

**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 Property**

Historic name: Woman's Club of Palo Alto



Other names/site number: NA

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

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

**2. Location**

Street & number: 475 Homer Avenue

City or town: Palo Alto State: CA County: Santa Clara

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_ 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**      \_\_\_ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ **A**      \_\_\_ **B**      \_\_\_ **C**      \_\_\_ **D**

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

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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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social meeting hall  
Civic meeting hall  
Clubhouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social meeting hall  
Civic meeting hall  
Clubhouse  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival:

Tudor Revival

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements:

Bungalow/Craftsman

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_\_\_\_\_

Foundation: poured concrete

Walls: wood and stucco

Roof: composite shingle

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto is a one-story meeting hall located at the intersection of Homer Avenue and Cowper Street within two blocks of the city center. The design of the building combines elements of Tudor Revival and Craftsman. The exterior of the main facade is stucco above a water table at the height of the sills of larger windows. Below this is a band of wood clapboarding that runs around the entire building. Decorative half-timbering, details of the main entry portico, and doorways and windows are wood. Large oak trees surround the building. Since its construction in 1916 it has been in continual use as a women's club for social and civic meetings. The Woman's Club of Palo Alto was founded in 1894. In 1906 the membership raised \$1,500 to buy the lot on Homer Avenue, but it took 10 more years to raise the \$10,590 for construction. Charles Edward Hodges, noted architect of the day and Resident Architect of Stanford University from 1900 to 1906, designed the building.

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## Narrative Description

### Exterior

The main entrance of the building faces southeast onto Homer Avenue. The major massing of the building is made up of a rectangular, front-gabled main hall along the southwest side of the lot and a lower, hip-roofed section extending to the northeast. Exposed rafter tails project from underneath the hipped portion of the roof and entry portico. Both roof sections and portico are of moderate pitch. With its corner-lot location, the effect of this design is to keep to the residential scale and character of the neighborhood while accommodating an assembly hall. The water table and horizontal clapboarding de-emphasize the height of the building and tie together the different elements. The gable end of the main hall and an entry portico dominate the Homer Avenue elevation of the building. The gable end of the hall projects slightly from the rest of the building, with a single, large bay of seven mullioned windows extending almost its full width. The entry portico to the right of this projects even further forward and has the appearance of a porte-cochere. Seen obliquely by an arriving pedestrian or vehicle, the portico marks the entrance and offsets the mass of the main hall, welcoming guests into a doorway recessed into the hip roofed portion of the building. A bay of mullioned windows at the right of the entry completes the composition of the Homer Street façade. (Benjamin Pinney, M. Arch., 2014)

From Cowper Street, the northeast façade of the Club has a more modest, residential feel. A slightly projecting bay with two windows and a chimney helps turn the corner from Homer Street and breaks up the long side of the hip-roofed section of the building. This also expresses the smaller, living-room scale gathering space inside. Continuing to the northwest, four pairs of smaller, double-hung windows further bring down the scale of the building to fit with neighboring homes. (Benjamin Pinney, M. Arch., 2014)

The northwest facade of the building is utilitarian. The rear-most walls are shingled rather than stucco above the water table. There is a back entryway into the kitchen. (Benjamin Pinney, M. Arch., 2014)

Large single and paired windows, similar to those on the front of the building that provide light into the main assembly hall, dominate the southwest façade of the building. (Benjamin Pinney, M. Arch., 2014)

### Interior

The interior of the building includes a foyer, a ballroom for lunches, programs and events, a dressing room, a kitchen, the Fireside Room, men and women's restrooms and a small room for Board and committee meetings. The interior floors are original maple tongue and groove in the ballroom with original fir and oak flooring in the boardroom and elsewhere. The interior walls in the ballroom, and Fireside Rooms are original also with fir board and batten wainscot and plaster walls and ceiling.

The stage floor is oak. The stage has an advertising fire curtain installed in 1926 by an advertising agency that paid the Woman's Club \$500 to hang the curtain. Local businesses were

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charged to advertise on the curtain. It is an historical artifact of local businesses in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the only one existing in Palo Alto. It is still in use today.

The fireplaces are original and examples of the Arts and Crafts style. The fireplace in the Fireside Room is made of salt glazed tiles manufactured by the Steiger Terra Cotta and Pottery Company of San Francisco. The company only made these salt glazed tiles from 1910 to 1915.

### **Alterations**

#### **Exterior**

The original building is essentially unaltered from its 1916 design and function. One of the original mullioned windows on the northeast façade was removed in the 1957 bathroom remodel and replaced by a modern single pane window. In the 2009 bathroom remodel, the Club took great care to follow the original design and replaced the 1957 window with a replica of the architect's original design. Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST) presented the Woman's Club with a PAST Preservation Award for this restoration of the window and the bathroom in 2010. The sign on the southeast façade donated by Miss Dixon in 1931, is made of carved wood compatible with the building's craftsman design elements. While the legal name of the organization is the Woman's Club of Palo Alto, the sign reads Women's of Club Palo Alto. The Club has decided to live with the ambiguity.

#### **Interior**

The kitchen was remodeled to accommodate modern appliances in 1961. The restrooms were updated twice, once in 1957 and again in 2009. The Board meeting room was remodeled to include housing for the Club's archives in 1999 and a small bride's room was redecorated for wedding rentals that same year.

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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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1916 to 1964

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**Significant Dates**

1916 completion of the club building

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Hodges, Charles Edward , Architect  
Fox, Frank W., Contractor/Builder

**Criterion A: Women's Club Movement, Women's History and Social History**

**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 consideration.)

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto is eligible for the National Register of Historic Resources under Criteria A and C because the Club has been associated with a pattern of events that made significant contributions to the development of Palo Alto, California and the nation. Locally, the Clubhouse was the center of civic, cultural and philanthropic activity in Palo Alto. The Clubhouse is significant locally as part of the broad pattern of the Women's Club Movement whose goal was to encourage women's full participation, both in their communities and in the nation, on issues such as legislation, education, conservation, public health, libraries, woman's suffrage, philanthropy and political reform. The period of significance is from 1916 to 1964, from the building's original construction until a marked decline in membership and activity in the early 1960s.

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

**Criterion A: Social History**

Charles Dickens never knew that he was the impetus behind the creation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). In 1868, when journalist Jane Cunningham Croly and other women writers were denied admission to a banquet honoring Dickens at the all male New York Press Club, they reacted by forming an exclusively female club. Named *Sorosis*, it met for 21 years before it joined with other women's group across the nation to form the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Their goal: to allow women of diverse interests to gather outside the home for self-education, personal development and community involvement. The Woman's



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Club of Palo Alto joined the GFWC in 1898 and the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) in 1900.

Twenty-four women founded the Woman's Club of Palo Alto on June 20, 1894. The Club's first president, Dr. Mary Grafton Campbell encouraged members such as Julia Gilbert to found the City's first Library in 1896 and Anna Zschokke to earn the sobriquet "Mother of Palo Alto Schools" by engineering the 1893 establishment of a separate Palo Alto school district. Zschokke also built the first high school buildings in 1897. Whether lobbying for a sewer system, planting the City's first trees or working for California women's suffrage in 1911, these women set the tone for Palo Alto's future.

When the Clubhouse was built in 1916, it became the place where community groups gathered and where civic, philanthropic and social events were held. The dream of building a clubhouse was first mentioned in the minutes of April 1, 1896. Twenty years later that dream was realized. Intensive fundraising efforts included bake sales, the publication of both a *Woman's Club Cookbook*, and a history of *The Santa Clara Valley* and sell-out speakers such as Helen Keller. Increased members' dues and contributions from prominent leaders such as City Attorney Norman Malcolm enabled the Club to open its doors to the community on September 16, 1916. Over 500 Palo Alto residents attended the gala opening reception. *The Palo Alto Times* wrote: "We believe the Woman's Club...is preparing to contribute a great deal to the future of the City."<sup>1</sup> The Building Committee Chairwoman and former Club President, Emily Pardee Karns Dixon agreed that September 16<sup>th</sup> was "a glorious day."

### **1916-1929: World War I, Universal Suffrage and Women in Politics**

The years 1916 to 1920 set the pattern for Clubhouse use by the community. Proximity to Stanford University, and the fact that Club members were educated and sophisticated women ensured notable speakers and cultural events, which were open to the public. The Clubhouse was also the scene of intense involvement in local and national events. Before and after the United States entered World War I, members supported peace by endorsing American Peace Party petitions, joining the National Women's Peace Party and by supporting Belgian Relief efforts. When former Club President Julia Gilbert was appointed Chairwoman of the Stanford-Palo Alto Belgian Relief Fund by future President Herbert Hoover, she organized Clubwomen and the community to raise \$50,000 for innocent war victims.

Alice Locke Park, club member and internationally known suffragist and pacifist, spoke to an overflow audience about her experiences as a participant on the Henry Ford Peace Ship Expedition and as a founding member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Sweden. Park's espousal of pacifism continued during the war when she formed a local chapter of the American Union Against Militarism, a group that later became the American Civil Liberties Union.

When the United States entered the war in 1917, club member Lydia Mitchell co-founded the Palo Alto Red Cross. Because that group had no headquarters until 1948, the Clubhouse became

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<sup>1</sup> Archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association, *Palo Alto Times*, Sept 23, 1916.

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the place where bandages were rolled, clothing sewn and parties held for soldiers and their families. At war's end, former Stanford President David Starr Jordan led a citywide debate at the Club on the merits of the League of Nations. The Club endorsed the League in February 1919. In that same year, club member Clelia Mosher, a physician and one of the first four female professors at Stanford, spoke about her two years as Medical Investigator for Children's Relief and again, in 1922, on her experiences as the Director of the government Bureau of Refugees and Relief.

In addition to open meetings featuring notable speakers, the Clubhouse was made available to nascent community groups such as the PTA, the Girl Scouts, the Palo Alto Civic League and the Business and Professional Women's Club. Former Club President Mary Greene held Home and School meetings, precursors of the PTA, at the Clubhouse. In 1917 she became the President of a unified PTA. Greene's efforts were supported by Cornelia Place, co-founder of a local real estate firm and a School Board Trustee. Place had been nominated for the latter position by the Woman's Club in 1911. By 1918, the Club's position as the center of community life led Mayor Swain to propose that a plate be installed on the sidewalk pointing the way to 475 Homer Avenue.

A year before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment granted universal suffrage, Club President Emily Pardee Karns Dixon formed a coalition between the Woman's Club and the Palo Alto Civic League to seek female candidates for the City Council. Together, they nominated Emma Bell Blair and Mary Denison Wilt Thomas, the City's first councilwomen. Blair did not get sufficient votes for election on the first ballot. Emily Karns, who had successfully rallied Palo Alto voters for California women's enfranchisement in 1911, did so again, and Blair won a Council seat on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot. *The Palo Alto Times* commented that "...women were...electioneering and voting and they elected Emma Bell Blair with the highest vote received."<sup>2</sup>

The Woman's Club had cause to celebrate on November 16, 1920 when a "mortgage burning" was held. Two years later, the GFWC moved into their Washington headquarters and began to play a greater role in coordinating activities at the state and local level. The Club supported Federation and State goals on issues such as peace, prohibition, protection of women and children in industry, physical education, public school improvement, protection of the home and bans on offensive movies.

Local philanthropic efforts continued with fundraising for veteran's associations and for the Save the Redwoods League. A popular speaker at Club events was Lou Henry Hoover, future First Lady and founder of the Girl Scouts in the Western United States. Her enthusiasm about the changing roles of women and girls and the opportunities inherent in scouting prompted Club members to raise funds and provide meeting space to the Palo Alto Scouts, founded in 1922, until their permanent home was built in 1925. Similarly, after prominent humanitarian Josephine Duveneck spoke on child labor laws and, again, on progressive education, the Club members decided to endorse her candidacy for City Council. As the 3<sup>rd</sup> woman elected to that post, Duveneck helped realize two goals of the Club. For a decade, members had lobbied for a

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<sup>2</sup> Archives of the Palo Alto Historical Association, *Palo Alto Times*, November 5, 1919.

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policewoman and for the dedication of five acres of parkland that had been donated to the City by club member Emily Pardee Karns Dixon. Both goals were realized during Duveneck's four year term.

### **1929-1940: Depression, Philanthropy and Conservation**

By 1930, having learned the value of philanthropic and political involvement, Club members made their building the nexus of community life. They wholeheartedly supported Herbert Hoover, the hometown candidate, in 1928. When the Great Depression hit in 1929, the Club focused on the needs of their own city by collecting, repairing and distributing used clothing and conducting food drives. A request from President Hoover to the GFWC led members to conduct a survey enumerating unemployed workers in Palo Alto. Board member Mrs. Zink organized members' support of the new shelter for unemployed, homeless men. Named "Hotel de Zink" in honor of her husband Police Chief Harold Zink, the shelter housed, fed and provided work for 50,000 men over 2 ½ years. The Club raised funds for the shelter, for needy students and for veterans, with citywide events: bridge games, flower and fashion shows, a play, an operetta, rummage sales and a cake contest. From 1932-1934, dues "were impossible to collect" and total cash assets were twenty-one cents which was \$8.65 less than in 1895.

The Club's greatest victory during the depression was the dedication in 1933 of a CFWC memorial hearthstone at Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Designed by architect Julia Morgan, the memorial sat amidst 1,000 redwoods on a 106-acre grove purchased by women's clubs throughout California. To Palo Alto clubwomen it symbolized their long involvement with trees. As early as 1897 the Club's Village Improvement Committee had planted, maintained and preserved hundreds of trees on city streets and in parks that continued through the 1950's. In an effort that spanned three counties, the Club worked with the San Jose Woman's Club, President David Starr Jordan of Stanford University and the Sempervirens Fund to establish Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Upon becoming charter members of The Save the Redwoods League in 1918, the Clubhouse hosted joint fundraising events for the League with the Scouts, the Palo Alto Civic League and local conservation groups. The Club's conservation philosophy is summed up by the inscription on Julia Morgan's hearthstone: "Would that we were great as these and men were brotherly as trees."<sup>3</sup>

### **1940-1964: World War II, Growth and Decline**

The 1940's were memorable years for two reasons. World War II made the Clubhouse once again a center for Red Cross activities, Women's Air Corps meetings and fundraising events for war bonds, nurses' scholarships, Veteran's Administration Hospital parties and speaking engagements by United Nations directors. 1941 also saw the establishment of a Junior Club for women ages 16 to 35. The GFWC had established Junior Departments in 1932 to encourage volunteerism among younger women.

The vitality of junior members knew no bounds. Local newspapers wrote of the dances, teas, musical and dramatic presentations, talent and fashion shows and guest speakers that attracted Palo Altans and helped fund the Club's Philanthropy Committee. One such speaker was club

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<sup>3</sup> Boutelle, Sara Holmes, *Julia Morgan Architect*; New York, Abbeyville Press, 1995.

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member Kathleen Norris. A prolific writer, she produced blockbuster novels every six months for thirty years. Norris was also a nationally popular speaker on topics such as pacifism, free speech and women in politics. By hosting a talk show on San Jose radio station KEEN (1947-1992), Norris provided a forum for Woman's Club members to produce shows themselves.

Club membership grew to 350 between 1940 and 1960. There were 30 interest groups, and participation in regional, state and national projects soared. Between \$1,000 and \$3,000 annually was raised for the war effort, the Cancer and Tuberculosis funds, the March of Dimes, the Red Cross and the United Nations, as well as for local groups such as the Palo Alto Historical Association, the Veterans and Palo Alto Hospitals. Townspeople relied both on members' volunteerism and on using the Clubhouse as a gathering place. An example of the latter were the years from 1950-1960 when the Unity Palo Alto Community Church and the Palo Alto Unitarian Church met at the Clubhouse before finding permanent homes. In 1956, West Bay Opera held its first performance at the Woman's Club. Established in 1955, it is California's second oldest opera company. Nationally recognized for its artistic standards, it is a stopping ground for future world-class opera singers, directors, and designers. Its company continues to perform for Club benefits.

It took 40 years for American women to fully realize what power they had gained from suffrage. The 1960's saw women entering college and the marketplace in record numbers. These factors plus the advent of feminism and the sexual revolution caused a decline in membership in women's clubs nationwide. The Palo Alto's club was no exception. A faithful core of members continued to meet twice monthly and to attend district and state meetings, but there were few new recruits after 1964. Unlike clubs across the nation that sold their clubhouses, the Woman's Club of Palo Alto held on to the building that had played such a major role in the development of Palo Alto and the Woman's Club Movement. Today, the membership in the Woman's Club of Palo Alto is the largest in California.

### **Criterion C: Architecture**

#### **Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

Built in 1916, the Woman's Club of Palo Alto is architecturally significant because it typifies the design of women's clubs built at the height of the Women's Club Movement in the United States. Its Craftsman/Tudor Revival style incorporates the open floor plan of a traditional Craftsman with Tudor Revival elements, an eclectic style that was popular in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building retains its original architectural and design integrity. The materials and workmanship are a skillful amalgam of the Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles designed by the noted architect, Charles Edward Hodges (1866-1944). The building's design embodies distinctive characteristics of a type that served the values and functions of the Women's Club Movement providing women with a space to gather for community involvement, self-improvement and friendship. The virtually unaltered building remains in its original residential location and setting giving it a home-like feeling that blends into the residential and historic buildings of the neighborhood.

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The first meetings of the Woman's Club were held in 1894 at the old Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto. Incorporated in 1904, the Club purchased a lot for \$1,500 in 1910 and immediately began a ten-year fundraising effort for the construction of a clubhouse. Construction was completed in 1916 at a cost of \$10,590.

The Club's Building Committee chose Charles Edward Hodges as architect. Born in London, Hodges immigrated to America in 1888 and began his architectural career as a draftsman for the prestigious Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge. Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) was the principal of this firm until his death in 1886.

Hodges' main body of work consists of two distinct periods: **The Stanford Years: 1893- 1906** when he designed the earliest faculty housing and also supervised the construction of Stanford's major institutional buildings. During the second period, **The San Francisco Bay Area Years: 1910-1917**, Hodges opened a practice in San Francisco with W. Garden Mitchell (1862-1918).

### **Stanford University Years 1893-1906**

In 1893, Charles Hodges was sent from the Boston office to California to serve as draftsman and "Clerk of the Works" by Charles Allerton Coolidge who had taken over Henry Hobson Richardson's commission. Leland and Jane Lathrop Stanford had originally hired Frederick Law Olmsted to plat the buildings and grounds and Richardson to design the Romanesque structures for the university that would commemorate their recently deceased child. The relationship between the Jane Stanford, Olmsted and Coolidge was severed in 1889 due to disagreement as to who would control the design. Jane Stanford, whose husband had died in 1893, took over control of the project and appointed Hodges as the University's Resident Architect, a position he held from 1899 until his resignation in 1906. Mrs. Stanford, despite financial difficulties, began constructing fourteen monumental Neo-Classical buildings on a limited budget, which necessitated economies in building. The post-1899 construction, sometimes referred to as "The Great Stone Age, lacked the broad, flaring foundations and reinforced concrete of earlier construction and, as a result, it suffered severe damage in the 1906 earthquake. Hodges, as supervising architect, felt compelled to resign. He was exonerated by a University Committee Report to the Trustees, which concluded that the structural workmanship of the damaged buildings was inferior to the pre-1889 buildings.

Hodges' Stanford years were, despite the earthquake, satisfying in that he was elected an associate to the American Institute of Architects in 1901. They were also amazingly productive years. Hodges' pre-1889 designs for and construction of Encina Hall (the men's dormitory), the Academic Quadrangle, the Chemistry Building, the Engineering Buildings and the Fire House still stand. Most significant is that, during this time, Hodges designed the majority of faculty housing on campus as well as professor's residences in Palo Alto. Both the Historic Inventories of the Stanford Historical Society and the City of Palo Alto recognize Hodges and his residences among their notable architects and buildings. Built between 1893 and 1900, the Stanford houses allowed Hodges free rein to demonstrate his architectural skills without interference from his employers. Six extant campus houses designed in the then popular styles of Queen Anne, Shingle and Neo-Classical Revival are still in use today (Dunn-Bacon House at 565 Mayfield Avenue (1899), Mariposa House at 546 Salvatierra Walk (1892), Owen House at 553 Salvatierra Walk

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(1896), Grove-Lasuen House at 572 Mayfield Avenue (1896) and the Cooksey House at 550 San Juan Hill (1900).)

Similarly, there are seven extant examples of Hodges' Palo Alto residences built between 1893 and 1905 and listed on Palo Alto's Historic Inventory. Two of them – an 1893 Eastlake at 1146 Waverly Street and a 1903 Colonial Revival at 251 Lincoln Avenue - are in the Professorville National Register of Historic Districts. The others, built between 1895 and 1905, were Eastlake, Craftsman, Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival in style. (451-453 Channing (1900), 536 Lincoln Avenue (1897), 803 Cowper Street (1901), and 469 Homer Avenue (1905).

### **San Francisco Bay Area Years 1910-1917:**

After resigning from Stanford, Hodges traveled in Europe until 1910 when he returned to San Francisco to establish his own architectural firm with W. Garden Mitchell (1862 - 1918) a former associate of Albert Pissis (1852-1914). This second period of Hodges' work demonstrates his maturation as an architect. His practice included hotels, commercial and civic buildings and residential buildings throughout the Bay Area. Examples of his commercial work are: the Carnegie Library in San Anselmo, the Redwood City Hotel and 530 Bush Street, now the San Francisco Environmental Center. *Western Architect and Engineer* showcased the "English Domestic" residential style used in several Marin County houses: the Larne House in Grass Valley and the Scott and Moore houses in Ross.

Hodges' San Francisco Bay Area Years included commissions in Palo Alto for the 1916 Woman's Club and for two residences (a Tudor Revival at 369 Churchill Avenue and a Craftsman/Tudor Revival at 340 Coleridge Avenue). Although all of Hodges buildings are listed on the City's Historic Inventory, only the Woman's Club is categorized as "A Major Building. These buildings are meritorious works of the best architects; outstanding examples of a specific architectural style, or illustrate stylistic development of architecture ..."<sup>4</sup> Each of his other buildings is listed as "A Contributing Building, which is a good example of an architectural style and relates to the character of a neighborhood grouping in scale, materials, proportion or other factors."<sup>5</sup>

In addition, the City of Palo Alto maintains a List of Noted Architects who have made outstanding contributions to the Palo Alto streetscape. Charles Edward Hodges is included among such notables as Bliss and Faville, Birge Clark, Pedro deLemos, Bernard Maybeck, Julia Morgan and Charles Sumner. Many of these architects have buildings on the National List of Historic Resources.

Hodges' skillful rendering of the Craftsman/Tudor style for the Woman's Club assured it a charming home-like quality that would blend into its residential setting. The imaginative and functional space he created for club meetings, lectures, balls, concerts and community gatherings is a prime example of women's clubs built during the peak of the Women's Club Movement. Women had long gathered in homes, churches, and halls to meet for activities ranging from

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<sup>4</sup>Palo Alto Stanford Heritage, *Historic Inventory of Palo Alto*. [www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org), 1995.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

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literature, gardening, abolition, temperance, suffragism, child labor and women's rights. Encouraged by the Progressive Era's spirit of optimism and progress, women began to commission their own buildings. Whether grand, like the Berkeley, Boston and San Francisco Women's Clubs, or more modest, like those in San Jose, Saratoga, Beverley Hills, and Los Gatos, clubs across the nation contained a common and essential design core. An entry foyer greeted visitors, an assembly room with a stage accommodated meetings, performances, dining and civic gatherings, a dining area next to the kitchen where lunches and dinners were prepared and an office for the business of the Club. The goals and values of Women's Clubs are reflected in their shared mission statements, but they are also reflected in their clubhouse design, location, setting, feeling and association. The Woman's Club of Palo Alto is architecturally significant not merely as a masterfully crafted building by a noted architect, but also because it is an example of a pattern of Women's Club architecture that reflects their functions and values across the nation.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 4302 0235 000  
1978 survey

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 84' by 100' or 8,400 square feet

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: 122.155882 Longitude: 37.445925:

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

Lot 50 of Block 27 University Park Tract in Palo Alto, Santa Clara County (City of Palo Alto Assessors Map, Santa Clara County Assessor's Office, January 2014). Assessor's Parcel Number 120-16-050

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Woman's Club of Palo Alto and encompasses the entire lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Marilyn McDonald & Margaret R. Feuer

organization: Woman's Club of Palo Alto

street & number 1807 Fife Ave.

city or town: Palo Alto state: CA zip code: 94301

e-mail mcdonaldmarilyn@fhda.edu

telephone: 650 321 9985

date: June, 18, 2014

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## 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.)

Woman's Club of Palo Alto

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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: Woman's Club of Palo Alto

City or Vicinity: Palo Alto

County: Santa Clara

State: California

Photographer: Christy McDonald

Date Photographed: January 2014

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

### **Exterior**

1. Southeast Facade Main Entrance Homer Avenue
2. Northeast Facade Cowper Street
3. Northwest Rear Facade
4. Southwest Facade

### **Interior**

5. Ballroom Facing Southeast
6. Salt Glazed Tiled Original Fireplace
7. Advertising Fire Curtain (1926)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications 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.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Women's Club of Palo Alto
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

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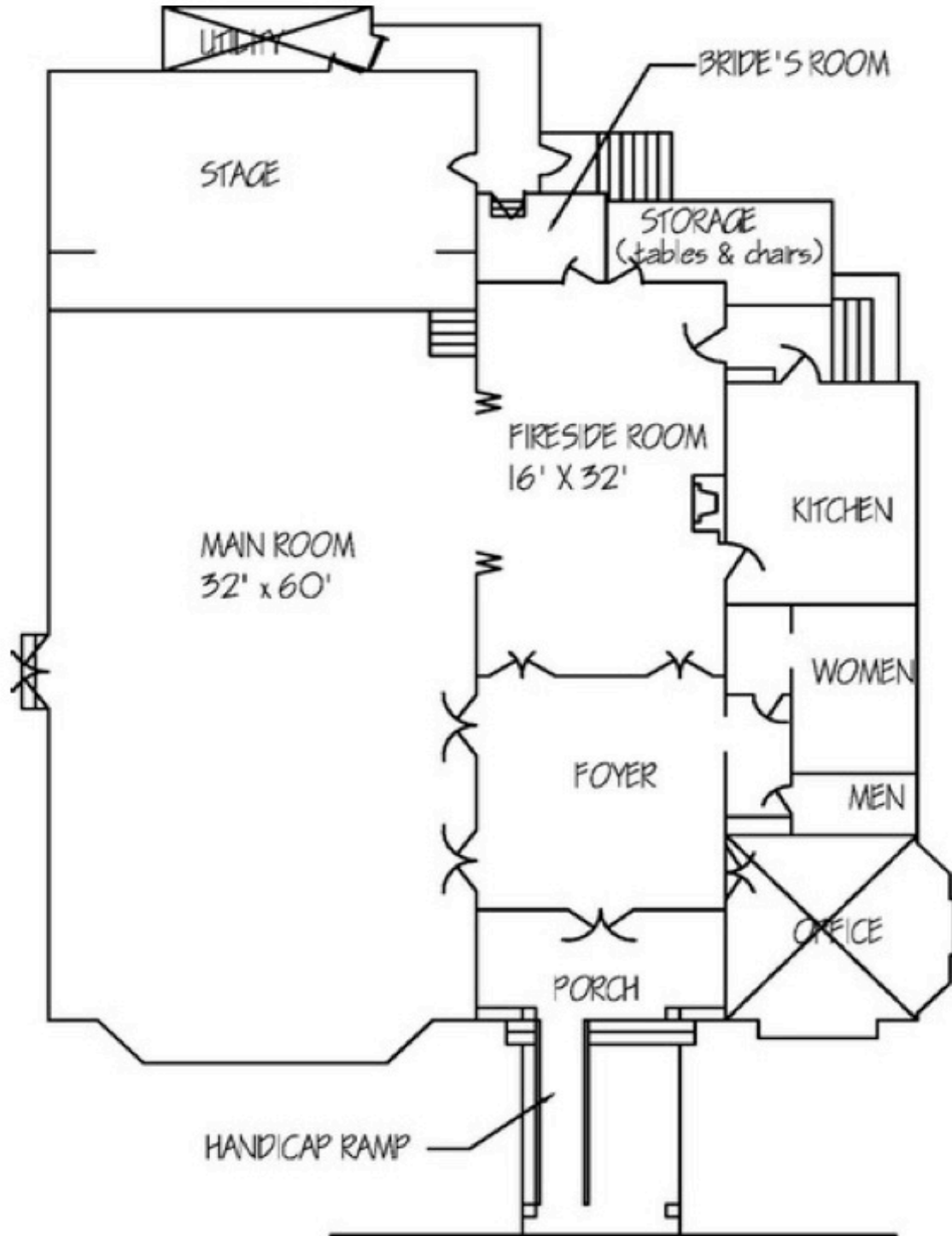


Figure 1. Existing Floor Plan January 2014

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
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Figure 2. Location of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto  
475 Homer Avenue at the corner of Homer and Cowper Street

Latitude: 122.155882

Longitude: 37.445925

(Google Earth, 2014)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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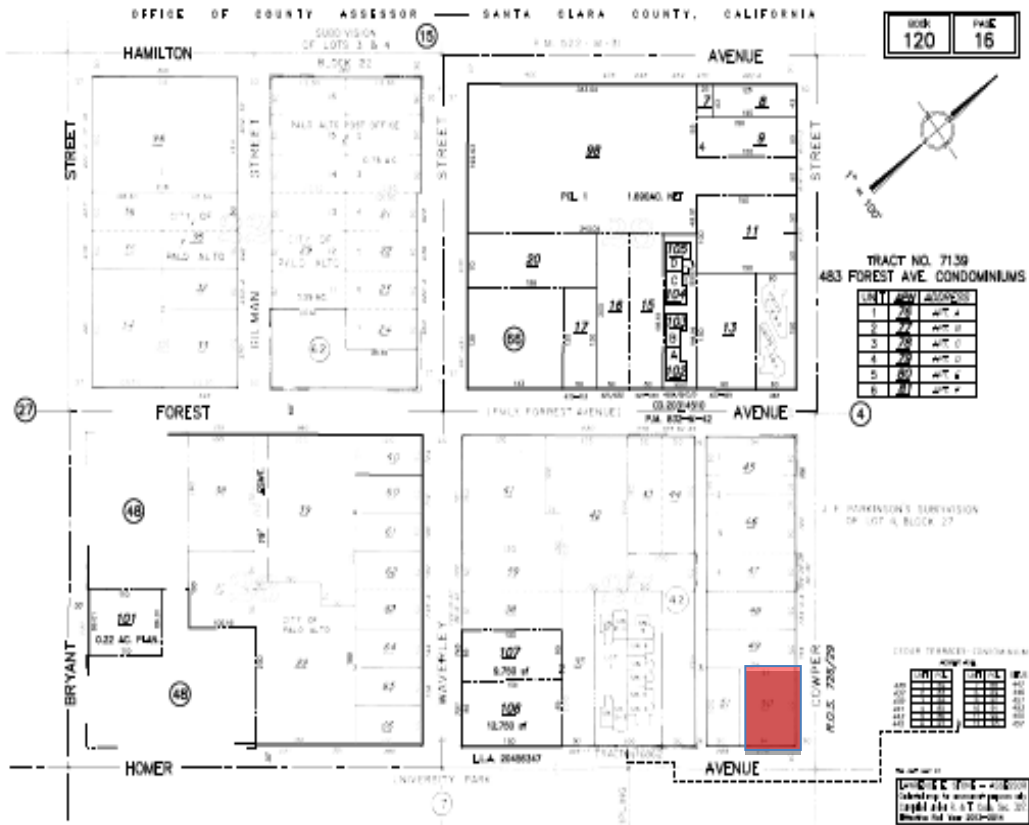


Figure 3. Assessor's Map City of Palo Alto, Santa Clara County, CA, January 2014

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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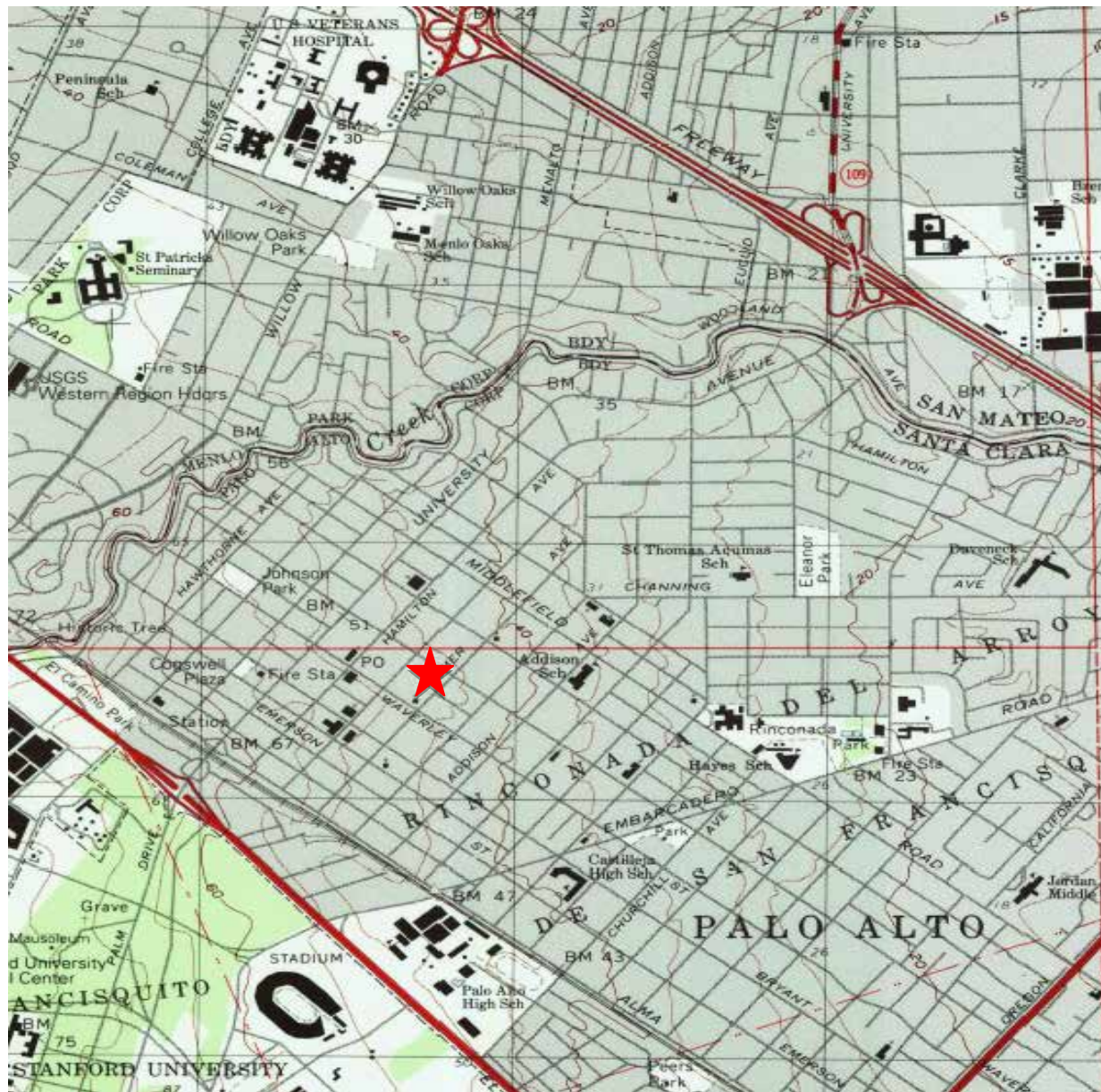


Figure 4. USGS map 475 Homer Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301,  
January 2014

Latitude: 122.155882

Longitude: 37.445925