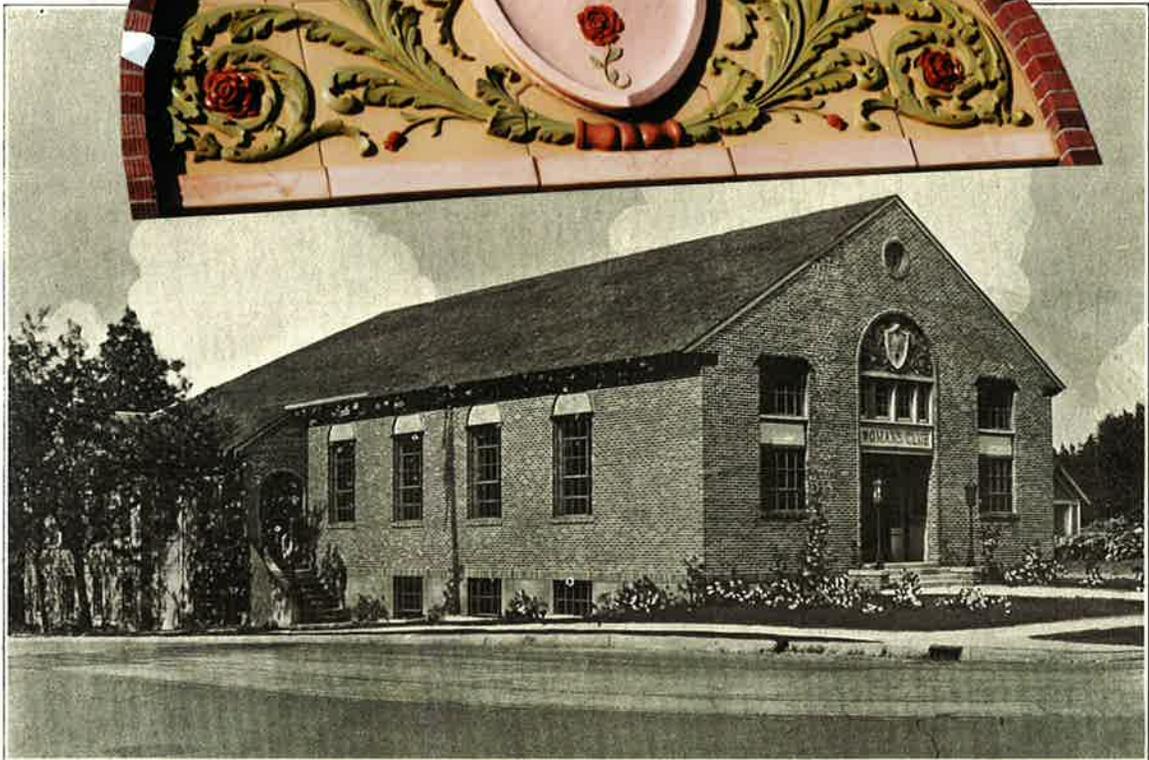


The Woman's Club of Spokane

1428 W. 9th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99204

Woman's Club Cottage - built in 1911
Womans Club of Spokane Building - built in 1929



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Sixth Floor
808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337

1. Name of Property

Historic Name **WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING**

2. Location

Street & Number 1428 West 9th Avenue
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99204
Parcel Number 25244.4006

3. Classification

Category of Property	Ownership of Property	Status of Property	Present Use of Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _building	<input type="checkbox"/> _public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> _agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> _museum
<input type="checkbox"/> _site	<input type="checkbox"/> _private	<input type="checkbox"/> _work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> _park
<input type="checkbox"/> _structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _both		<input type="checkbox"/> _educational	<input type="checkbox"/> _residential
<input type="checkbox"/> _object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> _entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> _religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> _in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> _government	<input type="checkbox"/> _scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> _being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> _yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> _industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> _transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> _no	<input type="checkbox"/> _military	<input type="checkbox"/> _other

4. Owner of Property

Name Woman's Club of Spokane
Street & Number 1428 West 9th Avenue
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99204
Telephone Number/E-mail 838-5667 (office) or 747-3660 (M. Carlson)

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Spokane County Courthouse
Street Number 1116 West Broadway
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99260
County Spokane

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey
Date Federal State County Local
1979
Depository for Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

FINAL March 28th, 2002

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair
 deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check One

unaltered
 altered

Check One

original site
 moved & date _____

Narrative description of present and original physical appearance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

8. Spokane Register Criteria and Statement of Significance

Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Criteria--mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Spokane Register listing:

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane 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 history.

Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property	Less than one acre.
Verbal Boundary Description	Cannon's Addition Lot 8, Block 43.
Verbal Boundary Justification	Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title	Linda Yeomans, Consultant
Organization	Historic Preservation Planning
Telephone Number/E-mail	509-456-3828 or lyeomans@qwest.net
Street and Number	501 West 27th Avenue
City, State, Zip Code	Spokane, WA 99203
Date	20 March 2002

12. Additional Documentation

Map	Spokane City/County plat map, 2002
Photographs and Slides	25 black & white prints; 20 color slides

13. Signature of Owner(s)

x Mary A. Seibert, President

14. For Official Use Only:

Date Received: _____ Attest: Leri R. Gfote

Date Heard: _____ City Clerk

Commission Decision: _____ Approved
as to Form: Michael D. Pucob
Council/Board Action: Approved Assistant City Attorney

Date: 5/13/02

We hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places.

[Signature]
CITY ADMINISTRATOR, City of Spokane
or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

OFFICER, City/County Historic Preservation Officer
City/County Historic Preservation Office
Sixth Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201

Narrative Description

Summary Statement

Constructed in 1929, the Woman's Club of Spokane Building is a fine example of early 20th-century commercial style architecture executed as a community meeting place. The building is located on the northeast corner of West Ninth Avenue and South Walnut Street on Spokane's South Hill. The one-story building has a front-facing gable roof with a central recessed entry. The entrance is crowned with a rectangular panel proclaiming "WOMAN'S CLUB" in capital letters set below a lunette of sculpted, glazed, polychrome terra cotta that features a shield surrounded by green vines and red roses. The building is entirely clad in multi-colored, tapestry-patterned brick veneer. The Woman's Club Building retains good historic and architectural integrity expressed in original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

Site

The Woman's Club Building is located on a north-facing slope on Lot 8, Block 43 in Cannon's Addition one mile southwest of downtown Spokane. Located on the north end of the lot, the building comprises over 75% of the property and is fronted by a small manicured lawn and poured concrete walkway. The lot measures 50.9 feet wide and 142 feet deep and is located along the north side of West Ninth Avenue and the east side of South Walnut Street. The building is sited in a tree-lined residential neighborhood built from the late 1890s to the early 1940s, and is surrounded by single- and multi-family homes and apartment buildings.

Exterior

The building measures approximately 40 feet wide and 124 feet long with combined first-floor and basement-level interior space totaling over 10,000 square feet. The building has a pitched roof with a front-facing facade gable and a lower intersecting cross gable at the rear of the building. The roof is covered with composition shingles and slopes over the east and west elevations with wide overhanging eaves and scroll-sawn brackets. The front-facing facade gable, however, has no eave overhang and is defined with a plain wood vergeboard. A central entrance crowned with a decorative name panel and sculpted lunette is the focal point of the building's facade. The building is clad in variegated brick veneer composed of bricks fired in hues of brown, red, and orange. The building has symmetrical fenestration patterns with a combination of multi-paned, metal casement and awning windows and multi-paned, fixed, wood-sash casement, and double-hung windows. The foundation of the building is made of poured concrete.

The primary facade of the Woman's Club Building faces south and is defined by the building's front-facing gable roof. The facade features a symmetrical design with a central recessed entrance flanked by two vertical pairs of multi-paned metal awning windows.

Decorative scalloped wood lintels cap the windows. A rectangular panel set on a horizontal axis is located above the recessed entryway and is made of pressed galvanized metal with capital letters that spell "WOMAN'S CLUB." Four multi-paned wood-sash casement windows cap the name panel. A sculpted, glazed terra cotta lunette crowns the windows and is embellished with a shield-shaped cartouche surrounded by vines and roses. The motto for the Woman's Club of Spokane is sculpted in the shield and says, "The club that bids you welcome." The sculpted, glazed terra cotta is fired in hues of antique white, cream, green, and rust-red. A round window with multi-paned divided lights is located in the gable peak above the terra cotta lunette. The recessed entrance has two metal doors capped by a multi-paned transom light and multi-paned sidelights. Poured concrete steps rise to the entrance from a concrete walkway.

The west elevation of the building is a secondary facade and is visible from the intersection of West Ninth Avenue and South Walnut Street. The open roof eaves form a wide overhang and are embellished with decorative scroll-sawn brackets. Fenestration is symmetrical and includes multi-paned windows and an arched, recessed side entrance that opens to the first floor, and poured concrete steps that lead down to the basement entrance of the building. Four windows on the southern-most end of the west elevation are embellished with blind arches. Six window units on the west elevation are capped with scalloped wood lintels, and three windows in the cross gable have blind arches. Because the building is sited on a north-facing slope, a daylight basement is partially exposed along the west elevation. Part of the poured concrete foundation wall is clad in brick veneer. A brick soldier course separates the foundation from the first floor. Multi-paned windows illuminate the basement level.

The east elevation has symmetrical fenestration with multi-paned windows. Scalloped wood lintels cap the windows. Seven of the windows are covered with plywood sheathing. The rear, north elevation of the building has symmetrical fenestration with multi-paned windows and a single door that opens to the basement. A brick soldier course separates the basement from the first floor.

Interior

The Woman's Club Building has a finished basement and first floor. From the facade of the building, double metal entry doors open to a narrow vestibule. The east half of the vestibule serves as storage space and the west half of the vestibule has a narrow staircase that turns and rises to a balcony that overlooks the auditorium on the first floor. The staircase is painted wood with a paneled newel post, open string, and turned balusters. A pair of interior vestibule doors are paneled on the lower half with multi-pane glazing on the upper half. They are capped by a transom light and flanked by sidelights. The wood is finished fir. The doors open to a large auditorium that measures 62 feet long and 48

feet wide. The auditorium has a vaulted ceiling with a flattened arch. The highest point of the ceiling's center measures 20 feet high while the intersection of wall and ceiling is 16 feet high. Square pilasters with angled brackets accentuate the walls and vaulted ceiling. Metal light fixtures suspended on chains hang from the ceiling. The floor is honey-colored finished maple. An elevated, recessed performing stage with a proscenium arch is located on the north wall of the room. Round pilasters with acanthus leaf capitals accentuate the east and west sides of the stage's arch. A full-length, gathered curtain hangs across the stage entrance. The stage is flanked by two, eight-foot-high bays. The bay on the east has one door that opens to a dressing room beside and behind the stage. The west bay has two doors that open to a hallway along the west side of the building.

The side entrance at the west elevation of the building opens to a hallway that leads south to the auditorium, north to an assembly room located at the rear of the building, and to an open staircase. The assembly room at the north end of the first floor has an oak floor and an elevated, recessed stage on the east wall. Vintage school-house lights hang from a flat-arched, vaulted ceiling.

Five-foot-wide stairs with an open string, paneled newel posts, and turned balustrade turn and descend to a daylight basement. The basement has a central hall that opens to an office, a kitchen, lavatories, and two multi-purpose meeting rooms at the north and south ends of the building. The floor is covered with asphalt tiles. Woodwork throughout the building is a combination of finished fir and painted fir or pine, and the walls are plaster-and-lathe construction. The building is heated by radiant steam heat.

Appearance in 1911 and 1929

Original Appearance in 1911

Construction of the Woman's Club Building was first completed in 1911, and was a good example of Craftsman-style residential architecture as pictured in photographs taken in 1910 and 1911. The building resembled a single-family house with a low-pitched side-gable roof. The principle roof of the building extended forward at the facade to produce a partial-width covered front porch. A steep staircase with 12 steps rose to the porch deck. Sited on a slope, the basement of the building was exposed and was illuminated with nine-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Revealed in the best photograph of the building, it appears the foundation is poured concrete and the exposed basement level is clad in wood shingles. A horizontal wood band separated the basement level from the first floor of the building. The first floor was clad in horizontal wood siding and the gable ends above the first floor were clad in wood shingles. A small sign hung on the west elevation of the building on the porch rail and said, "Woman's Club Cottage."

Appearance in 1929

According to a *Spokesman-Review* article dated November 15, 1910, the original Woman's Club Cottage was constructed as a "temporary club home until the large clubhouse" was built. In 1929, the present Woman's Club Building was completed. The circa-1911 clubhouse was partially dismantled on the south end of the building. The front porch, facade, roof, and exterior siding as well as the south, east, and west elevation windows were removed. The original first-floor assembly room and basement dining room located on the north, rear wall of the original building were retained. The circa-1929 construction wrapped around the two remaining rooms on the north end of the original building. The new building extended south on the property to include a 60-foot-long auditorium and vestibule on the main floor. The basement was finished with a central hall, kitchen, office, lavatories, and another assembly room. The roof of the original building was partially raised to conform to the circa-1929 addition. The entire building was clad in brick veneer. A *Spokesman-Review* article dated October 28, 1928, said the "old club cottage" was "literally enveloped in new exterior...brick" resulting in "no distinct separation between the two."

Alterations

Very few alterations have been made to the Woman's Club Building since it was built in 1929. In the 1940s, the original doors on the facade and the west elevation of the building were replaced with metal doors. In 2000, a composition shingle roof was installed, 12 windows were replaced on the north elevation at the back of the building, and 9 windows were replaced along the northern-most end of the west elevation. Replacement windows are multi-paned, double-hung units with similar muntin-mullion, sash, and reveal configurations as the circa-1929 windows.

Areas of Significance	Architecture, Social History
Periods of Significance	1929-1952
Significant Dates	1911, 1929
Architect (1929 construction)	G. A. Pehrson
Builders (1929 construction)	True & Rudeen, General Contractors
Specific Dates	1911, 1929

Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

The Woman's Club Building is important to the social history of Spokane as the location of the Woman's Club of Spokane, a service organization which has made a significant contribution to the promotion of welfare of the city's citizens. Built in 1929, as the permanent meeting hall for the Woman's Club of Spokane, the building has remained in continuous use for this purpose. Of the many buildings constructed for clubs and organizations in Spokane, the Woman's Club Building was the only clubhouse originally designed and built specifically for women. Enlightened by their motto, "The Club that Bids You Welcome," the Woman's Club offered membership to all women regardless of income level, social status, religious affiliation, or ethnic background. Since 1905, the Woman's Club has responded to changing social needs of the community by offering services such as Spokane's first day care center, early organized kindergarten classes for children, educational classes for women, and a center for Red Cross activities, especially during World War I. The building was designed by noted Spokane architect, Gustav Albin Pehrson, and was praised as "artistic and efficient" at its completion in a *Spokesman-Review* article dated March 17, 1929. During its period of significance from 1929 to 1952, the Woman's Club Building is significant in the area of architecture as the product of a master architect. It is further significant for its association with Spokane and the development of women's activities in the context of "Social History" specifically pertaining to a "Clubhouse." In 1994, the building was listed on the National Register as a contributing property in the Ninth Avenue National Register Historic District. The Woman's Club of Spokane Building is eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Categories A and C.

Historical Context

The Evolution of Women's Clubs

History records that women's clubs have been in existence for hundreds of years. Matrons of ancient Rome often met in discussion groups, *or clubs*, to talk about matters of etiquette and social deployment. During the 1600s in Europe, craft guilds were organized that eventually led to the foundation of the Masons and their women's groups known as Job's Daughters and the Eastern Star. Early American women's clubs were formed in response to social, spiritual, and educational needs and were one of the ways in

which women cared for each other without the present-day benefit of government-run social welfare programs. Early clubs included quilting bees, garden clubs, religious societies, cultural appreciation groups, and educational organizations. Most current women's clubs, however, grew out of the Industrial Revolution that occurred from about 1850 to the early 1900s when machine production replaced hand-craftsmanship. Many things that women had made in their homes were thenceforth manufactured in factories that produced goods like ready-made garments and children's clothes, processed and canned food stuffs, chemical cleaners and soaps, and pre-mixed and packaged health care aids. Women enjoyed more leisure time and many entered trades and professions. As women began to demand social justice equal to men, women's clubs were organized throughout the United States with an emphasis on public affairs and social reform.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs

Today, many of the professional, educational, and social clubs for women in the United States are linked together through one organization called the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The organization was established in 1890, and reports that it is "the world's largest and oldest non-denominational, non-partisan service organization of volunteer women...working locally through thousands of clubs in the United States, and globally in more than 46 countries." According to Federation records, volunteers collectively donate "over 54 million hours" and "contribute approximately \$108 million to their projects." Member clubs "maintain an individual identity and focus while benefiting from the strength that comes from being part of an international organization...all united by a dedication to community improvement through volunteer service." An active member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs since 1908, the Woman's Club of Spokane is one of the city's most widely known service clubs and civic benefactors.

Historical Significance--Category A

The Woman's Club Building is historically significant as the central meeting hall built especially for the Woman's Club of Spokane, an organization devoted to the improvement of the Spokane community through the educational and social development of women.

1905-1909--The Woman's Club of Spokane is Founded

The Woman's Club of Spokane was formed from 1905 to 1909, when representatives of various city-wide women's groups gathered together to discuss the construction of a clubhouse. Referring to the club's first meetings, club records indicate that the "founders wanted to build a clubhouse where all women of the community could pursue social, literary, and educational concerns. From the beginning, club members have been civic-

minded women concerned with improving their community as well as developing their own talents.”

Spokane Woman's Club archives record that the first meeting of the organization was held in July, 1905, in Mrs. Robert E. Strahorn's house located on West First Avenue in Browne's Addition. A November 5, 1916, *Spokesman-Review* article reports Mrs. Strahorn's recollection that “the meeting at her home was large and enthusiastic” with representatives attending from many Spokane women's organizations, including the Athenaeum, Amethyst, Parliamentary, Floral, Wagner, Current Events, Twentieth Century, Felicia Hemans, Sorosis, A Kempis, Wednesday Book, and Woman's Book clubs. Later that month, an organized group of women representing the various clubs was perfected and officers were elected. The Woman's Club proclaimed the club's motto, “The Club that Bids You Welcome,” and offered membership to *all* women regardless of income level, social status, religious affiliation, or ethnic background. Early members of the Woman's Club were mostly married and unmarried women from Spokane's wealthy social elite and included the wives and daughters of many of Spokane's mining, lumber, banking, business, and professional families such as the Strahorns, Fotheringhams, Gallands, and Baums. Mrs. Emery, wife of Spokane physician, H. J. Emery, was elected the club's first president, and Washington State's most notable suffragette, May Arkwright Hutton, was a charter board member of the club. Club members regarded the organization as “a great melting pot where class differences...[were]...forgotten” and where all members could “unite in the cause of personal and community development” (*Spokane Daily Chronicle, November 17, 1920*).

According to club ledgers, the Woman's Club grew to 343 members by the end of 1909, and met in meeting rooms in buildings such as the Spokane Public Library, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Auditorium Block in Spokane. Nine “departments” were organized within the club to serve members in the following areas of education and social service: Social Economics, Current Topics, Elocution, German, French, Parliamentary Law, Domestic Science, Music, and Arts and Crafts. Millenary classes were held in the Palace Department Store, owned and operated by Mrs. R. Weil, a member of the club. The *1910-1911 Woman's Club Yearbook* announced the various programs that were offered to club members in 1909, and reported that sometimes “regular meeting days were set aside by request to present programs on the following subjects: Equal Suffrage, Art Development in America, and Conservation of Natural Resources.”

The Woman's Club Day Nursery--Spokane's First Day Care Center

According to club archives and brochures, the Woman's Club founded “Spokane's first day care center,” and later formed a preschool and kindergarten. Club reports indicate that the day care center was called the “Woman's Club Day Nursery” and began in 1910.

The center was located in rented rooms in various Spokane buildings with the longest recorded stay at 1112 West Sprague Avenue. The day care was “conducted for the care of needy children” and during its first year of operation, it cared for “6,490 children and assisted 300 mothers in caring for their children” as well as helping the mothers find work. At the end of six years, the Woman’s Club Day Nursery reported their care of “44,214 children.” The day care was funded by contributions from the Woman’s Club and other organizations, and the City and County of Spokane. “Salaries were paid to the [nursery] matron and teachers” and “six physicians donated their services to the children.” The *1910-1911 Woman’s Club Yearbook* reported the “occupations of those [women] who benefited most by the opportunity for having their babies cared for at the nursery.” They included servants, saleswomen, laundresses, hotel chambermaids and women who were separated, divorced, or widowed, and whose husbands were unemployed. The nursery was closed in 1922, but a kindergarten was organized by 1928, and held in the clubhouse on Ninth and Walnut through the 1950s.

In addition to their concern for children and working mothers, the Woman’s Club was committed to the safety and fair treatment of women under incarceration. The *1910-1911 Woman’s Club Yearbook* reports,

“According to records on December 6, 1909, a resolution was introduced and adopted at a club meeting, that the club ask the [Spokane] City Council to place one resident police matron in the woman’s ward of the city jail. The Social Economics Department [of the Woman’s Club] gave its support to the measure, with a final result that three matrons were appointed...”

1911--The First Clubhouse

On February 14, 1910, the Woman’s Club purchased Lot 8 at the corner of West Ninth Avenue and South Walnut Street for \$4000 from the Washington Safe Deposit and Trust Company. Subdivision covenants conveyed with the warranty deed promoted aesthetic development of the neighborhood and prohibited the construction of buildings “costing less than \$2000” and the construction of buildings “used for business purposes of any kind.” Although the Woman’s Club of Spokane was legally incorporated as a service and educational organization, the group was permitted to build a clubhouse in the residential neighborhood.

Donations were made to the club’s building fund, including a \$500 gift from May Arkwright Hutton, and in 1911, the clubhouse was built at a reported cost of \$6000

(*Spokane Daily Chronicle*, November 17, 1920). Blending nicely within the existing residential neighborhood, the clubhouse resembled a single-family bungalow designed in the Craftsman style and was erected as a temporary clubhouse until a larger, more permanent facility could be built (*Spokesman-Review*, November 15, 1910). The clubhouse was called the Woman's Club Cottage and was the first building in Spokane constructed specifically as a clubhouse for use by women. Earlier buildings had been erected in Spokane for use by women such as the Woman's Exchange, the Woman's Hotel, and the Woman's Mutual Benefit Company, but these buildings served as housing and employment facilities rather than a social clubhouse. A *Spokesman-Review* article dated November 5, 1916, hailed the Woman's Club of Spokane as the "largest club in the State [of Washington] to own its own club home" and reported the club's membership at 300.

1912 to 1928--Philanthropic Activities

During the next 16 years, the Woman's Club Building was owned and managed by its own members and was the center for women's social, educational, and philanthropic activities in Spokane. The Woman's Club helped furnish the Hutton Settlement and organized a "magazine bureau for homesteaders" in which magazines and clothing were boxed and sent to isolated families living in areas of Spokane. Club members sold tickets to card parties, which were "organized as fund-raisers to purchase a flag for the Second Division Veterans of the city" (*Spokesman-Review*, April 11, 1918). The clubhouse was mainly home to the club's members and their activities, but was also rented or donated to non-members. During World War I, the Woman's Club assisted in the war effort and opened their clubhouse to the Red Cross.

A November 5, 1916, newspaper article reported that china painting and dressmaking classes were added to the Woman's Club curriculum and that all of the "classes reflected the growing interest and participation of women in their community and a desire for self-improvement." Influenced by the national recognition of women's suffrage across America, an article from the *Spokesman-Review* dated April 19, 1923 reported that "the Parliamentary Law class...has been one of the leading departments of the Woman's Club, training women for active participation in all kinds of organized work and public affairs."

1929--The Permanent Clubhouse

By 1928, the Woman's Club of Spokane had become one of the city's most popular clubs, and the clubhouse was one of the most widely used community centers in Spokane. Due to the club's popularity and growing membership, the first clubhouse, built in 1911, was soon too small to accommodate the classes, meetings, and special events that were regularly attended by sometimes up to 250 women at one time. In 1928, the Woman's

Club hired Spokane architect G. A. Pehrson to design a new and larger clubhouse with a large auditorium capable of seating up to 300 people. Mrs. A. C. Enloe, the Woman's Club president at that time, made the following declaration in a *Spokesman-Review* article dated October 28, 1928:

"This new structure means much more than a club house for our own membership--it means the erecting of a building of which every Spokane citizen may be justly proud. The good that our club has accomplished in the community cannot be estimated. But with better accommodations so that the membership may be comfortably increased, a new era is opened and what it may do for the individual women in an intellectual and social way, and for the community in a civic way, is unprecedented. Few clubs, if any, have the scope of departmental work and general committee service that ours has."

In 1929, the new clubhouse was completed. The cost of the building and grounds was nearly \$40,000. Women's Club records cite a local newspaper's claim that the "new clubhouse...added greatly to the architectural progress of the city..."

1930s--Mortgage-burning

The remodeled clubhouse was completed just months before the Crash of 1929, and the beginning of the Great Depression, that resulted in catastrophic economic changes throughout the United States. With an outstanding \$12,000 mortgage and the threat of impending receivership, the Woman's Club faced trying times. The club did not qualify for federal loans, and no funding could be found to cancel the mortgage. Help, however, was on the way. The Woman's Club learned, that if by some miracle, the mortgage could be paid off immediately, the loan balance would be reduced to \$10,000. A *Spokesman-Review* article dated June 26, 1938 reported that "Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Enloe became interested in the strenuous efforts of the club members. They offered to contribute \$5000 if the women could find the other \$5000."

The Enloes, wealthy Spokane patrons of events and benefits sponsored by the Woman's Club, set the stage for other people who could afford to help the organization. Motivated by the Enloe's gift and challenge, the Club's women championed a fundraising drive and raised the needed \$5000 by selling lifetime memberships to the Woman's Club for \$50 and \$100 each, by soliciting donations from Spokane businesses, and by a series of unusually creative campaigns propelled by betterment, beauty, and thrift. One such

ingenious fund-raiser was reported in club archives as the "New Beauty Campaign" in which a certain percentage of the profits were donated to the Woman's Club "from every permanent wave, marcel, facial, haircut, and manicure" completed by participating salons and beauty shops located throughout the city. Another example was when all club members agreed to save \$3 each through "home thrift." Club records recount that one member "set out to eliminate weight and paid the club at the rate of 15-cents per pound. She lost 20 pounds...and now has a fashionable figure." The thrift campaign netted the club \$247 by April, 1930.

Other ways in which club members engaged to raise capital included entertainment benefits, chances sold on baked goods, money donated from jury duty, money saved by servicing one's own automobile, money received for custom-made garments, luncheon servings sold at 5-cents each, piano lessons sold at \$3 each, and benefit bridge parties. Finally, in 1938, the Woman's Club of Spokane accumulated enough capital to liquidate all outstanding notes. A *Spokesman-Review* article from June 6, 1938 proclaimed the event with the headlines, "Woman's Club ends its debt...[Washington State] Governor Martin at mortgage-burning event."

During America's Great Depression in the 1930s, hundreds of thousands of men and women were unemployed across the country. Spokane was no exception. The Woman's Club took a stand with various statements printed in local newspapers. Club records indicate that the organization appointed a "committee on unemployment." The committee "presented plans for enlisting 'work-by-the-hour' to avoid any unemployment condition" in Spokane. The club "promised cooperation in asking Spokane women to have odd jobs done...[in order]...to give men work." In 1932, the Woman's Club of Spokane made the following endorsement:

"Whereas there is so much unemployment in our country due largely to competition with cheap foreign labor, be it resolved that this club go on record as favoring only the purchase of American-made goods whenever possible."

1930s and 1940s--Benefit Activities

Happy times were enjoyed at the Woman's Club from 1938 to World War II. The club gave many benefit plays, musicals and zany "high-jinks" costume parties, teas, luncheons and fashion shows. These events were well attended by club members and guests, and were reported on a weekly and bi-weekly basis in local newspapers.

The Woman's Club supported local businesses with donations and events. On March 13-14-15, 1940, the club sponsored a "Merchant's and Manufacturer's Exhibit" and charged 35-cents for admission and dinner. The event helped promote American-made goods and services and local enterprises. Benefit dollars were also used to help with such things as the collection and distribution of clothes for the needy, kindergarten classes taught at the clubhouse in the basement dining/multi-purpose room, and material aid given to the Hutton House. On April 10, 1940, guests paid 37-cents each to attend a bazaar, art exhibit, style show, luncheon, and card party at the Woman's Club Building. All proceeds were given to the Hutton Settlement. Club work continued and a *Spokesman-Review* article dated June 3, 1940 reported the Woman's Club's "outstanding achievement of the year was the furnishing of a four-bed room for senior girls at the Hutton Settlement."

1950s, 1960s, and 1970s--Education for Underprivileged

During the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, the Woman's Club continued to operate as a social and service club for women in Spokane. The Woman's Club helped organize and establish the Pre-Vocational Center and the Head Start Program in Spokane. In 1968, club reports indicated "\$1034 was raised and given to the handicapped of Spokane." The gift was given "to further sales, teaching, and the purchase of materials and other aids to put to profitable use the skills and talents of the handicapped." The General Federation of Women's Clubs applauded the Woman's Club of Spokane in their efforts and presented them with one of the Federation's highest national awards "for work in aiding the handicapped to help themselves."

2002--The Woman's Club Today

Today, the Woman's Club is known for its Spokane Centennial Fashion Collection, an assortment of vintage clothing that includes clothes, coats, shoes, hats, handbags, and jewelry donated to the Woman's Club by club members and the Spokane community since 1881. The Club's fashion and trunk shows are popular and commemorate the history of Spokane through women's fashions. The clubhouse is not only used by members of the Woman's Club, but also by the Spokane community. It is rented regularly for weddings, birthdays, family reunions, theatrical events, community benefits and bazaars, and by church groups, scout troops, dance and exercise organizations, businessmen and business women, and other clubs and groups in Spokane. Dedicated to the betterment of women and their community, the Woman's Club of Spokane offers their membership invitation to "all women who desire...to take an active role in community, state and world affairs...to enrich friendships, obtain personal growth...and...to bring new interests into their lives and into their homes."

Club records report that in a larger context, the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs was responsible for forest conservation throughout the State, the establishment of a school for juvenile delinquent girls, community involvement service projects such as Leavenworth's Bavarian Village, aid to the blind--especially children, sewing contests for high school students, and the establishment of museums and the preservation of the history of the Woman's Club across the State. National records indicate the General Federation of Women's Clubs has "established 73% of the nation's public libraries, developed national models for juvenile courts, helped develop the country's first forest reserve, brought passage of the Pure Food & Drug Act, pushed legislation for the 8-hour work day, was first to endorse equal rights/responsibilities for women and support equal pay for equal work, supported the first child labor law, co-sponsored the Statue of Liberty Museum, started an alcohol and drug abuse education program for women and children, promoted domestic violence legislation, and created the General Federation of Women's Club Women's History & Resource Center in Washington, DC."

Architectural Significance--Category C

Gustav Albin Pehrson, Architect

Built in 1929, the clubhouse for the Woman's Club of Spokane is architecturally significant as the work of a master. It was designed by Gustav Albin Pehrson, one of Spokane's most prominent and prolific architects. Born in Sweden, Pehrson studied at Upsala University in Sweden and then Oxford University in England. In 1905, he arrived in America and settled in Chicago where he worked for Bethlehem Steel. In 1913, Pehrson came to Spokane. He was employed as a draftsman for Cutter and Malmgren, one of Spokane's most revered architectural firms. Three years later, Pehrson left Cutter and Malmgren and opened his own architectural firm in the Old National Bank Building. He worked for over 55 years in Spokane and was responsible for designing hundreds of houses and buildings. Examples of his most-noted designs include the Davenport Hotel (in collaboration with Kirtland Cutter), the Chronicle Building, Paulsen Medical and Dental Building, Culbertson's Department Store (now the Bon Marche), the Catholic Chauncery, Rookery Block, the Greek Orthodox Temple, and the Roosevelt Apartments.

The building for the Woman's Club of Spokane is most similar to Pehrson's design for the Roosevelt Apartments, also built in 1929. Both the Woman's Club Building and the Roosevelt Apartments are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are fine examples of vernacular commercial block architecture in Spokane, although the design for the Woman's Club Building reveals Tudor Revival-style influence in the pitched roof, front-facing gable, and wooden lintels. Both buildings are both clad in variegated multi-colored pressed brick veneer, have a symmetrical fenestration pattern, and feature glazed, polychrome terra cotta ornamentation depicting Beaux Arts-style influence. Popular in America from 1885 to 1930, the Beaux Arts style was based on classical precedents and

Italian Renaissance revivals elaborated by lavish decorative detailing. Sculpted cartouches and shields, often made of tinted terra cotta, were used extensively.

Pehrson designed the clubhouse for the Woman's Club to accommodate large numbers of people at one time. To facilitate his plan, all but two rooms in the Woman's Club Cottage were demolished. The remaining two rooms are the basement dining room and the first-floor assembly room. Pehrson designed the new building around the two remaining rooms and created a central hall, kitchen, office, and storage space in the basement, and a large auditorium capable of accommodating up to 500 people on the first floor. Construction commenced in 1928 by Spokane general contractors True and Rudeen. The building was completed in 1929.

A March 17, 1929 *Spokesman-Review* article pictures the new Woman's Club Building with the following headlines and excerpts:

"Woman's Club Home Artistic and Efficient"

"The state of the auditorium is one of the largest and best equipped in the city."

"The Spokane Woman's Club's new building at Ninth and Walnut is at the complete stage where its members may point with pride to its exterior beauty and its interior conveniences. The building is of brick...and terra cotta...curly fir [woodwork]...green window cases...and a cream lunette over the entrance in tints of green and rose. By including the old clubhouse bodily in the newer building, the women have a plant that includes two auditoriums, a full basement to be finished later, kindergarden rooms, dining room, kitchen, and other departments.

The stage has been laid out so it can be used for any little theater production...with a view to offering it for community productions...the auditorium has indirect lighting and for the stage, there are footlights and floodlights. With rentals, the club hopes to earn its interest money and taxes.

G. A. Pehrson, the architect, has done an artistic job...and is commended for providing a way whereby the club may keep within its budget and still have a most attractive building."

There are many clubhouses built throughout Spokane such as Masonic lodges, Oddfellow halls, and social clubs like the Spokane Club and the Manito Golf and Country Club. The Woman's Club, however, remains the only clubhouse originally designed and built specifically for women.

Bibliography

General Federation of Women's Club brochures, 1970s, 1980s.

Spokane County assessor's records, building permits, warranty deeds.

Spokane Daily Chronicle articles: November 17, 1920

Spokesman-Review articles: November 15, 1910, November 5, 1916, April 11, 1918, April 1, 1921, April 19, 1923, September 4, 1923, May 16, 1924, October 28, 1928, March 17, 1929, June 6, 1938, June 26, 1938, June 6, 1939, October 8, 1961.

Woman's Club of Spokane archives including yearbooks, records, ledgers, scrapbooks, photo collection, membership and informational brochures, bylaws, 1905-2002.

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photos 1 and 2

South elevation of building; photos taken in 2002.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photos 3, 4, 5

South facade of building. Photos taken in 2002.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photos 6 and 7

South facade of building. Photos taken in 2002.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photos 8 and 9

West elevation of building. Photos taken in 2002.



Photos 10 and 11

West elevation entrance and roof eave detail.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photos 12 and 13

North, rear elevation. Photos taken in 2002.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photo 14
Photo 15

Front entry and vestibule looking south.
Stairs to balcony in west vestibule.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photo 16

Auditorium looking south.

Photo 17

Balcony above auditorium, looking west.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photo 18
Photos 19 and 20

Auditorium, looking north at stage.
Stage detail.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photo 21

Stairs leading up from basement to first floor.

Photo 22

Basement dining room.

Photo 23

First-floor assembly room, looking northeast.



Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination Continuation Sheet
WOMAN'S CLUB of SPOKANE BUILDING

Section 10

Photos 24 and 25

Kitchen in basement.



