

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name The Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse

other names/site number CWM-208

2. Location

street & number 704 Vine Street

NA
NA

not for publication

city or town Murray

vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Calloway code 035 zip code 42071

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark Dennen, SHPO Date _____

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
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

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

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Calloway County, Kentucky
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Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

SOCIAL: Civic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Clubhouse

SOCIAL: Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: STONE: Limestone

roof: ASPHALT: Shingle

other:

Narrative Description

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Summary Paragraph

The Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse (CWM-208) is a Tudor Revival style building with an exterior of Calloway County limestone. The building is located two blocks southwest of downtown Murray, seat of Calloway County, Kentucky. The area proposed for listing is a 2.7-acre site containing the historic building.

Detailed Description

Acquisition of Property and Character of Site

The property included in this nomination is the original acreage donated to the Murray Woman's Club on January 21, 1938, by Mrs. Adrian Barnett McRee of Central City, KY and her sisters, Mrs. Maud Barnett Schmidt and Mrs. Larena Barnett Fulton, all of whom lived in Murray in their youth (Deed Book 64 Page 135). The sisters inherited the property from their parents and wished to create a permanent memorial to them (Deed Book 59 Page 107; Deed Book 58 Page 446).

The property lies north of Vine Street, with the Clubhouse facing south. The Clubhouse sits roughly in the center of the site. The grounds around the structure contain large oak, maple and willow trees, interspersed with flowering crab, redbuds, holly and dogwoods. Massive osage orange trees dominate the front west corner of the property. Yews and low-growing evergreens complete the foundation landscaping. A large terrace wraps around the back (north) side of the building, creating an area used during agreeable weather for garden parties, weddings and other outdoor activities.

Exterior Description

The exterior of the Clubhouse is Calloway County limestone and the roof is asphalt shingles. The basic form of the building is a two-and-one-half-story five-bay side-gabled plan with a one-bay recessed wing on the east side. The building was constructed in 1939-1940. The five-bay front is dominated by a projecting central bay capped by a crowning gable roof. A single arched window flanks each side of the front door. The façade has 4 windows, consisting of either paired or single double-hung sashes, generally with 6-over-6 lights. Two gabled dormer windows, with double-hung 8-over-8 sashes, complete the front façade.

The back side is 2½ stories with a walk-out lower level. There are 6 upper-level windows, all with flat headers, and all but one arranged in paired 6-over-6 double-hung sashes; the lone window that doesn't follow this pattern is a single version, not paired. Below, the lower level repeats the pattern of 6 openings, but three of them contain French doors recessed within shallow semi-elliptical stone arches. The French doors open onto the terrace. The east side of the structure has a small gabled entrance leading into a side foyer. A large stone chimney stands guard beside the side entrance. The west side of the Clubhouse faces the side yard and is largely utilitarian in design, with the exception of the massive stone chimney.

Interior Description

The original floor plan included a meeting area of 40' X 60' on each floor, along with kitchen facilities on the east side and large fireplaces at the west side of the building.

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The lower level has a 40' X 60' dining room, large full kitchen, a large stone fireplace in the west end of the dining room, two rest rooms, and storage areas. There are three French doors along the side of the dining room that allow a view of the lower lawn.

On the main level is a 40' X 60' meeting hall with hardwood floors, 18' cathedral exposed beamed ceiling in the meeting hall, 25 large operable windows (south, west and north exposures), catering kitchen and a rest room. A dominant feature is the massive limestone fireplace. The fireplace has a semi-circular hearth with a heavy oak mantle. In the small entry on the East side of the building is the location of the stairways - down to the lower level and up to the Bridal dressing room.

The Bridal area contains a dressing room, a rest room and a closet/storage area.

Changes to the Property since the Period of Significance

The current exterior appearance looks much as it did when the Clubhouse was dedicated in 1940. There have been no significant changes to the structure or to the function of the building.

On the lower level, the flagstone on the terrace was replaced with poured concrete, and repairs were made to the stone railing. New windows were installed in the dining room on the lower level. In 1994, the kitchen, dining room and rest rooms were updated with new appliances, flooring, counter space and rest room fixtures.

On the main level, two projects have provided wheelchair accessibility. The primary entryway was modified in 2000 by removing the steps and replacing them with a smooth concrete ramp with iron handrails. The second project was in 2001; a rest room was added to the main level and made wheelchair accessible. There has been little change to the interior of the meeting hall with the exception of updating furnishings, drapery and updating the catering kitchen with new appliances and cabinetry.

The roof was replaced in 2007 with asphalt shingles.

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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.)

Property is:

- 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

Period of Significance

1939-1961

Significant Dates

1940

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Key, Wallis and Key, Humphrey (Architects)

Key, Clifton (Building Supervisor)

Period of Significance Justification:

The span of time selected starts with the construction of the building and ends at the 50-year point that distinguishes the recent past from the historic period. These choices follow National Register conventions. The Murray Woman's Club was significant in local social history during this entire time, and continues to serve as an important local institution today.

Criteria Considerations: NA

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse (CWM-208) meets National Register Criterion A. It has played an important role in the social life of Murray, seat of Calloway County, Kentucky. The building's significance is interpreted within the historic context "Women's Clubs in Kentucky, 1894-1961." The Murray Woman's Club has been an active participant in community affairs since the Club was founded in 1905. The Clubhouse has been the County's key resource associated with this context since its construction in 1939-1940. The building has an interesting origin, as it is an instance of a non-governmental property funded by New Deal programs. The ability of the Club to be granted NYA labor under the WPA Federal program for the construction of the building testifies to the importance of the role of the Clubhouse in the community.

Historic Context: Women's Clubs in Kentucky, 1894-1961

Through all cultures and times, women have had to organize their efforts to acquire equal treatment, such as property inheritance and voting rights, to name just two. Any discussion of women's life involves a tension between two spheres of activity: the domestic (family and housekeeping duties) and the social (social interactions, cultural uplift, welfare efforts, personal improvement, various political campaigns, etc.).

Some historians place the beginning of the Women's Movement in America at 1848, with a meeting in Seneca Falls, New York (<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenstimeline1.html>; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_rights). The Sorosis Club was begun in 1868 by Jane Cunningham Croly to enable women aspiring to professional activity to support each other, as at that time, women were excluded from professional organizations (<http://womenshistory.about.com/od/womansclubmovement/p/sorosis.htm>). The Sorosis Club invited representatives of all women's clubs to their convention in New York in 1889, to organize an umbrella organization. The new General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) was formed to lobby for causes on a national level and to create an efficient communication network.

Not long after the Sorosis Club 1889 convention, Kentucky women created a parallel organization on the state level. As reported in *Tradition of Service*, the Kentucky Federation of Women's Club (KFWC) centennial history, "One hundred years ago, in 1894, Kentucky women banded together to form an organization that offered them empowerment through learning and leadership opportunities, an organization that spearheaded movements to improve education and clean up communities, an organization that continually pressured government to improve its citizens' quality of life and expand individual rights". These clubs offered their members empowerment through literary pursuits as well as by promoting voluntarism and leadership opportunities. The Murray Woman's Club is not offered as an example of radical politics, but it does connect with efforts by women to increase their effectiveness through collective activity.

During the late-19th- and early-20th centuries, there was an explosion of new women's organizations in the country. The following is a partial list of Kentucky organizations:

- Murray Woman's Club was founded in 1905,
- Sororities were being chartered at Kentucky Universities,
- P.E.O. Murray chapter was chartered in 1964. P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) was founded in 1869 at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. P.E.O. Chapters were being chartered by women to provide funding for women's education through scholarships/loans and through their two-year women's college, Cottey College, Nevada, MO founded 1884,
- Murray Magazine Club organized in 1901 (in Western KY, Paducah and Mayfield also had Magazine Clubs organized during early 1900s). The members joined to enhance their intellectual standards through study of literature, history, society and the arts. As there were few private libraries and even fewer public libraries at that time, magazines were affordable and provided the major source of information,
- The Junior League was founded in 1901 in New York, NY to promote child health, nutrition and literacy among the immigrants living in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Junior Leagues were chartered in Louisville in 1921 and in Lexington in 1924. Murray did not have a chapter.

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- American Legion Auxiliary of Murray supported the troops and their families during years after the First World War. The group was founded in 1919;
- Eastern Star began as a women's group affiliated with the Masons. The Murray chapter was active as early as 1850;
- Local churches depended on women's groups in their congregations to provide leadership for social events and other vital services.

In the early years of KFWC, the most important projects were those pertaining to education and establishing libraries in Kentucky. KFWC began sponsoring the "Traveling Library" in eastern Kentucky in 1901 and named Miss Fannie Castleman Rawson as Director. In one season she traveled by mule back 96 miles delivering books up creek bottoms and over mountain ranges. By 1910 there were 100 Traveling Libraries and a collection of 5,000 books. KFWC had a far-reaching effect on reading as the federation and the Kentucky Library Association were instrumental in getting the General Assembly to establish the Kentucky Library Commission (The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' predecessor). The Commission extended service to the entire state and, by 1913, there were 182 traveling library stations from 81 counties. Within a decade, KFWC celebrated the opening of free libraries throughout the Commonwealth. The new organization also recognized the need for a full review of the education system and soon moved on to create model schools, supplementary education, and programs with links to the Commonwealth's universities. In 1905, members campaigned for women's rights, since they were unable to vote in school elections. During these years, the women's movement gained confidence as they began to make small changes. They first looked at improving their local schools and were ready to march on Frankfort for the passage of the 1907 School Bill while also demanding equality for University of Kentucky women.

In the 1930s and 1940s the new generation of KFWC leadership focused more on the legislative issues and city ordinances. Education and schools were still important issues, but the new leadership felt these issues were better addressed at the school board and government level. One of the major reforms was the push to provide every child with at least 8 years of primary education. Members stepped up their efforts to provide scholarships and grants to girls attending college in the Commonwealth. Because many families faced hard times during the Great Depression, KFWC recognized these needs and helped with a variety of local projects and ongoing support for education. In 1944, KFWC celebrated its fiftieth birthday and during that time grew from an organization of 16 clubs to 204 clubs with over 12,000 members.

The GFWC was also changing by the early 1940s. It expanded its vision to embrace a national political agenda. It hired lobbyists and became a powerful organization, often seen on Capitol Hill speaking for American women. The incoming GFWC President, Mrs. Blair Buck, echoed a very popular sentiment of "Democracy in Action" in her installation address on June 27, 1947. As Mrs. Buck stated the task of the organization was "...to strengthen the forces of religion and of democracy at home and abroad, and to dedicate the power of our great organization toward building a world society based on the concept of the importance of the individual in the sight of God." In the decades following the war, the literature distributed to state federations began to suggest club structures that included departments for foreign policy and divisions of anti-communism programs. Many clubs took this information to the schools, as they saw the work as "an extension of the clubwomen's goal to teach children lessons of good citizenship". Many members considered American government and consumerism worthy topics. Religion became an important public topic in women's clubs, as previously it was considered a private matter. This more public face of religion became entwined with feelings of patriotism and duty to one's country.

Perhaps, then, it is no surprise that the 1950s ushered in a new era of self-examination and self-education within the organization. Clubs encouraged their members to evaluate their own private and spiritual lives, and the same within their family. As the first wave of the Women's Movement began question the traditional place of women, many clubwomen saw the family as embattled. Members were encouraged to take on research, publishing of books, and public speaking.

The Kentucky Woman's Clubs continued to support their founding goals, though shifted in ways that followed other social changes. As Americans began to see a higher standard of living, which gave women more control over household discretionary funds, the clubs began to move away from direct volunteer activities and toward more project management and support through project funding. So, instead of volunteering time, clubwomen often volunteered money. The Kentucky federation also enjoyed the increased prestige of the GFWC. The Governor of Kentucky

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commonly called on the president of the KFWC for advice on education issues, social welfare projects and conservation. Many KFWC officers went on to serve on state boards and other appointed positions. KFWC proudly claimed to have "improved more Kentucky towns, provided better education for more Kentucky children and allowed more Kentucky women to grow politically, socially and professionally than any other organization."

The 1950s saw a peak in the prestige of the women's clubs. The GFWC became very powerful nationally. Civic officials, from school boards to governors to United States presidents consulted women's clubs or their federations on any issue they deemed a woman's issue. GFWC officers were called on to accompany government officials on overseas trips designed to build bridges between nations. The officers would be in charge of evaluating needed social services and coordinating charity drives back home.

History of the Murray Woman's Club

Eight young women of Murray, Kentucky, formed the "As You Like It" Club in 1905. They were Miss Maude Cook, Miss Kate Diuguid, Miss Betty Thornton, Miss Hattie Cook, Miss Gray Gatlin, Miss Mary Diuguid, Mrs. John McElrath and Mrs. O.J. Jennings. The goals of these young women were to foster continued study and deepening appreciation of cultural values.

The As You Like It Club became the nucleus of the Murray Woman's Club. Out of a sense of municipal responsibility, the As You Like It Club changed its name to "The Woman's Club of Murray." In April, 1907 the Club affiliated with the KFWC/GFWC and has continuously supported the programs of those organizations.

The Club began by meeting in members' homes. As membership grew, so did a need for larger meeting space. In the fall of 1937 at the Club's opening banquet, plans were begun for a permanent Clubhouse. The project got underway with the donation of the 2.7 acre property on Vine Street. Starting with \$500 on hand, fund raising began. Quickly 100 Club members had pledged \$10 each, and 40 Club members each gave \$50-\$100.

In the Fall of 1938, the City of Murray obtained a NYA (National Youth Administration) Resident Program consisting of fifty men and women. The Ohio Valley History Journal (Volume 4, Number 4, Winter 2004), "The Ties That Bind: James H. Richmond and Murray State Teachers College During World War II" described NYA as a program under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that provided part-time work, paying wages for "youth who were in school but who needed financial assistance" and "youth who were out of school, unemployed and needy". The women occupied the Murray State Teachers College campus dormitory, Wells Hall, while the men resided in alternative locations, such as boarding houses and the Carr Health Building, until administrators procured a male dormitory.

State officials of NYA met with members of the Club and developed an agreement, whereby the NYA would furnish unskilled labor to construct a new Clubhouse, and the Club would pay the superintendent, skilled labor, and furnish materials. To be able to take advantage of this opportunity, it was necessary for the Club to deed its property to the City of Murray (Deed Book 65 Page 530, May 16, 1939). As stated in the Deed Book, "The City of Murray by its duly elected and empowered City Council has agreed in consideration of the conveyance of this property to act as co-sponsor with The National Youth Administration, a Federal Agency in the construction of a building to be known as the Community House". (On May 19, 1948, the Murray Woman's Club was officially incorporated. Because of legal complications, it was March 2, 1953 before clear title to the property could be returned to the Club from the City of Murray (Deed Book 96 Page 307).

The need for such a structure was evidenced by the fact that the Club received such major donations from its members as well as the community. Along with the gift of the 2.7 acre property and the City of Murray's willingness to co-sponsor the project, the limestone was donated by Mrs. G.B. Scott (President Murray Woman's Club 1917-1921) from the quarry on her family farm. Today the quarry is underwater, as the property was purchased by TVA for the Kentucky Lake in Western Kentucky. The motto of the Club "Another Round – A Higher" was suggested in 1907 by Mrs. Reubie Wear. The motto was hand carved on the massive oak mantle in the main hall and was a gift from the artist, Mary Ed McCoy Hall, (Chair, Art Department, Murray State Teachers College).

The Clubhouse was dedicated on September 27, 1940. The guests at the ceremony included NYA's area supervisor, Jesse Harris of Mayfield, as well as the state administrator, Robert Salyers. The project supervisor, Clifton Key of Murray,

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was also present. It was said "... not only a beautiful structure of mortar and stone, but a heritage for women who loved their community and wanted to serve it through this lasting gift."

Money had been borrowed to complete the Clubhouse. By major fund raising efforts, the note was paid off in only three years. On September 27, 1943, the membership held a note burning celebration.

The Clubhouse was the scene of many homefront efforts during World War II. The Red Cross set up hospital rooms in the Clubhouse for training nurse aides. Five hundred women completed the course. Members worked with the Red Cross rolling bandages for hospitals and in making kits for soldiers overseas. The Clubhouse hosted dinners and dances for soldiers at Camp Tyson (U.S. Army's Barrage Balloon Training Center, opened in January, 1942) in Henry County, Tennessee, as well as for the cadets in the Naval Flight Preparatory School training on the campus of Murray State Teachers College, now known as Murray State University. In 1943, the Murray Woman's Club joined with KFWC/GFWC clubs in buying government bonds to help with the "purchase" of a bomber. The project was so successful; the Treasury Department was able to purchase two bombers. Painted on their side was the name "GFWC".

Constant fund raising efforts were necessary to maintain the Clubhouse and Murray Woman's Club projects. Each department held fund raisers as well as the General Club. There was such a variety of fund raisers over the years, with the following list offering some examples: Horse Show (1942-1977), Style Show (1944-1997), Card Parties, Flower Shows, Hobby Shows, Antique Shows, Holiday Festivals, Community Roasts, Visits with Santa, AKC Dog Shows, Yard Sales, Concerts, Book sales, Beauty Contests, Holiday Bazaars, Garden Tours, Plant Sales, Arts and Craft Sales, Home Tours, Silent/Live Auctions, Dances, USO events during the war years, Holiday Cards, and Bake Sales. For many years, The Young Business Men's Club and The Murray Rotary Club met and enjoyed meals prepared by members. The members would leave their workplace and come to the Clubhouse to prepare and serve lunch then race back to their offices to work. The Club no longer serves meals, but the Murray Lions Club and the Retired Teachers Association continue to rent space and meet in the Clubhouse.

From its earliest years, the Clubhouse has been a favorite location for weddings, receptions, and community events. The Clubhouse has been in constant use. Some examples of these special occasions include:

- The leadership of the University most often met the Murray Community for the first time in the Clubhouse. One of the receptions was recorded in the *History of the Murray Woman's Club*, "in November, 1945, the incoming President, Dr Ralph Woods and his family, were honored with a reception co-sponsored by the Club and the Faculty/Staff of the University";
- The local Girl Scout troops were special projects for the Club. The Mayor and the City Council of Murray granted permission for the Girl Scouts to build a cabin in the City Park and the Murray Woman's Club held a ceremony to present a check of \$3,334.20 to the Girl Scouts to help outfit the new cabin;
- The players and families of visiting teams were welcomed with a buffet dinner when the North-South Basketball games were held in Murray,
- The Murray Woman's Club joined in a community project to raise \$45,000 in 1947 to purchase the assets of the William Mason Memorial Hospital, a 65-bed hospital that served the Murray community from 1910-1947. The Club provided a chairman and a meeting place to work with a county-city committee of representatives of thirteen other women's organizations to sponsor a Hospital Day Open House on May 12, 1948, for the new Murray Hospital. The Club was especially pleased to be called on to support this project as Dr William Mason's wife, Dr. Ora Mason, was a member of the Club and served the longest term as President (1927-1935);
- The Murray Hospital Auxiliary was organized in 1955 under the sponsorship of the Murray Woman's Club. It was organized to raise funds and educate the community as the hospital and its facilities were deteriorating. Over \$13,000 in cash, equipment, supplies and services were received in less than one year;
- The Clubhouse was the only site in Murray suitable for High School proms and dances for many years. There were dances after each basketball/football game;
- By 1960, the Calloway County Public Library had been moved 10 times since its beginning in 1943. The Board of the Murray Woman's Club recognized this as a community problem and pledged to not only work with local officials to find a more suitable home for the library, but also to run the library with its members until

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funding could be secured for a librarian. After two attempts, a library tax was approved in December, 1967 and plans began immediately for a permanent home for the library.

- The Clubhouse and lawns were booked many months ahead for joyous events such as weddings and wedding receptions.

In the early years (1940-1944), the Clubhouse activities were managed by the Clubhouse Committee of the Executive Board. As the activities became more numerous, the Club felt it needed a full time hostess. Most of these ladies were also members of the Club. The early hostesses included Mrs. E. A. Tucker (1941-1942), Mrs. V.E. Windsor (1942-1943, 1947-1951), Mrs. G. C. Ashcraft (1943-1947) and Mrs. George Overbey (1952-1963). Today, the Clubhouse is managed by the Advisory Council, composed of Past Presidents.

As the membership grew, the Club developed a departmental organization. This was considered a very novel approach to handling a large club – Murray Woman's Club had over 400 members in 1960. Each department had a different emphasis and a separate fund raising focus. The departments met monthly in the Clubhouse and also helped with the club-wide projects. The Departments were added in the following order (the Club currently has 10 departments):

- Alpha Department (1913, literature/education),
- Music Department (1913, appreciation of music),
- Home Department (1913, home economics - originally named the "Home and Mothers" Department),
- Delta Department (1927, healthy lifestyle),
- Garden Department (1936, horticulture),
- Zeta (1942, community projects),
- Creative Arts Department (1954, personal development in art forms),
- Sigma Department (1954, education/City Park renovation),
- Kappa (1964, community projects),
- Theta (1965, Clubhouse projects).

The membership in women's clubs throughout the country peaked in 1950s, and held fairly steady in the 1960s (*Tradition of Service*, KFWC History). In the 1960s, the Club supported the GFWC theme "Democracy In Action," as well as the KFWC campaigns in safety, health, community beautification, and cleanup. The Clubhouse continued to be the nucleus for community activity in Calloway County.

Evaluation of the Historic Significance of the Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse within the context of Women's Clubs in Kentucky, 1894-1961

Since affiliating in 1907, the Murray Woman's Club has supported the goals of the KFWC/GFWC organizations: Conservation, Education, Fine Arts, Home Life, International Relations and Public Welfare. The beautiful Clubhouse has been the scene for hundreds of projects and thousands of volunteer hours. The lives of women in our community have been enriched by the leadership and learning opportunities provided through the implementation of these projects.

The Murray Woman's Club has, for many years, had the distinction of being the largest Woman's Club membership in the Commonwealth (in the 1960s the Club had over 400 members). The Club could not have supported the large membership and the many projects without the Clubhouse. It has shared the Clubhouse with other organizations making possible community improvements for women beyond the resources of the Murray Woman's Club. Our community would not be what it is today without the vision of our early members and their willingness to take on the monumental project of building and maintaining the Clubhouse.

Evaluation of the Integrity of the Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse

The significance of the Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse is interpreted through the terms of Criterion A, which sees its significance in terms of local social activity and within the larger organization of the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs. The factors selected which help transmit that significance most directly are integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and association.

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The Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse possesses integrity of **location** because it hasn't moved. Its location came about not by design but by the good fortune of a donation. Previous to acquiring the property and constructing the clubhouse, the group met in members' houses. The change, from a mobile group to a group with a fixed location and a purpose-built building, marks an important transition in the history of the group. The need for a permanent home and a large meeting space was brought about by increasing membership. The flourishing of the group is indicated, in the very least, by this location.

The Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse possesses integrity of **setting** because it retains the historic setting that it has had since taking up this location in 1939. The setting is residential and pastoral, rather than urban and constricted. The site and setting together help balance the two tensions present for any woman engaged in extra-home activity: the site and setting have a domestic feel which would be absent were the site and setting within a more overtly downtown space.

The Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse possesses integrity of **design** as it has had very little change since its construction. The major alteration campaign occurred in 1994, and did not erase the key spaces, uses, or finishes within the property, where the important activity took place. The Woman's Club from its inception was a home-based organization, one whose members met in one or another's homes. This provided a comfort for many women, as any activities outside her home had to be coordinated with extensive home-bound duties. Meeting in members' homes provided some safety against questions about whether Club activities were having an adverse impact on a woman's performance as a wife and mother. With a site, setting, and design of the Clubhouse drawing from residential vocabulary, it was easier for the group to move from hobby to social institution while projecting the required image of domesticity.

The Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse possesses integrity of **association** because it retains integrity of location, setting, and design. Because it has integrity of association, and the terms of Criterion A rest upon important associations, the property has both significance and integrity, and thus is eligible.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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"Traveling Libraries, Kentucky" *Public Libraries Monthly Review of Library Matters and Methods*, Volume 16, January 1911, pages.

United States, National Youth Administration, Notification of Project Beginning Date, Louisville, KY, Jesse C. Harris, July 22, 1940.

Whitmer, Jennifer, "The Ties That Bind: James H. Richmond and Murray State Teachers College during World War II" *Ohio Valley History Journal*, Volume 4, Number 4, Winter 2004.

Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Unpublished Source:

Brent, Joseph E. "New Deal Era Construction in Western Kentucky, 1933-1943", Unpublished manuscript on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council. Frankfort, Kentucky, 1991.

Internet Sources:

- <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenstimeline1.html> (infoplease: Women's Rights Movement in the U.S.)
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_rights (Wikipedia: Women's rights)
- <http://womenshistory.about.com/od/womansclubmovement/p/sorosis.htm> (About.com: Sorosis, by Lewis, Jane Johnson)
- <http://www.gfwc.org/gfwc/> (General Federation of Women's Clubs)
- <http://www.murraywomansclub.org> (Murray Woman's Club)

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): _____ CW-M-208 _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2.7 acres

UTM References

Murray Quad

UTM Coordinates calculated by GIS (KYGeonet)

UTM Coordinates expressed according to NAD 27 (NAD 83 values: 16/383184/4051990)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>383 185</u>	<u>4051 782</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse property starts on West Vine Street at the Lindsey Roberts SW corner, then west with Vine Street three hundred seventy-five feet; then north with the American Legion property line three hundred twenty-five feet; then east three hundred seventy-five feet to C. Ray property line; then south three hundred twenty-five feet to the point of beginning.

Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse

Calloway County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

The property included in the nomination is the original lawn of the Murray Woman's Club. The east and north boundaries have a row of various shrubs that divide the yard from adjoining property; the south boundary fronts the street, while the east boundary is marked by an open, paved parking area.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property was a gift from Mrs. Adrian Barnett McRee, Mrs. Maud Barnett Schmidt and Mrs. Larena Barnett Fulton to provide a permanent memorial to their parents, Mary E. Barnett and N. B. Barnett. On January 21, 1938, 2.7 acre property for a Clubhouse for community and civic purposes was deeded to the Murray Woman's Club (Deed Book 64 Page 135). This acreage is the historical extent of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda G. Scott, Past President and Historian

organization Murray Woman's Club

date March 9, 2011

street & number 1315 Olive Blvd

telephone 270-753-7944

city or town Murray

state KY

zip code 42071

e-mail lscott187@gmail.com

Photographs:

Name of Property:	The Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse
City of Vicinity:	Murray
County:	Calloway County
State:	KY
Name of Photographer:	Linda Scott
Date of Photographs:	June 2011
Location of Original Digital Files:	1315 Olive Blvd, Murray, KY 42071
Number of photographs:	8

Photo #0001 (KY_Calloway County_Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse_0001)
South façade, camera facing north

Photo #0002 (KY_Calloway County_Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse_0002)
West façade (left) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast

Photo #0003 (KY_Calloway County_Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse_0003)
West Lawn, camera facing north

Photo #0004 (KY_Calloway County_Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse_0004)
North façade, camera facing south

Photo #0005 (KY_Calloway County_Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse_0005)
East façade (left) and north elevation (right), camera facing southwest

Photo #0006 (KY_Calloway County_Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse_0006)
Interior, upper level, main hall, camera facing southwest

Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse
Name of Property

Calloway County, Kentucky
County and State

Photo #0007 (KY_Calloway County_Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse_0007)
Interior, lower level, dining room, camera facing northwest

Photo #0008 (KY_Calloway County_Murray Woman's Club Clubhouse_0008)
Interior, lower level, kitchen, camera facing southeast

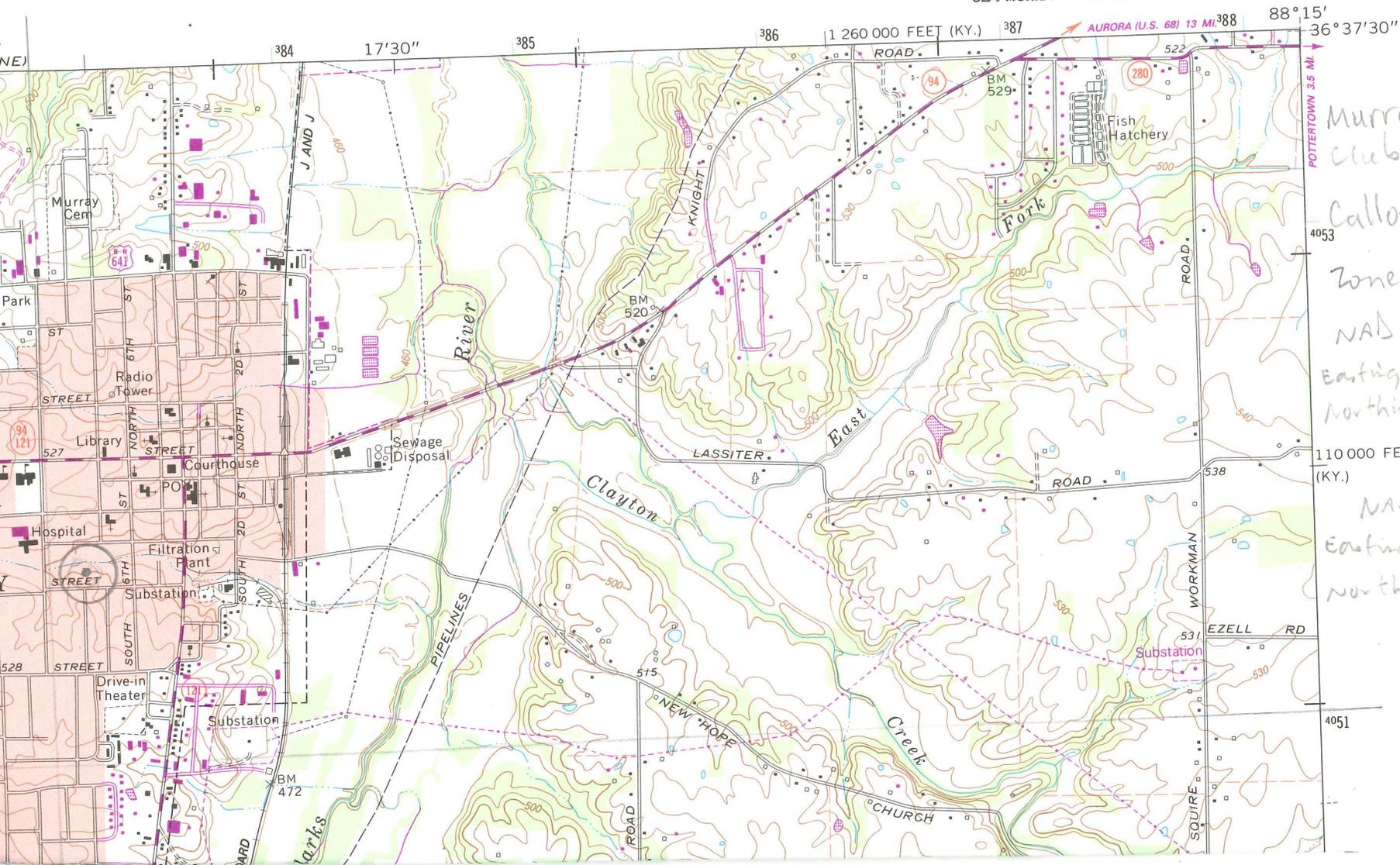
Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The Murray Woman's Club
street & number 704 Vine Street telephone 270-753-5023
city or town Murray state Kentucky zip code 42071

MURRAY QUADRANGLE
 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) 7-SE
 SE/4 MURRAY 15' QUADRANGLE

3357 II NW
 (HICO 18-NW)



Murray Women's
 Club Clubhouse
 Calloway Co., KY

Zone 16
 NAD 27
 Easting 383 185
 Northing 4051 782

110 000 FEET
 (KY.)
 NAD 83
 Easting 383 184
 Northing 4051 990



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2009/10/09 22:42



