one of the first women to attain full professorship at the University of Chicago.⁹⁷ That same year, the *Bulletin* featured club member, Grace Lindley (1916-2002), a member of the 1936 and 1940 U.S. Olympic Ski Teams, and winner of the Slalom National Championship in 1937 and the Downhill National Championship in 1940.⁹⁸

In 1948, the Internal Revenue Service ruled the Woman's Club was a social club with civic and social work and a twenty percent tax was put on all dues and membership fees.⁹⁹ The non-profit designation of the Club limited political lobbying, but the members continued to place "observers" at the Legislature and "educate" the members on political issues.¹⁰⁰ Club members explored possibilities for more philanthropic activities and created the Civic Contributions Fund, which distributed funds annually to local groups in need.¹⁰¹ Through the years, the fund has

⁹¹Ludcke, 62.

⁹² Ibid, 113.

⁹³ Ibid, 132.

⁹⁴ Ludcke, 125. Powers Department Store sponsored Powers Day with the Woman's Club of Minneapolis from 1928 until 1979.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Ibid, 185.

⁹⁷ Ibid, 163; Elizabeth Wallace Papers, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

⁹⁸ Ludcke, 163.

⁹⁹ Ludcke, 201.

¹⁰⁰ Marjorie Wall Bingham, *As We Move Forward: Celebrating 100 Years of The Woman's Club of Minneapolis* (Edina, Minnesota: Beaver's Pond Press, 2007), 48; Ludcke, 201.

¹⁰¹ The club members continue to manage the Civic Contributions Fund.

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distributed gifts to the Adoptive Center for Children of Minority Parents, Northeast Neighborhood House, United Fund, American Indian Employment and Guidance Center of Greater Minneapolis, Guthrie Theatre, Boy's Club of Minneapolis, and the Minnesota Orchestral Association.¹⁰² The Mental Health Clinic for children at St. Barnabas Hospital was created with the Civic Contributions Fund.¹⁰³ In the 1960s, the fund distributed approximately \$25,000 each year. The education scholarships were separate from the Civic Contributions Fund.

In 1957, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Woman's Club was celebrated with a Golden Jubilee club history program and the completion of the Golden Jubilee Cookbook, which was sold to the public.¹⁰⁴ At the annual meeting, members reaffirmed "community service is still our outstanding purpose."¹⁰⁵ Since 1907, the club has published a yearbook of club activities and in 1957 the three departments—Liberal Arts, Public Affairs, Social Services—completed another busy year of volunteer work and public outreach. The 1957 yearbook provides a synopsis of a typical year of club activities. The Liberal Arts Department consisted of ten committees: Art, Circulating Library, Drama, Garden, Language, Letters, Music, Nature Study, Writers and Workshop for Modern Women. This department focused on the personal education and betterment of the individual club member. The Public Affairs Department had committees on education, international relations, legislation, equal opportunity, home safety and world affairs. The Social Service Department assigned committee members to the Minneapolis Society of the Blind, Hard of Hearing Society, Big Sisters Association, cerebral palsy, mental health, and career networks. These three departments and their committees focused on public outreach and sponsored rummage sales, educational scholarships, lectures, plays, fund raising events, travel tours, career clinics, art shows, public speaking classes, concerts, writing contests, citizenship classes, hospitality teas, and craft fairs. The long-standing tradition of "Tuesday Assembly" provided guest speakers in the auditorium; these presentations were heavily attended and open to the public. In 1957, the speakers included: Amy Vanderbilt, etiquette author; Edward Weeks, editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*; Richard Tobin, editor of the *New York Herald Tribune's* "Washington Review"; and Ogden Nash, author and poet. Princess Illena of Romania spoke on "What Freedom Means to Me" and John Caldwell spoke on "What is Next in Asia."¹⁰⁶

Over the years, the Woman's Club remained an important force behind landmark reforms that improved the lives of Minneapolis' residents. Notably, club members introduced state legislation on child labor laws, protecting the state flower, highway beautification and state school funding. Following the club's non-profit designation, the club continued to host speakers on current issues and individual members sponsored legislative endeavors on juvenile delinquency, workman's compensation, and the Equal Rights Amendment. While the committees may have changed direction, the organization's commitment to public service and reform remained constant. The club concerned itself with "positive" programs geared toward self-improvement and civic

¹⁰² Ibid, 274.

¹⁰³ Ibid, 202.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid, 244.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid, 249.

¹⁰⁶ *The Woman's Club of Minneapolis Yearbook*, 1957-1958.

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betterment.¹⁰⁷ The civic programs were designed to be educational and motivate members to cooperate positively in the community.¹⁰⁸

Decline and Stabilization

The national profile of women's clubs began to change after the 1950s. A number of factors contributed to the decline in the membership of women's fraternal organizations.¹⁰⁹ During the early 1960s, the President's Commission on the Status of Women, the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and even Betty Friedan's book, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963), were among factors that led to record numbers of women entering college and the work force.¹¹⁰ As women gained outside employment there was reduced time and energy available for club involvement. As the job market opened so did opportunities for geographical mobility, which further disrupted ties to the community and women's clubs.¹¹¹ Concurrently, professional women's organizations like the American Association of University Women and the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs were gaining Minnesota members while older fraternal clubs lost members.¹¹²

In 1966, the Woman's Club responded to these new challenges with the creation of the Long Range Planning Committee, which investigated membership growth, parking issues and general club finances. The club sponsored events for husbands and young families as well as single women and junior members were heavily recruited. The Career Clinic for Mature Women was created to provide job assistance for members as well as the general female population. The club's stock portfolio was entrusted to a professional investment agency rather than the club's finance committee.¹¹³ Between 1967 and 1968, the club purchased three parcels at the south side of Oak Grove Street to provide additional parking for club members.¹¹⁴ In 1969, the clubhouse gained mechanical independence from the neighboring building at the west and invested in a boiler. The following year, the club provided air conditioning in the larger public spaces. These improvement measures stabilized club membership in the 1970s.

In 2000, an increase in membership fees and an additional assessment to renovate the building further reduced membership, however.¹¹⁵ The kitchen and elevator addition was completed in 2002 and allowed for more dining and event options, which resulted in stabilization of club

¹⁰⁷ Leigh Ann Wheeler, "From Reading Shakespeare to Reforming Burlesque: The Minneapolis Woman's Club and the Minneapolis Welfare League, 1907-1920" (Michigan Historical Review, Spring 1977), 46.

¹⁰⁸ Wheeler, 50.

¹⁰⁹ Abbott L. Ferriss, *Indicators of Trends in the Status of American Women* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1971), 174. Ferriss measured the first decline from 1961 to 1968.

¹¹⁰ Clifford E. Clark ed. *Minnesota in a Century of Change: The State and Its People Since 1900* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1989), 455.

¹¹¹ Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital*. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2000), 5-8.

¹¹² Clark, 456.

¹¹³ Ludcke, 294.

¹¹⁴ In 1967, two lots were purchased at 315 and 317 Oak Grove Street. A third lot at 307 Oak Grove was purchased in 1968.

¹¹⁵ Bingham, 78.

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finances and membership. Today, the clubhouse provides office space for the Junior League of Minneapolis and the League of Catholic Women.

Conclusion

In summary, the Woman's Club of Minneapolis, located at 410 Oak Grove Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is locally significant under Criterion A as the clubhouse specifically designed for the Woman's Club of Minneapolis and its programming requirements. The club members focused on civic, cultural, and philanthropic activities in Minneapolis and made significant advancements in the reform movement as well as promoting women's roles in the betterment of the community. The clubhouse retains historic integrity to convey the period of significance, 1927-1971.

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Hennepin History Museum (HHM), Minneapolis.
Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), St. Paul.
The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, Minneapolis.

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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: The Woman's Club of Minneapolis Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HE-MPC-0566

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .83 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 44.967774 | Longitude: 93.84794 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15 N Easting: 4877541 Northing: 4979409
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The building and adjacent parking lot occupy Lots 26 through 29 and the southeasterly 15 of Lot 30, Auditor's Subdivision No. 18.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the acreage historically associated with the property since construction in 1927 and acquisition of neighboring parcels in 1938 and 1947.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Amy Lucas
organization: Landscape Research LLC
street & number: 1926 Penn Avenue South
city or town: Minneapolis state: MN zip code: 55405
e-mail amymilucas@gmail.com
telephone: 612-414-7949
date: August 4, 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: The Woman's Club of Minneapolis

City or Vicinity: Minneapolis

County: Hennepin

State: Minnesota

Photographer: Amy Lucas

Date Photographed: June 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0001)
Exterior, south elevation, camera facing northeast.

Photo #2 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0002)
Exterior, south elevation, camera facing north.

Photo #3 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0003)
Exterior, east elevation, camera facing west.

Photo #4 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0004)
Exterior, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast.

Photo #5 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0005)
Exterior, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast.

Photo #6 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0006)
Interior, Lobby, fourth floor, camera facing south.

Photo #7 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0007)
Interior, Dining Room, fourth floor, camera facing east.

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Photo #8 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0008)
Interior, Lounge, fourth floor, camera facing east.

Photo #9 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0009)
Interior, Library, fourth floor, camera facing south.

Photo #10 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0010)
Interior, West stair, fourth floor, camera facing west.

Photo #11 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0011)
Interior, Ballroom, second floor, camera facing east.

Photo #12 (MN_Hennepin County_Woman's Club of Minneapolis_0012)
Interior, Auditorium, first floor, camera facing east.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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Figure 6	The Woman's Club, Dining Room, facing east, ca. 1928. (The Woman's Club Archives)
Figure 7	The Woman's Club, Falconer Library, facing south, ca. 1928. (The Woman's Club Archives)
Figure 8	The Woman's Club, Auditorium, facing east, ca. 1928. (The Woman's Club Archives)
Figure 9	The Woman's Club, south elevation, facing north, ca. 1929. (MNHS)
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Figure 1. The Woman's Club of Minneapolis property in red. (Hennepin County Recorder, 2020)

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Figure 2. Photo log, Fourth level.

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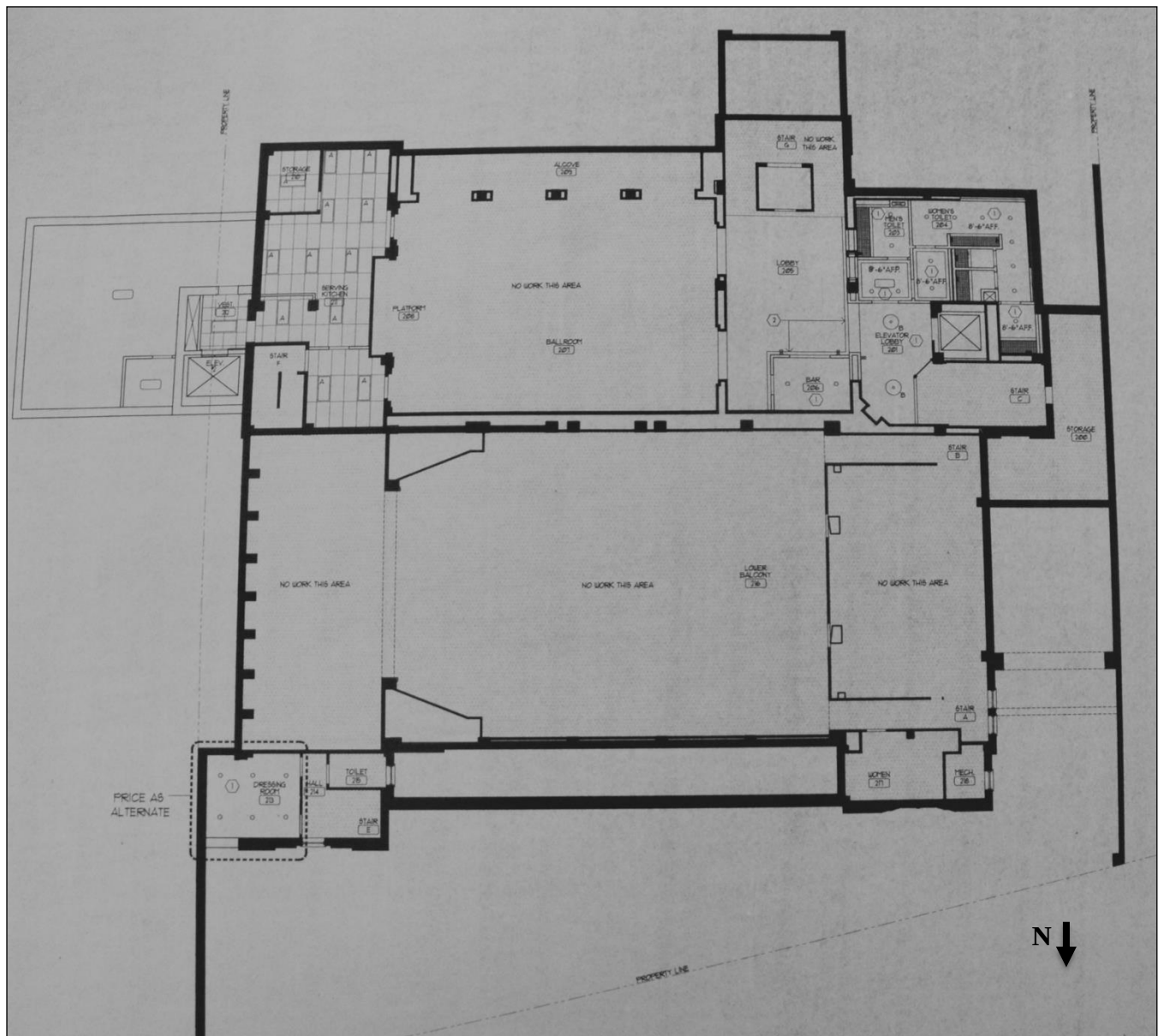


Figure 3. Photo Log, First floor.

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Figure 4. The Woman's Club, south elevation, facing north, ca. 1928. (HCL)

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Figure 5. The Woman's Club, Lounge, facing east, ca. 1928. (The Woman's Club Archives)



Figure 6. The Woman's Club, Dining Room, facing east, ca. 1928. (The Woman's Club Archives)

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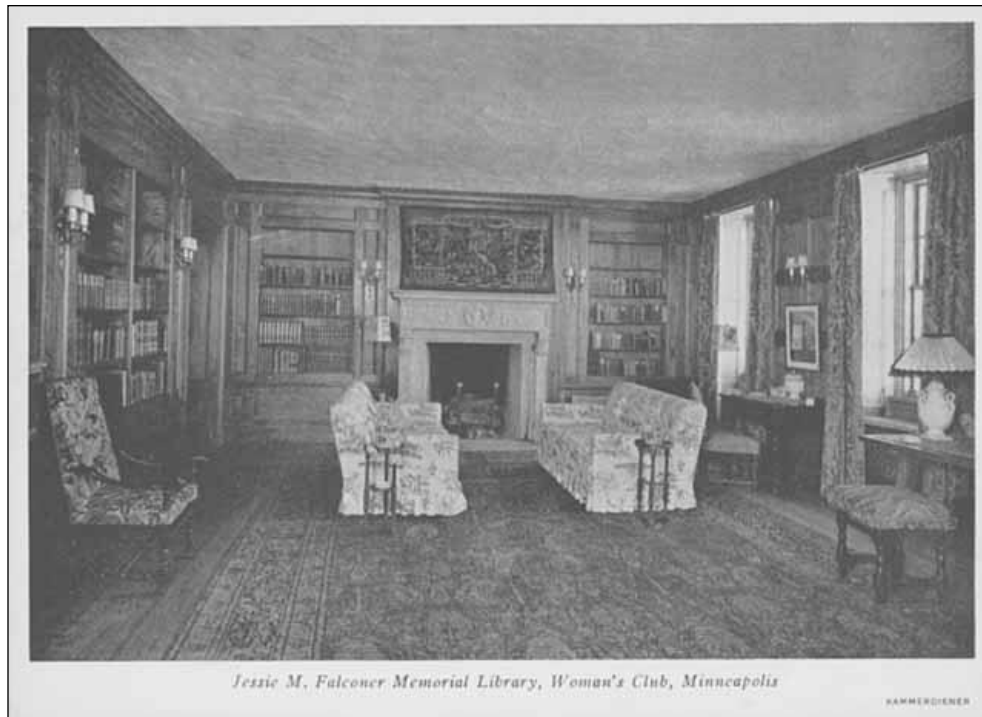


Figure 7. The Woman's Club, Falconer Library, facing south, ca. 1928. (The Woman's Club Archives)



Figure 8. The Woman's Club, Auditorium, facing east, ca. 1928. (The Woman's Club Archives)

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Figure 9. The Woman's Club, south elevation, facing north, ca. 1929. (MNHS)

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Figure. 10. The Woman's Club, north elevation, facing south, ca. 1940. (MNHS)

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Figure 11. View of Loring Park, The Woman's Club at far left, ca. 1939. (HCL)



Figure 12. The Woman's Club, south elevation, facing north, ca. 1940. (MNHS)

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Figure 13. The Woman's Club, south elevation, facing north, ca. 2001; before east elevation addition of 2002. (The Woman's Club Archives)

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Figure 14. The Woman's Club, east elevation, facing west, ca. 2001; before east elevation addition of 2002. (The Woman's Club Archives)

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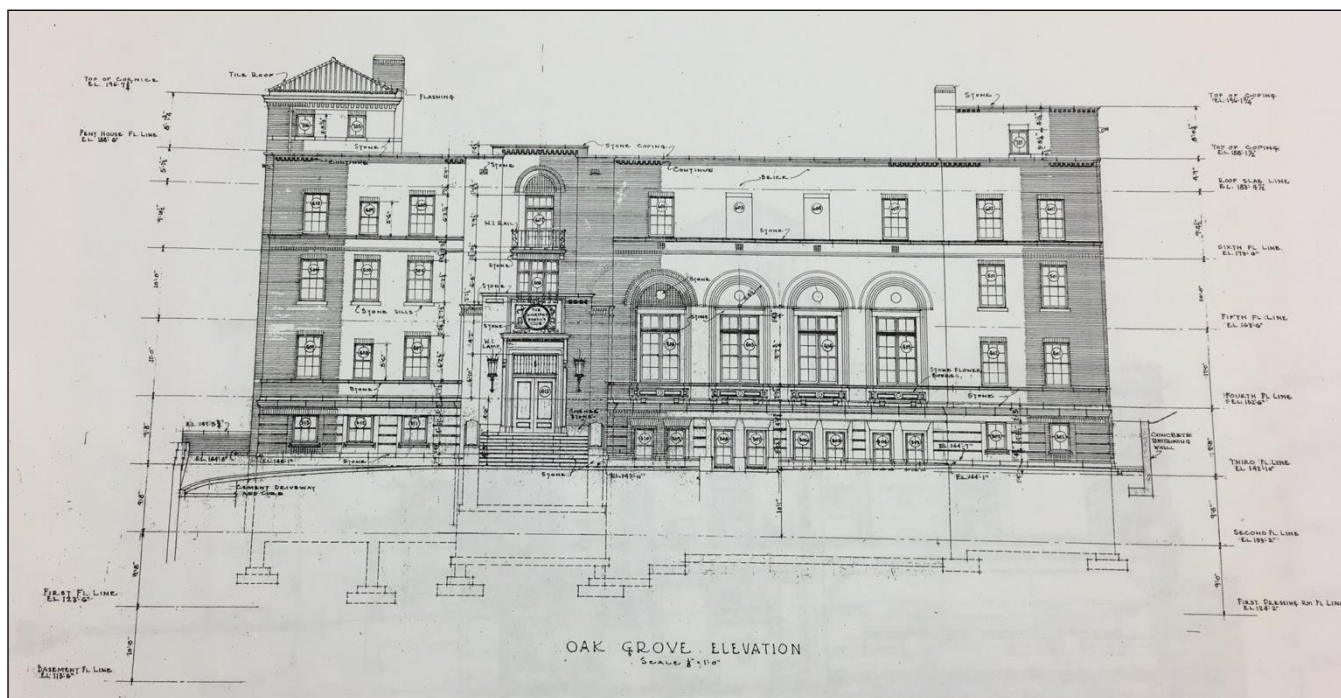


Figure 15. The Woman's Club original plans, south elevation. (The Woman's Club Archives)

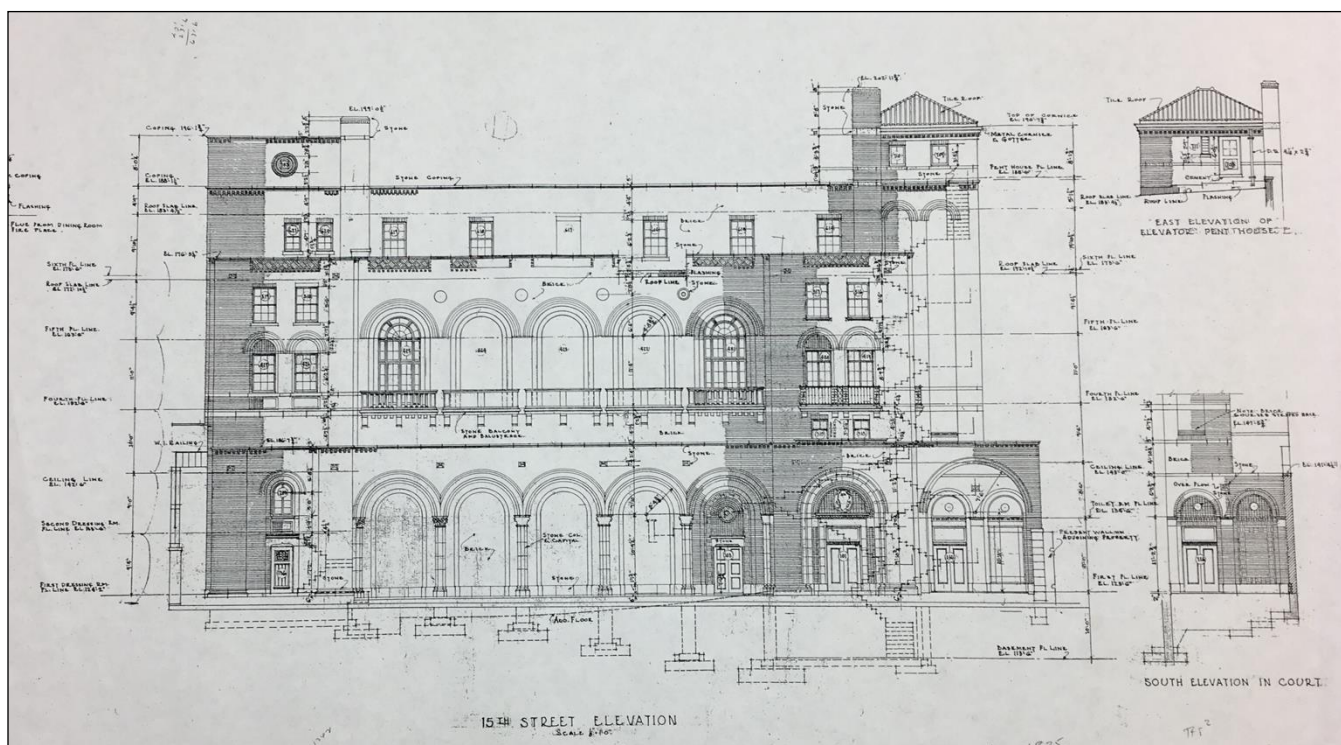


Figure 16. The Woman's Club original plans, north elevation. (The Woman's Club Archives)

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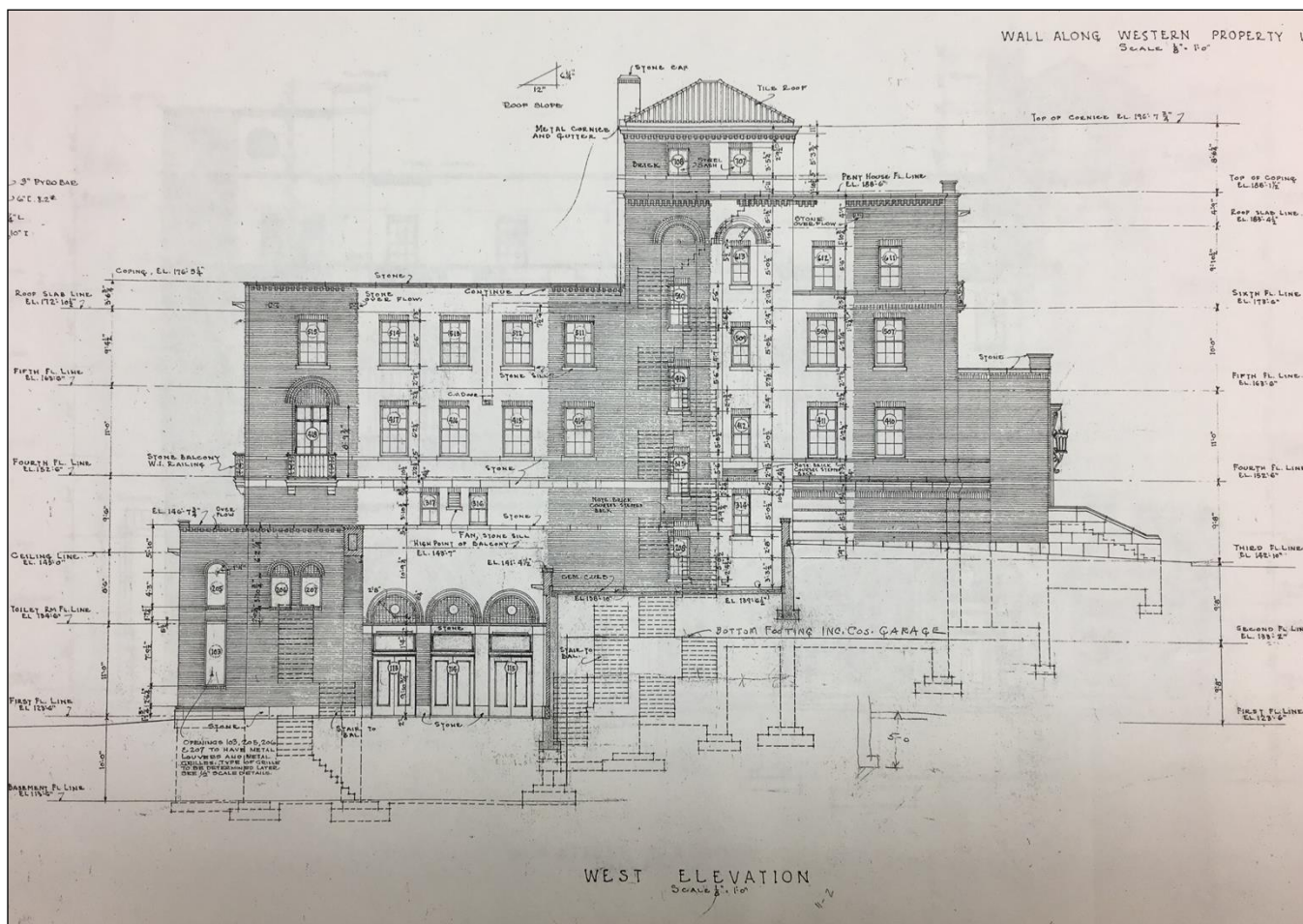


Figure 17. The Woman's Club original plans, west elevation. (The Woman's Club Archives)

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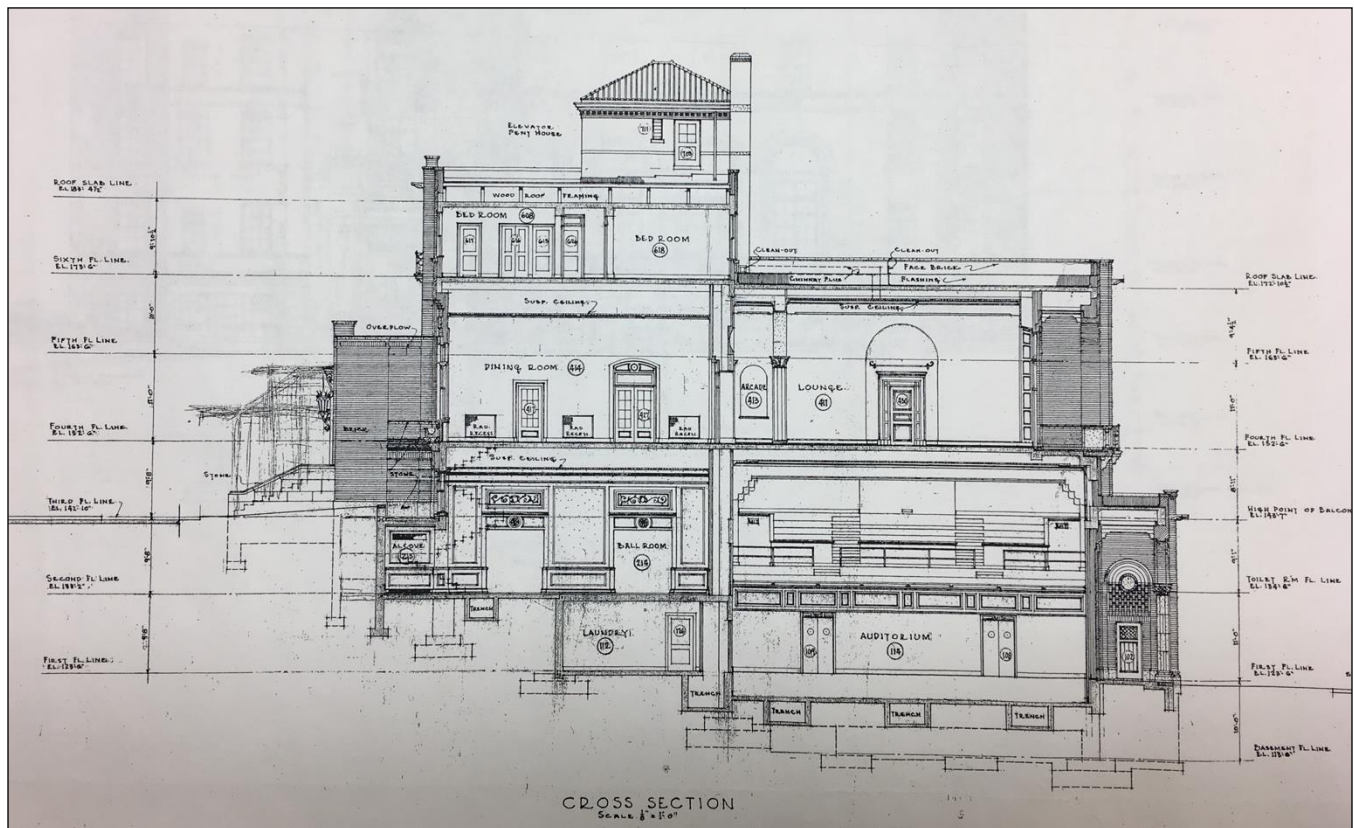


Figure 18. The Woman's Club original plans, section, facing west. (The Woman's Club Archives)

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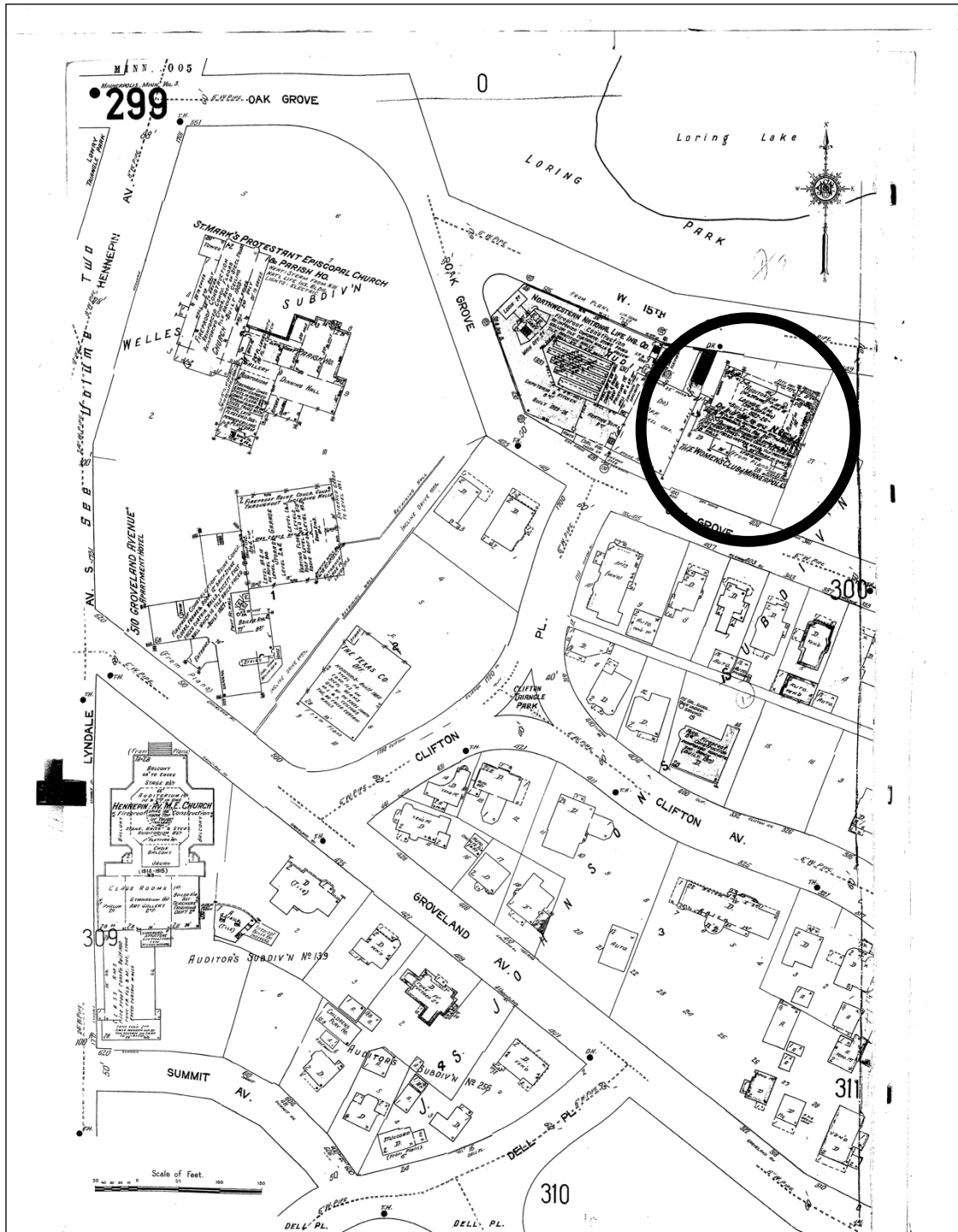


Figure 19. Sanborn Map, 1912-1930 updates, Vol. 3, Sheet 299; The Woman's Club of Minneapolis circled.

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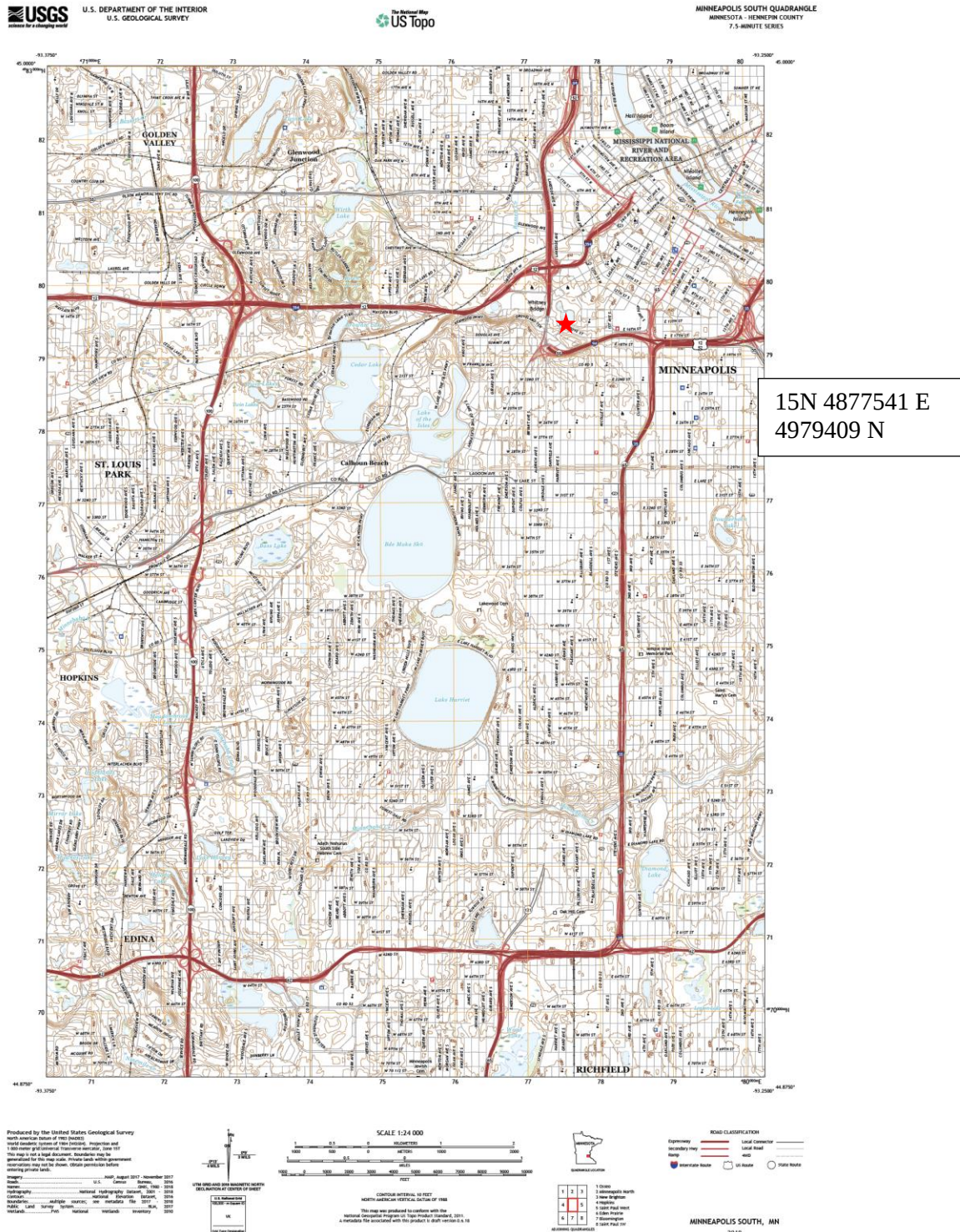
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Figure 20. USGS Map, Minneapolis-South Quadrangle 7.5-minute series, 2019; The Woman's Club of Minneapolis location noted with star.