

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

“Woman’s Club Buildings in Georgia” is not an NPS-approved Multiple Property Documentation Form. It is a draft prepared in consultation with HPD personnel. It is to be used in addition to other research for National Register of Historic Places nominations. The document cannot serve as the only evidence in support of significance for a woman’s club. The research and documentation contained is valuable, however, it should be noted when using and citing this document that it is a draft - it was not finalized.

When referring to the document in text please refer to it as:

Draft - “Woman’s Club Buildings in Georgia”

Citation Guidance:

In-text citation style recommended by HPD. Refer to *How to Cite Sources for National Register Nominations in Georgia* available at: [Research and Documentation Tools | Georgia Department of Community Affairs](#)

In text body

(Roth & Speno, 2003, p.#)

Bibliography

Roth, Darlene, Lynn Speno. 2003. “Woman’s Club Buildings in Georgia.” Draft - Multiple Property Documentation Form. On file at Historic Preservation Division, Department of Community Affairs. Atlanta, Georgia. Available at: <https://dca.georgia.gov/community-assistance/historic-preservation/research-and-documentation-tools/historic-contexts>

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM**

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

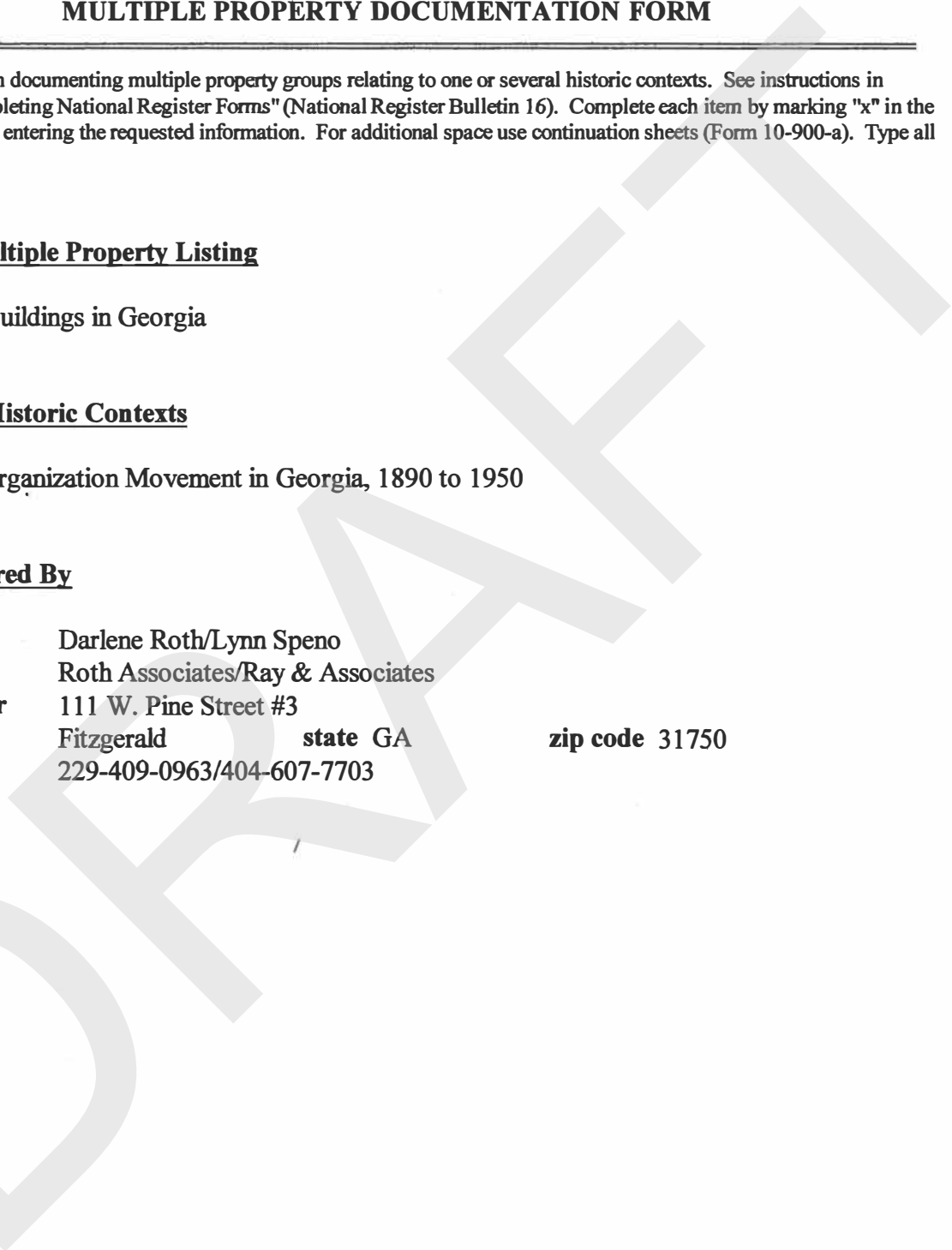
Woman's Club Buildings in Georgia

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Woman's Club Organization Movement in Georgia, 1890 to 1950

C. Form Prepared By

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D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

of certifying official Date Signature

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register Date

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Section E - Statement of Historic Contexts

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

Following the Civil War, the beginning of what would become a national women's movement arose in a period that witnessed the emergence of the first generation of college-educated women in the United States. In the country's major urban centers, women's groups such as literary societies, alumnae associations, and charities began to take a more proactive stance on political and social issues. In smaller towns, women formed improvement societies to push for local humanitarian, beautification as well as civic improvement projects. The impetus behind most of these activities was the belief that the Woman had a special role to play "cleaning" up her neighborhood, town, or locality. Female historian Mary Beard dubbed this phenomenon "municipal housekeeping," and the term has stuck. Among the many specialized organizations emerged the "general woman's club" to enable one organization to serve many purposes, and to acknowledge not only that special role of Woman, but the "New Woman" of the 19th century who had acknowledged civic responsibilities without yet full citizenship. More modern than her predecessors, pious but not withdrawn, domesticated but not tied to the homeplace, she was prepared to serve a multitude of humanitarian, civic and educational purposes. If it was a "man's world" then the New Woman had a special place in it, and the woman's club became that place.

Founded in 1890, the General Federation of Woman's Clubs (GFWC) claims to be the largest and oldest organization of volunteer women in the world. According to their literature there were approximately 8,500 clubs in the United States with over 350,000 members. Today, they have 270,000 members in 7,000 clubs in the United States and millions more members worldwide. The GFWC views itself as a professional organization for volunteer women. The GFWC and its state affiliates provide a network of support and prestige to active local Woman's Club chapters.

I. Women's Club/Organization Movement in the United States

The earliest clubs, those founded in 1868 in New York City (Sorosis) and Boston (New England Woman's Club) for literary, social and cultural exchange, helped to strengthen ideals, and provided a point of entry for women into public life. With more free time from domestic drudgery, fueled by the labor-saving inventions of the Industrial Revolution, women found themselves increasingly driven to become better educated and more involved in society. What began as a tool for self-improvement evolved into platforms for civic improvement and social reform for women. The push for civic service would be the tie that united these clubs across the country and helped evolve these varying clubs into a national organization.

In 1890, a federation was formed which consisted of two hundred white women's clubs and 20,000 members. The General Federation of Woman's Clubs made its headquarters in Washington, D.C., but the

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first club convention was held in New York in April of 1890. In 1893 when the General Federation received its charter there were 40,000 members in three hundred clubs nationwide. At this time Georgia did not have any general woman's clubs, but that did not last long. As the movement grew, so did the organizations locally, and by 1900 there were woman's clubs for both black and white women in Georgia. In ten years from founding, the national numbers had grown to 150,000. Two decades later the Federation boasted membership of over a million women.

By the 1920s, the club movement had evolved into a hybrid form that combined social and cultural interests with a new emphasis on civic engagement that would characterize clubs in the 20th century. One good example of this form is the Friday Morning Club in Los Angeles founded in 1878. In the 1920s the club was the largest women's club in the country. An illustration of its clout can be seen in the large number of women that it helped install in the city government. The club also was instrumental in bringing social reform, churches, theater, parks and clubs to the city.

GFWC programs often included seminars to train state leaders and provide local assistance for project implementation. Organizations involved with GFWC programs have included Exxon, Allstate, Chevron, Procter & Gamble and Shell Oil. Some of the networking organizations have included the American Library Association, CARE, March of Dimes, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Accomplishments included: established the national model for juvenile courts in 1899; turned the tide for the passage of the Pure Food and Drugs Act in 1906; supported legislation for the eight-hour workday in 1911; supported the first child labor law in 1938; endorsed a resolution for equal rights and responsibilities for women in 1944; supported equal pay for equal work in 1958; started an alcohol and drug abuse education program for women and youth in 1974; instituted a youth suicide prevention program in 1988. Early involvement in the push for public libraries meant that over 75 percent of the public libraries in the United States in existence in 1933 were initiated by women's clubs. Virtually all of Georgia's older libraries were so founded.

Although the Federation's motto was "Unity in Diversity," the clubs were not racially integrated. However, a parallel organization developed for African American women, the National Association of Colored Woman's Clubs, with clubs in all the major cities and many smaller ones, especially in the South, where most of the African Americans lived. Within their own races, the clubs were believed to be a great social and economic leveler, providing all women an opportunity to participate, but among both races, the woman's clubs always retained some upper- and middle-class associations. These were organizations for leisured women, not working women.

National Association of Colored Women's Clubs

Black women's efforts at organized community took a somewhat different turn from those of white women. An early organization in Philadelphia of washerwomen and domestics in 1821, and an 1832 organization, the Female Anti-Slavery Society in Salem, Massachusetts, are early examples of social

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reform efforts on the part of working black women for themselves and their enslaved sisters in the South. Other efforts included a community in Boston that helped to secure necessary items such as shoes and clothing for runaway slaves. In the late 19th century, an Ida B. Wells' inspired campaign against lynching formed the catalyst for a nationwide movement to form women's civic clubs. Some of these clubs included the Women's Loyal Union in Brooklyn and Manhattan, and the Woman's Era Club of Boston.

The National Federation of Afro-American women was formed in 1895 with thirty six clubs in twelve states. In 1896, the National Federation merged with the National League of Colored Women, creating the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs with headquarters in Washington, D.C. Two decades later membership consisted of 50,000 women in 1,000 clubs nationwide. Clubs were encouraged to support reformatories, homes for the elderly, kindergartens and day nurseries. The lack of economic and social resources available to the black women meant fewer club houses. Many of these clubs had to share a clubhouse with a men's group, meet in a church, or, more usually, in a club member's home.

Clubhouse Construction

Between 1900 and the extremities of the Depression, the records of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs are replete with mentions of local clubs trying to establish homes for themselves. This was to be more than a headquarters office, but also a "house," with eating facilities and a gathering place for the women. The white women's organizations, because they often had access to greater resources and because they were somewhat less focused on outreach and racial uplift than their black sisters, managed to raise more buildings in their own name than the black women's organizations. The women's club movement spread throughout the nation until by 1933 over 1,200 clubhouses existed. There were dozens of clubhouses throughout Georgia, but probably not as many as a hundred. The coming of the Second World War took much of the steam out of the woman's club movement, by shifting the national focus away from the home front. The rise of the generation committed to equal rights for women (black and white) in the 1960s all but killed the movement and changed the nature of female associations. Women's clubs have languished in the last decades of the 20th century, and the clubhouses, as a result, have been largely abandoned.

II. Woman's Club Movement in Georgia, 1890 to 1950

Early Formation of Women's Clubs in Georgia

Beginning in the decade of the 1890s, the women of Georgia began to catch up with national women's organizations. They had kept apace with church and temperance movements, but the national club movement, which depended on dense urban populations for its collective successes, had not succeeded in gaining much ground in the South. Not until after the Civil War was there sufficient density in urban

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regions, even in a city the size of Atlanta, to support the women's organizations. It took that long to gain enough autonomy on the part of the local female populations to fill the rolls of the organizations.

The emerging women's clubs depended on two other forces – the acceptance of “The New Woman” as a tolerable model for feminine behavior and adult development; and the sudden presence of political debate as to a woman's proper role, induced by the formation of the first woman suffrage support group in Georgia. The suffrage organizations of the 1890s, the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association and the Equal Suffrage League, as vocal as they were, constituted a small minority among white women. However, their vociferous arguments for the vote stirred not only the newspapers, but the hearts and minds of the remaining female populations. White club women rose to the challenge of their "new role" by asserting themselves further into their communities as “ladies” and as workers for the philanthropic good. The vote, as far as these women were concerned – at least until the eleventh hour for the suffrage amendment – was unnecessary for a woman to demonstrate that she was a committed social partner to her home, church, community, and even state. Black women, left out of the suffrage debates in what was nationally a racist campaign for the female vote, nonetheless adopted the same stance toward their communities. They, too, served home, church, community, and state in philanthropic and social service activities, and added building the race to their tenets for being.

The Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs was founded in 1896. The organizational initiative came out of the General Federation's Biennial Council meeting in 1895, held in the Woman's Building of the Cotton States & International Exposition in Atlanta. Prior to that time, there were a few local clubs in Georgia, most notably Elberton Sorosis, organized in 1892, the oldest, and the Atlanta Woman's Club, 1894, the largest.

The meeting of the Council of the General Federation attracted the attention of several influential women. One of these, Mrs. W.D. Lowe, held a meeting at her home that laid the foundation for the Woman's Club of Atlanta, as well as the state federation. The Atlanta Woman's Club sent out a notice for a convention to meet in Atlanta in October of 1896 to organize the state's clubs. A dozen delegates from the state's clubs, as well as delegates from the national organization lent an aura of success to the convention. The Georgia Federation adopted their official motto as “Wisdom, Justice and Moderation,” their official emblem as the Cherokee Rose, and official colors as green and white. Their motto and emblem were and are the Georgia state motto and flower.

By the end of the year seventeen clubs had joined the Georgia State Federation. The charter clubs of the Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs were as follows:

Atlanta–Atlanta Woman's Club
Atlanta–Georgia Woman's Press Club
Atlanta–Nineteenth Century History Class
Atlanta–Reviewers Club
Augusta–Philomathic Club

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Barnesville–Shakespearean Club
Cartersville–Cherokee Club
Columbus–Students’ Club
Covington–Woman’s Club
Dalton–Lesche Club
Elberton–Georgia Sorosis
Macon–History Class
Macon–Current Topics Club
Milledgeville–Outlook Club
Rome–Alumnae Association of Shorter College
Rome–Woman’s Club
Social Circle–Woman’s Club

Two of the Georgia Federation’s greatest achievements happened during its early years. The State Library Commission was created in 1897 to support the building of local libraries across the state, and the Tallulah Falls School was founded in Habersham County. The board of the school was organized in 1906 and the school opened in 1909 to educate Georgia children in the “rational system of education.” The school is accredited by the State of Georgia and is still in operation today. Two other matters concerned these clubs, which did not often concern their northern counterparts: one was to raise the age of consent for Georgia’s girls, which at the time of the club’s founding set at age 10 (meaning girls as young as 11 could marry or be married off by their parents; it also meant there was no legal rape for girls under the age of 10); and, later on, to join the call for an end to lynching in the campaign of southern women against lynching that was active in the 1920s and 1930s.

In 1898 the Federation sought admission of women to the University of Georgia and the School of Technology (now Georgia Institute of Technology). Beginning in 1903 the Federation pushed for the establishment of a Juvenile Court which was granted in 1904. A compulsory education bill was introduced to the legislature in 1906. Interest in forestry and the state’s waterways was cultivated. City Beautiful campaigns were initiated in 1907 to help cities maintain their green spaces and clean streets. Training schools for girls and boys in lieu of prison were advocated and adopted in 1913 and 1919 respectively.

In the 1910s, suffrage and equal rights ranked as high priorities for the Federation. Child labor laws and the Pure Food and Drug Act were passed at this time due in large part to lobbying by the Federation. During the years of the first World War, the club women turned toward patriotic work such as the Red Cross, Liberty Bonds, and food conservation. Canning clubs, school gardens, curb markets, and agricultural rallies were initiated.

In true feminine style, the service came first and the women themselves second. The women of Georgia organized to accomplish ends not otherwise met in a society that was under-endowed for public welfare. Orphanages, welfare houses for unmarried mothers, asylums, sanitariums, libraries, poor houses,

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schools, hospitals, community centers, nursing homes, clubs for children, veterans' care facilities – all received the attention of the women. A few of the facilities were actually owned and operated by the women, but those were in the minority. It was more the rule that the women instigated the organization's establishment, supported it into being, and maintained a relationship with it through its organizational life, but did not operate the facility nor own it outright. In those instances where women's organizations did own the facility, the women's clubs did so with particularly acute missions in mind. For example, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) homes were intended to provide safe (morally safe) housing for young women coming from the countryside into the city to work. Both black and white YWCAs in metropolitan Atlanta maintained boarding houses for young women, although they were not the only community YWCAs to do so.

In another example, the Tallulah Falls School was owned and operated by the Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs, the school was intended to provide education to mountain children, who were numbered among the hundreds of illiterates in Georgia at the beginning of the 20th century. There was an implied racism in the desire to serve the Anglo-European descendants in the hills of north Georgia, which was even more evident in the DAR School in Temasee, South Carolina, which provided the model. In those early days, the young white children who were educated there, and in similar schools, were probably neither more nor less grateful for the training with all its parochialism. The Carrie Steele Pitts Home in Atlanta, the only surviving black orphanage in that city, though no longer in its original historic building, serves as a reminder of the kind of organizations both black and white women at the turn of the 20th century established. The women created institutions, sometimes on their own, but more often in partnership with their communities.

It was only after, it seemed, their work was done elsewhere did the women think to establish buildings for themselves, to house their activities, meetings, and aspirations for presence in the world at large. In 1916 there were 336 white women's clubs in Georgia with 25,000 members. To join the Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs, a club had to have two sponsoring, federated clubs, pay district and state dues and become initiated at a state meeting. All of the clubs promoted civic, social and/or moral dimensions of local community life. By 1919, 213 of these clubs had joined the Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs. Twenty years later that number had dropped to 166 members of the Federation. (Attachments A and B)

Post War through the Great Depression

A continued focus on improvements in rural life made this the era of an "Agricultural Renaissance" in the Georgia Federation. In a move to boost profits for Georgia farmers, the Federation began a movement to increase the consumption of Georgia farm products within the state. Home extension service for rural communities was approved by the State Legislature due to the women's efforts.

The first state headquarters for the Federation was established in 1924 at the Chamber of Commerce building in Atlanta. In 1927 the group endorsed a bill for a teacher retirement system for the public schools in the state.

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In 1930 the state headquarters moved to the Henry Grady Hotel. In response to several years of lobbying by the Federation, the state established the Department of Forestry and Geology, the Georgia School for the Deaf, and the Academy for the Blind in 1931. In that same year women were admitted to the University of Georgia after years of political pressure.

During the 1930s, Georgia woman's clubs, along with those in the rest of the country, received assistance from federal recovery programs. A number of combined club house/community centers were built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) with assistance from local funding. Local, state or federal agencies, including woman's clubs, sponsored WPA projects and contributed ten to thirty percent of the cost of each project. In an early example of a public/private partnership to improve the community, the Georgia clubs sought available funds, worked through the federal bureaucracy and saw their new buildings through to completion.

World War II

All efforts of the club women of Georgia in the early 1940s were dedicated to helping the country in its war efforts. The Red Cross, selling of war bonds, and rationing all engaged the attention of the members.

With the end of the war, the scope of the clubs' work became broader. Focus was put on the youth committee, postwar activities through a peace service, a "Better Home Towns" program was sponsored, and the work of the Georgia Citizens Council was promoted.

By 1945 state aid for public libraries within the state had reached \$150,000 due to years of endorsement by the Federation. From the original funding of \$6,000 in 1920 was "a long way for Georgia to go in providing funds for development of free public library service, a form of education for adults in rural sections. Federated club women played an active part in every increased appropriation made by the State to provide this library service to the people of Georgia." Other efforts were focused on a school lunch program which was endorsed by the state in 1944, and prison reform which was also undertaken by the state at this time.

Clubhouse Construction

If the 1890s saw the flowering of the woman's club movement in Georgia (and throughout the southern states), then the first decades of the 1900s were witness to the next important development in women's club activities – the establishment of headquarters outside the individual women's houses for the clubs. The idea of the club "home" – more than a clubhouse – had a great deal of appeal for the women. It gave them a safe place to meet, which was not associated with any particular group or religious denomination; it gave them a work space for planning; it gave them a place to keep supplies for their work and their entertaining; and it gave them an opportunity to make a statement about their presence in the community. The location of the clubhouse was a testimony to the community the club was serving;

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the nature of the building was a testament to its relative status within the community; and the architecture of the clubhouse often made a statement as to the club's values and achievements.

These buildings were not intended to provide services, or to serve other populations – girls, women, veterans, or sick and infirm folks. These buildings were intended to serve the women themselves, and although the facilities were often rented or loaned out to other organizations, they were the women's property. The earliest club houses emerged in the 1920s.

In the 1930s, many of these clubhouses were built as combined club house/community centers by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) with assistance from local funding during the 1930s. The WPA began February 15, 1934 as the Civil Works Emergency Relief Act; it became the WPA in 1935. After July 1, 1939 it became the Works Projects Administration and was transferred to the Federal Works Agency. These agencies gave work to about eight million people, including architects, construction workers, artists and writers. The WPA spent over eleven million dollars and completed 250,000 projects during the Depression. Seventy-five percent of their work was construction projects, with over 40,000 buildings constructed. Local, state or federal agencies sponsored the projects and contributed ten to thirty percent of the cost of each project. Although criticized by some, the WPA provided work and income which helped stimulate the economy. It also gave people hope and a sense of pride.

Conclusion

When the Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs was chartered in 1896 there were participating clubs in only twelve Georgia cities. All of the federated clubs were involved in civic work of some kind, usually public health, sanitation, parks, libraries, suffrage, or promoting education. Today the focus of the clubs has broadened to include such issues as natural resource conservation, solid waste disposal, continuing education, literacy, drug abuse, foreign policy, world health, and family violence.

The importance of these buildings to the material history of women in the state of Georgia cannot be overstated. These are the most intriguing, most substantive, most prevalent evidence of women's collective civic activities in the state. They emerged from a collective consciousness of women's roles, women's place, and a special identity with feminine energies and activities. They also emerged in an age when sex segregation, like race segregation, was far more prevalent than it is today. In some instances, where the records of the organizations have not been retained, these club buildings are the only evidence of the organizations' existence. And they are fast disappearing, which makes their identification, documentation, and preservation even more important.

The movement to establish club houses was not felt just among the member organizations of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, but throughout women's clubs in general. Patriotic organizations (especially the DAR), sororities, business women's groups, and others also built club houses for themselves. While this nomination covers only clubhouses associated with the Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs, the scope of this nomination could be expanded to include the following related women's clubs:

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Philanthropic/Social Clubs
Child Service Organization
Fraternal Organizations
Patriotic Organizations
Social and Community Service Clubs
Educational Outreach

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Section F - Associated Property Types

F. Associated Property Types

Property Type Description

Property Types - Clubhouses

Clubhouses associated with Georgia's Woman's Clubs represent a small but significant collection of historic architectural resources. Most of the buildings continue to serve the function for which they were built, and retain their architectural integrity. Clubhouses developed by women's clubs were, with a few exceptions, designed and constructed by professional architects and builders who drew upon traditional building techniques and contemporary stylistic detailing for their inspiration. The primary consideration was given to providing functional and comfortable spaces for club members. Some clubs took over residential structures and adapted them to their use; others had rooms in a community center; still others adopted other structures (small offices, libraries, or other buildings) to their use as a club house. In most instances, the buildings are indistinguishable from their neighbors, to such an extent, that if there were no sign to identify the structure's use, no automatic association with a woman's club could be detected. Very few of them have distinctive architectural features or ornament.

The Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs did not adopt a standard plan for clubhouses, but instead encouraged the local affiliates to develop buildings based upon individual need, available funding and appropriate scale within a particular setting. Consequently a variety of styles were applied to the clubhouses. They embody a variety of architectural influences including Bungalow/Craftsman, Chateausque, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, English Revival, Folk Victorian, Greek Revival or Vernacular.

The clubhouses display a variety of massing, scale and design features and typically contain between 1,000 and 5,000 square feet of interior space. Most are one or two stories in height. Some occupy prominent sites in historic commercial or residential areas; others appear in transitional areas linking a downtown sector with an older residential neighborhood. Forms vary, with side-facing and front-facing gable or hip roofs. Building plans are usually irregular in form, with a variety of projecting bays or porches extending from a primary rectangular unit. Exterior walls consist of brick, stone, stucco or wood. Foundations are brick, concrete or stone.

Clubhouses are a specialized building type designed and constructed to serve a social function. The layout usually consists of a large centrally-located meeting room, smaller kitchen, storage rooms, and restrooms off of the main room. Most of the clubhouses were developed to serve as meeting halls. The style and size of a building is indicative of the membership of the club and the level of wealth within a community at the time the building was constructed. Most of the clubhouses embody the prevalent architectural style in use at the time the building was constructed. Some of the buildings were acquired and adapted for use as clubhouses, such as the Atlanta Woman's Club and the Demorest Woman's Club.

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The multiple property listing of historic and architectural resources of the Woman's Club movement in the State of Georgia is based upon two factors: (1) a building that was constructed for use by a woman's club or organization; (2) a building that was adapted by a woman's club or organization for their own use. Properties such as women's homes or churches where the club met are not included. The nomination also does not include institutions where women initiated work, but did not own or operate the facility, such as libraries, hospitals or churches. These buildings on the whole have retained their integrity to a remarkable degree over the years.

Those buildings that were built to the clubs' specifications and owned and operated by the clubs have the most to suggest about the identity of the organizations and the women who ran them. It is extremely rare for the buildings to be anything but tasteful and discrete, fitting into their environments in a totally unobtrusive way. The clubhouses, tend to be solid but not monumental, by and large indistinguishable from their neighbors. They may be slightly commercialized, if they appear in a commercial zone; but are clearly residential looking, if they are located in a neighborhood.

One apparent exception to the preceding rule is the Covington Woman's Club building which is right on the cusp of the downtown commercial and residential area of Covington and not close to a residential area. This location reflects the fact that the Women's Club Building began as the local library founded, operated, and built by the Covington Woman's Club, and therefore was theirs by a different "right." The building still met the federation criteria of serving the local populace and providing adequate meeting space. Another exception is the Tunnel Hill Woman's Clubhouse, which is located on the edge of an industrial district.

The interiors of these buildings, however, would reveal their use. Usually outfitted with at least one meeting room and a kitchen, a reception hall, and service areas, the interiors were kept simple and ultimately functional. Occasionally, and only in the largest facilities, the club could provide overnight accommodations for a visitor or two. However, this was never a large part of the function of the buildings. They were intended as meeting spaces, function spaces, planning spaces, entertainment spaces.

The Georgia Federation of Woman's Club buildings are "community landmark" type buildings. Community landmark buildings include the institutional, religious, social, governmental, and educational buildings in a community. These buildings are usually freestanding and reflect the architectural trends of the period. As centerpieces for public gatherings, buildings such as the Georgia Federation of Woman's Club buildings, provide a sense of place and cohesiveness for the female citizens and symbolize the permanence, stability, and strength of a community from an earlier woman's perspective.

A wide range of resources in the state dating from the years 1890-1950 are included. This time period was chosen because it reflects the height of the women's club movement as it existed in the era of public sexual segregation and gender separation. The architectural integrity requirements were based upon a knowledge of existing properties, as well as information gained from previously collected county surveys and National Register nominations. The properties included for description in this form were chosen because of their exceptional architectural integrity.

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General Women's Clubs (county):

Canton Woman's Club (Cherokee)
Hiram Woman's Club (Columbia)
Lithonia Woman's Club (DeKalb)
Stone Mountain Woman's Club (DeKalb)*
Eastman Woman's Club (Dodge)
Atlanta Woman's Club (Fulton)**
College Park Woman's Club (Fulton)*
Ellijay Woman's Club (Gilmer)
Demorest Woman's Club (Habersham)
Chipley Woman's Club (Harris)
Redbone Community House (Lamar)**
Lincolnton's Woman's Club (Lincoln)*
Dahlonega Woman's Club (Lumpkin)*
Comer Woman's Club (Madison)*
Covington Woman's Club (Newton)*
Cedartown Woman's Building (Polk)*
Rockmart Woman's Club (Polk)**
Toccoa Woman's House (Stephens)
Dawson Woman's Club (Terrell)***
Lyon's Woman's Club (Toombs)**
Vidalia Woman's Club (Toombs)
West Point Woman's Club (Troup)
Tennille Woman's Club (Washington)**
Tunnel Hill Woman's Club (Whitfield)

*-listed as part of a historic district in the National Register

**-listed individually in the National Register

***-listed individually and in a historic district

Examples in north Georgia include:

The **Atlanta Woman's Club** building in Atlanta, Fulton County, the Wimbish House. This large, Chateausque style home, located at 1150 Peachtree Avenue, was adapted by the club for its use. The 1898 Wimbish House, designed by Walter Downing, was opened as the Atlanta Woman's Club clubhouse in February 1920. The women adapted the building by hiring architects P. Thornton Marye and Barrett Alger to design a master plan for the former home. This plan, implemented by 1925, included an auditorium, banquet hall, and a swimming pool.

The Atlanta Woman's Club was founded in 1895 for social, literary and humanitarian purposes. Among the club's many outreach projects were the establishment of the Atlanta Municipal Market,

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supporting the Tallulah Falls School, numerous public welfare projects, city beautification drives, clean-up campaigns, art exhibits, lectures, and musicales. The Atlanta Women's Club was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Construction of the WPA funded **Cedartown Federated Woman's Club**, Cedartown, Polk County, was begun in 1935 and completed in 1936. The Club was formed in 1935 for the purpose of building a clubhouse. Six local clubs - the Woman's Club, the Music Lovers' Club, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Cedar Valley Garden Club and the Daffodil Garden Club combined to form the new Cedartown Federated Woman's Club. The resulting building is a one-story stone, Colonial Revival style building, located on the edge of Big Spring Park in the Cedartown Historic District. It is a contributing building to the district. A large meeting room comprises the central portion of the building; wings house kitchen, bath and storage areas.

The **Comer Woman's Club** building was constructed c. 1910. The building is a clapboard one-and-a-half story Folk Victorian style structure. It is located south of the commercial district of Comer, Madison County and is a contributing building in the Comer Historic District. Comer is a small, railroad town located in northeast Georgia.

The **Covington Woman's Club** was organized in 1895. A one-story brick Classical Revival style building with hip roof was constructed in 1915 by the club to house a library. The front facade features a porch with Ionic columns and arched windows. The building later became the home of the Woman's Club. It is located in downtown Covington, Newton County, and is a contributing building in the National Register District.

The **Demorest Woman's Club** building was constructed in 1901. It is a two-story rectangular building of shiplap siding, with front-oriented gable roof. Originally built as a church, this symmetrical building has a pier foundation and balloon framing. The main entrance is on the second floor. The former sanctuary is now an open space with a stage in place of the altar. Two small rooms were added at the rear of this space in 1954 for a small kitchen and storage area. It is located just north of the Demorest Commercial Historic District, Habersham County.

The **Ellijay Woman's Clubhouse**, located in Gilmer County, was constructed c. 1938. It is a simple asymmetrical one-story L-shaped log building with a cross gable roof and stone chimney and foundation. There is a porch across the front of the building. There are two rooms inside; one large one for meetings. It is a single-family dwelling today.

The **Lincolnton Woman's Club** is located in Lincoln County, and is a contributing building in the Lincolnton National Register District. Built with WPA funds in 1935, the structure is a one-story clapboard building with a simple square columned portico. It has Greek Revival elements in the portico. The roof is pyramidal with a central chimney. The foundation is stone.

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The **Rockmart Woman's Club** is a one-story clapboard bungalow with Craftsman and Colonial Revival influences. A columned porch is located across the front and an ell is attached to the back. The main portion of the house contains the meeting room, while the ell houses a kitchen. The building was constructed in 1922 during a major growth period for the women's club movement. The club was founded in 1906 as a reading club. Community beautification and clean-up later emerged as the main focus of the women.

The **Tunnel Hill Woman's Clubhouse**, located in Whitfield County, was constructed in 1939. It is a simple one-story stone structure, with English Vernacular Revival elements, and side gable roof. A small stoop provides a cover for the front entrance. A small stucco kitchen addition is located to the rear of the house.

Examples from Central Georgia:

The **Redbone Community Clubhouse** is located in the rural community of Redbone, Lamar County. It was built in 1935-36 by the WPA. A one-story, clapboard building, it has Craftsman and Colonial Revival influences. It has a large meeting room, stage area and kitchen. The Redbone Woman's Club, founded in 1922, spearheaded the effort to realize the construction of the community building. They maintained the building until 1981.

A vernacular example from a small town is the 1934 **Chipley Woman's Club** building located in the town of Pine Mountain in Harris County. The Pine Mountain Women's Club was established in 1913. This building was constructed by the woman's club for its own use, and continues to be used for the same purpose today. The one-story Craftsman-influenced rectangular bungalow is representative of small town community architecture. It features a symmetrical facade and side-oriented gable roof with brick foundation and clapboard siding. Two porticos are located on the front facade.

The **Tennille Woman's Clubhouse** is a one-story log building designed in the Craftsman style located in downtown Tennille in Washington County. This Craftsman style was frequently used in Georgia for community buildings constructed in the early part of the 20th century, and reached its height in the 1930s for projects financed with federal funds. The clubhouse was built in 1922 for the Tennille Woman's Club as their clubhouse. The club was founded in 1914 as a sewing club, but turned its focus towards community projects. The building served as the site of the origin of the county's first public library, and is individually listed in the National Register

The **Vidalia Woman's Club**, located in Toombs County, was constructed in 1936 by the WPA. It is a simple rectangular, brick, one-story structure with gable roof. It has housed Episcopal and Jewish congregations, as well as Girl Scout troops and social activities for the community.

The **West Point Woman's Club**, located in Troup County, was constructed in 1940. It is a one-story rectangular structure with Craftsman elements, and side-oriented gable roof. It has been covered with asbestos siding. The interior contains one large meeting room.

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One example from South Georgia:

The **Dawson Woman's Clubhouse** is a one-story, gable-roofed log cabin with a front corner porch, and board and batten rear ell, which houses the kitchen. This 1913 clubhouse, with 1928 rear addition, is located in a residential area of Dawson, Terrell County. The building is individually listed in the National Register, and is also located in a Historic District. The interior has one large L-shaped room, with the dining area in one portion, and the assembly room in the other.

Property Type Significance

The historic woman's club clubhouses of Georgia are significant at the local level under National Register criteria A and C. These properties were all woman's clubs, built as such or used as such. Most of these buildings were built by or for a local woman's club as their meeting space or adapted by them for their use. All were built more than 50 years ago. All of these properties are significant in local women's history, and social history for their importance in the woman's club movement, and as a reflection of the consciousness of gender-specific activities and community roles. They also represent the relative educational, intellectual, political, and civic interests of particular local municipalities at certain points in history. With this in mind, some of the clubhouses may also possess significance in the area of community planning/development. They may also be significant in other areas. For example, the Redbone Community House(1936) was funded in part through the Works Progress Administration, and is significant in terms of politics and government because it represents the federal governments efforts to provide employment and assist communities during the Depression. This clubhouse and similar buildings in Vidalia and Lincolnton were built as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's economic stimulus programs, and were major Depression-era public works projects for their communities.

The design of these clubhouses is consistent with local stylistic trends in architecture found in Georgia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Because the Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs did not adopt a standardized plan for clubhouses, each of the clubhouses is different in style and size. The resulting buildings have significance as examples of national architectural trends during the period in which they were constructed.

General Registration Requirements

Clubhouse structures, those buildings associated with a woman's club, particularly those constructed in the heyday of the women's club movement in the early part of the 20th century, will usually meet registration requirements because of their association with a woman's club. The properties must be intact examples of a woman's clubhouse.

Properties must be more than 50 years old, and be in their original location.

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G. Geographical Data

The State of Georgia

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

The Multiple Property Submission for “Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with Women's Clubs and Organizations in Georgia” is part of the Georgia Women’s History Initiative that began within the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in 1994. Funded by the Georgia legislature through the SHPO, Phase I of the Initiative included the preparation of a historic context report titled “Georgia: A Woman’s Place, A Historic Context,” the completion of five National Register of Historic Places nominations, identification of notable Georgia women, an assessment of Georgia’s historic preservation activities in terms of women’s history in Georgia, special studies relating to the kitchen, landscape, and archaeology in Georgia, and recommendations for the SHPO in terms of women-related historic resources and future phases of the initiative.

The consulting team hired by the SHPO and led by Darlene Roth included Roth Associates and Ray and Associates. The team and the SHPO identified the historic places associated with the development of women’s clubs and organizations within the state as significant historic resources within Georgia and worthy of a multiple property nomination. Although some of the historic resources related to the woman’s club and organization movement were already listed in the National Register of Historic Places (both individually and within districts, see Section F), the parties decided that a more concerted effort was needed to identify, evaluate, document, and recognize these resources. While this Multiple Property Submission’s ultimate goal is to provide a comprehensive tool by which to evaluate and nominate all focuses on the historic and architectural resources associated with the Georgia Federation of Woman’s Club buildings. This narrowing of the nomination’s scope at the request of the SHPO became necessary as the breadth of the project became unmanageable given the time, energy, and effort needed to accomplish the entire task. It is the hope of the team and the SHPO that future work will be done to fully complete this National Register project.

The methodology for completing this first portion of the Multiple Property Submission was based on archival research at local and regional libraries, site visits to various club and organization buildings, reviews of secondary literature and other multiple property documentation forms, searches of the Georgia Historic Resources Survey files, the identified sites files at the SHPO, and already-listed National Register of Historic Places nominations on file at the Georgia SHPO. The list of actual buildings is based on the Georgia National Register and identified sites files, the Georgia Historic Resource Survey files, first-hand knowledge of the team and SHPO staff, and site visits to various Georgia communities and cities. The list was initially compiled in the Georgia Women’s Resources List that demonstrates the wide variety of women-related resources that fall within the National Register’s data categories for function and use (See Woman’s Club Buildings in Georgia, Multiple Property Listing, Georgia

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“National Register Bulletin 16A, How to Complete the National Register Registration Form”). The list of Georgia Federated Women’s Club buildings was obtained from the Georgia Federation of Woman’s Clubs. This list provides guidance for potentially more eligible buildings and is included here as basis for future planning and survey work.

The historic and architectural resources associated with women’s clubs and organizations are considered eligible if they were constructed or significantly altered during the period of significance, retain their historic integrity as a place designed to serve women’s clubs and organizations’ needs, have architectural significance, and have historic significance relating to this movement.

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Section I - Major Bibliographical References

I. Major Bibliographical References

Atlanta Woman's Club files at the Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

Beard, Mary R. *America Through Women's Eyes*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1934.

Croly, Jane C. *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America*. New York: H.G. Allen, 1898.

Dubrow, Gail Lee. *Preserving her Heritage: American Landmarks of Women's History*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Press, 1991.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Historic Resources surveys.

Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs Golden Anniversary Celebration program, May 8-10, 1946.

Georgia Federation of Woman's Clubs Yearbooks at the Atlanta-Fulton County Main Library, Atlanta, Georgia.

Mayo, Edith, ed. *American Material Culture: The Shape of Things Around Us*.

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National Register Multiple Property Nomination for Clubhouses of Florida's Woman's Clubs.

Roth, Darlene. "Feminine Marks on the Landscape." Bowling Green, Ohio: State University Popular Press, 1984, pp.79-91.

Roth, Darlene. *Matronage*. Brooklyn, New York: Carlson Publishing, 1994.

Roth, Darlene. *Matronage: Patterns in Women's Organizations, Atlanta, Georgia 1890-1940*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Press, 1978.

Wood, Mary I. *The History of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs*. Norwood, Massachusetts: Norwood Press, 1912.

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Primary location of additional documentation:

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify repository: Atlanta History Center**

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Abbeville	12	Dalton	7
Acworth	7	Damascus	2
Adairsville	7	Dahlonega	9
Adel	11	Dawson	3
Adrian	12	Decatur	5
Albany	2	DeKalb County	5
Americus	3	Donaldsonville	2
Apalachee	8	Dooly County	3
Appling	10	Douglas	11
Ashburn	3	Douglasville	5
Athens	8	Dublin	12
Atlanta	5	Durand	4
Augusta	10	East Lake	5
Austell	7	Eastman	12
Bainbridge	2	Eastonolle	9
Baldwin County	10	East Point	5
Baxley	11	Elberton	8
Bishop	8	Ellaville	3
Blackshear	11	Ellijay	9
Blakely	2	Fairburn	5
Boston	2	Fayetteville	6
Bostwick	8	Folkston	11
Bowman	8	Fitzgerald	3
Bradley	6	Folkston	11
Broxton	11	Fort Valley	12
Brunswick	11	Gainesville	9
Buckhead	8	Gay	4
Bullochville	4	Godfrey	8
Byromville	3	Gordon	10
Cairo	2	Grantville	4
Calhoun	7	Gray	6
Camilla	2	Green County	8
Carnesville	8	Greensboro	8
Carrollton	4	Greenville	4
Cartersville	7	Griffin	6
Cedartown	7	Guyton	1
Chipley	4	Haddock	6
Clarkston	5	Hampton	6
Clarke County	8	Hartwell	8
Claxton	1	Hawkinsville	12
Clayton	9	Hazelhurst	11
Cochran	12	Helen	9
Coleman	3	Hephzibah	10
College Park	5	Henry County	6
Columbus	4	Hogansville	4
Comer	8	Homerville	11
Commerce	9	Jackson	6
Convers	5	James	6
Cordele	3	Jefferson	9
Cornelia	9	Jeffersonville	12
Covington	8		
Crawfordville	10		
Cusseta	4		
Cuthbert	3		

Name of Club	District	Name of Club	District
Jesup	11	Ray City	11
Jewell	10	Raymond	12
Jones County	6	Reidsville	1
Kenwood	6	Reynolds	3
Keysville	1	Rochelle	12
Kingston	7	Rockmart	7
Kirkwood	5	Rome	7
LaGrange	4	Round Oak	6
Lavonia	8	Rutledge	12
Leslie	3	Sandersville	10
Lexington	8	Sardis	1
Lilly	3	Savannah	1
Lithonia	5	Smyrna	7
Locust Grove	6	Sparta	10
Lula	9	Soread	10
Macon	6	Stockbridge	6
Macon County	3	Summerville	7
Madison	8	Swainsboro	12
Manchester	4	Sylvester	2
Marietta	7	Stephens County	9
Martin	9	St. George	11
Marshallville	3	St. Marys	11
Maysville	9	Tallapoosa	7
Meigs	2	Tennille	10
Merriweather County	4	Thomasville	2
Middleton	8	Thomson	10
Milledgeville	10	Tifton	2
Millen	1	Toccoa	9
Millhaven	1	Ty Ty	2
Milner	6	Uadilla	3
Mitchell	10	Union Point	8
Molena	6	Valdosta	11
Monroe	8	Vidalia	12
Montezuma	3	Vienna	3
Morgan	2	Wadley	10
Moultrie	2	Warrenton	10
McDonough	6	Washington	8
McRae	12	Waycross	11
Nashville	11	Waynesboro	1
Newnan	4	West Point	4
Norcross	9	White Plains	8
Norwood	10	Willacoochee	11
Ocilla	11	Williamson	6
Oxford	8	Winfield	10
Pavo	2	Winder	9
Penfield	8	Winterville	8
Perry	12	Woodbury	4
Pinehurst	3	Woodville	8
Plains	3	Woolsey	6
Poulan	2	Wrens	10
Powellton	10	Yatesville	6
Quitman	11	Zebulon	6

JUNIOR CLUBS—GROUP B

Athens—Homecon Club, Miss Sarah O'Neal, president, Greenville.
 Buford—Junior Woman's Club, Miss Dorothy Smith, president.
 Buford—Teen Age Juniors, Miss Donna Jean Kemp, president.
 Dalton—Junior Woman's Club, Mrs. Glenn Cooper, president.
 Jesup—Junior Woman's Club, Miss Sue Breen, president.
 Marietta—Girl Scouts, Mrs. Morgan McNeel, Jr., commissioner.
 Nashville—Junior Music Club, Mrs. Glenn Paxon, counselor.
 Tifton—Junior Woman's Club, Mrs. Ido Touchstone, president.

JUNIOR CLUBS—GROUP C

Atlanta—Boulevard Park Sub-Juniors, Miss Ellen Marlatt, president, 658 Park Dr., N. E.
 Bowman—Junior Woman's Club, Miss Helen Bond, president.
 College Park—Junior Club, Miss Margaret Fitzgerald, president.
 College Park—Sub-Junior Club, Miss Julia Flint, president.
 Comer—Junior Club, Miss Reba Bullock, president.
 Comer—Sub-Junior Club, Miss Bessie Mae Hughes, president.
 Dallas—Junior Woman's Club, Miss Marjorie Bullock, president.
 Danielsville—Junior Club, Miss Marie Echols, president.
 Eatonton—Junior Club, Miss Gene Tatum, president.
 Fitzgerald—Drama Club, Mrs. C. G. Hale, president.
 Fort Valley—Sub-Juniors, Miss Mary Lillian Culpepper, president.
 LaGrange—Junior Section, Mrs. John Finn; Miss Margaret Edmondson, Co. chairmen.
 Hartwell—Junior Club, Miss Barbara Adams, president.
 Lexington—Junior Woman's Club, Mrs. Pat Shackelford, president.
 Maxeys—Junior Club, Miss Janet Jones, president.

DIRECTORY OF CLUBS

Town	District	Town	District
Abbeville	3	Bowman	10
Adel	3	Braselton	9
Alma	3	Brookhaven	5
Acworth	7	Brooks	4
Albany	2	Broxton	8
Alpharetta	5	Brunswick	8
Ashburn	3	Buchanan	7
Athens	10	Buford	9
Atlanta	5	Byromville	3
Augusta	10	Cairo	2
Austell	7	Calhoun	7
Baconton	2	Camilla	2
Bainbridge	2	Canon	10
Barnesville	4	Canton	9
Bartow	6	Carneville	10
Baxley	8	Cedartown	7
Ben Hill	5	Chatsworth	7
Bishop	10	Chipley	3
Blakely	2	Clarksville	9
Boston	2	Clarkston	5
Bowdon	4	Claxton	1

Town	District	Town	District
Clayton	9	Locust Grove	4
Cobb County	7	Luella	4
Cochran	6	Lyons	1
Colbert	10	Macon	6
College Park	5	Madison County	10
Calumbus	3	Manchester	4
Colquitt	2	Marietta	7
Comer	10	Maysville	9
Commerce	9	Meansville	4
Conley	4	Midville	1
Cornelia	9	Millen	1
Covington	4	Miller	4
Crawford	10	Monroe	10
Crawfordville	10	Montezuma	3
Dahlonega	9	Morgan	2
Dallas	7	Moultrie	2
Dalton	7	Nashville	8
Danielsville	10	Norcross	9
Decatur	5	Oglethorpe County	10
Demorest	9	Ochlochnee	2
Deveroux	6	Oxford	4
Donalsonville	2	Pavo	2
Douglas	3	Pelham	2
Dublin	6	Pike County	4
East Point	5	Quitman	2
Eatonton	6	Rabun Gap-Dillard	9
Edison	2	Reynolds	3
Elberton	10	Ringgold	7
Ellijay	9	Rockmart	7
Eton	7	Royston	10
Fairburn	5	Sandersville	6
Fayetteville	4	Sautes	9
Fitzgerald	3	Savannah	1
Ft. Gaines	3	Smyrna	7
Ft. Valley	3	Sparta	6
Franklin County	10	Spring Place	7
Gainesville	9	Stephens County	9
Gay	4	Stone Mountain	5
Gordon	6	Summerville	9
Griffin	4	Sylvania	1
Guyton	1	Sylvester	2
Hapeville	5	Talbotton	4
Hartwell	10	Tallapoosa	7
Helen	9	Taylorville	7
Hogansville	4	Tennille	6
Homerville	8	Thomasville	2
Hoscht on	9	Thomson	10
Jackson	4	Tifton	2
Jackson County	9	Toccoa	9
Jefferson County	8	Trion	7
Jefferson	9	Tunnel Hill	7
Jeffersonville	6	Union City	5
Jesup	8	Valdosta	2
Jewell-Mayfield	6	Vidalia	1
Kite	6	Vienna	3
Kirkwood	5	Wadley	6
LaFayette	7	Warm Springs	4
LaGrange	4	Warrenton	10
Lamar County	4	Washington	10
Lavonia	10	Waverly Hall	3
Lexington	10	Waycross	8
Lithonia	5	West Point	4