

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Carrizozo Woman's Club
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Woman's Club of Carrizozo

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 908 Eleventh Street
CITY OR TOWN: Carrizozo
STATE: New Mexico **CODE:** NM **COUNTY:** Lincoln **CODE:** 027 **ZIP CODE:** 88301

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

| I hereby certify that this property is: | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____ | _____ | _____ |

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: PUBLIC: local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

| NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: | CONTRIBUTING | NONCONTRIBUTING |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| | 1 | 0 BUILDINGS |
| | 0 | 0 SITES |
| | 0 | 0 STRUCTURES |
| | 0 | 0 OBJECTS |
| | 1 | 0 TOTAL |

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: New Mexico Federation of Women's Club Buildings in New Mexico

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL: meeting hall

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19th CENURY AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Pueblo (Revival)

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION Concrete
WALLS Stucco
ROOF Asphalt
OTHER Wood

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5through 7-7).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- 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 VALUE, 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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Social History; Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1939-1953

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1939

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Garrison, J.C., builder.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-10).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-11).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- 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 #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Historic Preservation Division, Office of Cultural Affairs*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing
 1 13 418522 3722676

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-12).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-12).

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: M. Van Cleave (Van) Shamblin, with assistance from David Kammer, Ph.D.

ORGANIZATION: Secretary, Lincoln County Historical Society

DATE: May, 2003

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 413

TELEPHONE: (505) 648-4565

CITY OR TOWN: Carrizozo

STATE: NM

ZIP CODE: 88301

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS see attached Carrizozo West Quadrangle U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute series map

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-13)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS N/A

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Carrizozo Woman's Club

STREET & NUMBER: 908 Eleventh Street

TELEPHONE: 505-648-2116

CITY OR TOWN: Carrizozo

STATE: New Mexico

ZIP CODE: 88301

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Carrizozo Woman's Club
Carrizozo, Lincoln County, New Mexico

Description

The Carrizozo Woman's Club is a one-story building with a flat roof. Located in the McDonald Addition in a residential section of the community, the building's grounds are landscaped with low-lying evergreen shrubs and deciduous trees lining the building. Since its construction in 1939, the building has been in continuous use as a gathering place for many of Carrizozo's social and voluntary activities and is considered a landmark within the community. Typical of many of the public and institutional buildings constructed in New Mexico during the 1930s, the building incorporates a number of details and materials associated with the Pueblo Revival style, including adobe bricks, exposed vigas, and a portal. Particularly notable are the exposed interior beams, especially in the circular meeting room or Round Room, where an elaborate truss system in the crawl space above the ceiling supports the beams. The best example of the Pueblo Revival style in the community, the Carrizozo Woman's Club has undergone only minor alterations to its original plan and retains a high degree of integrity as to setting and location, design, materials and workmanship.

Located in a residential section a block west of the village's commercial district along U.S. 54, the building occupies a corner lot. Its lawn, a random scattering of low-growing shrubs and the evergreens lining much of the building and the scale of the one-story building, render it harmonious with surrounding residences (see Photo 1). A small rustic wood sign located in the southwest corner of the property signals the building's function. Lining much of the rear wall of the building is a patio. Paved with split fieldstone, it has a masonry kiva fireplace set in an exterior corner of the building (see Photo 2). Further use of stone appears in the buttressed exterior fireplace chimney across the wall of the main hall and the low masonry wall along the north side of the patio. It is accessible from both the main hall and kitchen of the building and a sidewalk extending from the west side of the property. With the footprint of the building and the surrounding landscape accounting for the entire parcel of land, all parking is at curbside along the street.

The building has a concrete foundation, a partial basement, and is one story with a flat roof. Characteristic of the Pueblo Revival style, the parapet is curvilinear and the roof is stepped to the portal partially along the front elevation. The highest element of the parapet, rising above the portal, has the date "1939" inscribed in relief within the circle of a Zia sun, a decorative motif found in other public buildings in New Mexico constructed as New Deal projects (see Photo 1). The walls consist of adobe bricks with a beige stucco facing. Exposed vigas line the front elevation and extend in a spoke-like fashion around the Round Room located in the southwest corner of the building. The majority of windows consist of double-hung wood sash windows with a 6/6 division of lights.

A portal 40 ft. wide and eight ft. deep with round support posts and corbels and paved with split field stone extends along the central section of the front elevation. Symmetrically organized, the front elevation consists of carved double wood doors flanked by recessed grouped windows. Bracketing the main doors are two original wrought iron lighting fixtures.

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The plan of the building is an approximate L with front elevation approximately 70 ft. and the west elevation approximately 43 ft. The Round Room, measuring 30 ft. in diameter, is set into the southwest corner of the building with a portion of its radius extending seven ft. beyond the south and west elevations. The plan of the interior spaces is similar to other New Mexico Federation of Women's Club (NMFWC) buildings with a large rectangular central auditorium occupying the center of the building. Typical of other clubs' main halls, a large fireplace with its hearth and jamb consisting of native stone lines the north wall. To the east are bathrooms and two discrete rooms serving as sitting and committee rooms. To the west are a large kitchen and the Round Room. Ceilings throughout the building are particularly striking with highly varnished vigas supporting a tongue-and-groove ceiling.

The Round Room is unique among NMFWC buildings constructed during the New Deal. Designed by Jess C. Garrison, the foreman of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) crew who constructed the building, the circular room is used for meetings and banquets and contains a brick fireplace located along its inner circumference. Accessible from both the kitchen and the main hall, the room extends 30 ft. in diameter with a ceiling containing exposed vigas radiating from a rounded central log from which a chandelier also hangs. Suggestive of an oversized wagon wheel with multiple spokes radiating from a large wooden hub, the vigas support a ceiling consisting of 1x6" tongue-and-groove boards cut at varying lengths and angles to effect a latilla-like appearance (see Figure 7-1). The support for this intricate design is located in the approximately three ft. crawl space located above the ceiling. There are a series of perpendicular wood beams and steel plates are bolted together, creating a series of trusses that support the central hub; 3/16" steel wires augment the trusses.

Since its completion in 1939, the Carrizozo Woman's Club building has undergone few alterations. In 2001, poor drainage from the roof resulted in damage to the east wall of the building and led to the replacement of several dozen adobe bricks. In recent years, the main hall has also been carpeted. The high degree of integrity as to its setting, location, design, materials and workmanship contributes to its feeling as a woman's clubhouse and community meeting space dating to the 1930s constructed as a WPA project.

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Figure 7-1 **Beamed Ceiling of Round Room; Facing Southwest (2002)**



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Carrizozo Woman's Club
Carrizozo, Lincoln County, New Mexico

Statement of Significance

The Carrizozo Woman's Club building is historically significant for its long association with the civic life of Carrizozo and the voluntary contributions its members have made to the community and to Lincoln County. Since its construction as a WPA project in 1939, the building has served not only the woman's club but also the entire community of Carrizozo and the county at large. It has functioned as a gathering place for cultural, political, and social events as well as fund-raising events whose proceeds are used to support women's voluntary projects that benefit many individuals and groups within the community. The building is also architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of the Pueblo Revival style popularized in many public and civic buildings during the period of significance. Continuing to serve the woman's club and the community at large, the building is popularly viewed as a Carrizozo landmark and is eligible for listing at the local level under Criteria A and C.

As discussed in the historic context, the late territorial and early statehood periods in New Mexico saw the formation of numerous independent women's clubs, many of which then voted to join the NMFWC (Kammer 2003: E-3). Reflecting this pattern was the Woman's Club of Carrizozo, which organized in April 1920 and voted to join the NMFWC in October of that year. At the time, Carrizozo was a thriving town, having been founded in 1899 and platted in 1907 as a railroad center along the El Paso and Northeastern Railroad. With a roundhouse and shops, the town grew, serving as a shipping point for the livestock, mining and lumber industries that developed in the vicinity. With the decision to relocate the Lincoln County seat from Lincoln to Carrizozo in 1909, the town's importance expanded and residential neighborhoods began to appear around the small business district. The efforts of the community's women to organize a club reflected both their interest in self-improvement and a desire to enhance their community through voluntary projects.

Using the departmental organization advocated by the federation and adopting the motto, "Help one another," the club undertook numerous programs in the 1920s. Club reports early in the decade indicate that members sponsored musical programs and mounted an art exhibit featuring the painters of Taos. At the same time, members undertook projects to improve recreational equipment at the village's public school and lobbied for the passage of stronger child labor and public welfare laws in the state legislature (*NMFWC Bulletin* 1922-23: 49). Four years later, the club reported establishing the first library in the public school and worked for improvements in the school's Home Economic Department (*NMFWC Yearbook* 1926-27:49). Extending its voluntary efforts beyond Carrizozo, club members also sponsored entertainment for tuberculosis patients at the U.S. Marine Hospital at Fort Stanton, a program that they then expanded to include art exhibits. As the country entered the Great Depression, the club broadened its voluntary efforts, helping to secure a County Nurse from the New Mexico Public Welfare Department and to deliver clothing and food to needy families (*NMFWC Yearbook* 1929-30:35).

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Carrizozo Woman's Club
Carrizozo, Lincoln County, New Mexico

By 1929, the club's membership had risen to 112, and finding an adequate meeting space had become a problem. During its first decade, the club met first in a commercial building, then in the court room of the county courthouse, later in a hotel, and finally in members' homes (Hefker and Stearns 2001:np). A summary of the club's history prepared in 1991 suggests that during the late 1920s the club had partially funded the construction of a community hall that it then donated to the public schools (*Reflections* 1991:40). By the early 1930s, however, like many other women's clubs in New Mexico, the Carrizozo club was actively seeking to construct a "Community Building, which is used for all community affairs" (*NMFWC Yearbook* 1929-30:35).

After the village first petitioned Governor Clyde Tingley for his support for the WPA to construct a community center in 1935, realization of its goal began to materialize in 1936, when Frances McDonald Spencer and her husband T.A. Spencer sold four lots to the Village of Carrizozo for \$300. The widow of New Mexico's first state governor William C. McDonald, a rancher in nearby White Oaks, Mrs. Spencer had earlier served as president of the Carrizozo Woman's Club. Upon acquiring the land, the village then formally submitted its request for funding to the WPA. To support the project, the club pledged \$2,500 to supplement the village's share of the costs. Funded by the WPA in 1937 for \$6,491, the project got underway in 1938 with a crew selected from the relief rolls for Lincoln County.

Typical of WPA projects in which the local sponsor provided the materials and partial funding for the project and the WPA provided the bulk of the funding to pay the workers, the project relied on the use of local materials that were inexpensive and readily available. By the fall of 1938, workers were making adobe bricks to be used for the building's walls on the job site, using clay excavated for the partial basement. Peg Pfingsten, then a local shipper, recalls hauling logs cut from the site of a forest fire in the Capitan Mountains northeast of Carrizozo to be used for the building's vigas (Pfingsten 2002).

When the first job foreman left the community soon after the project started, Jess C. Garrison, a local builder, replaced him. According to WPA records, the town was to provide the plans for the project. In order to devise a plan, club members visited the nearby Alamogordo Woman's Club, where a community hall and clubhouse had been completed as a WPA project in 1937. Typically, these buildings included a main hall for meetings and public events, one or more meeting and sitting rooms and a large kitchen. Most likely shaping a consensus, club members worked with Garrison to develop a plan that included a second large meeting room that would be circular. Despite some skepticism regarding his ability to construct a round room using vigas but no central support post, Garrison fashioned the room, designing an intricate truss system that he installed in the crawl space above the ceiling. Nearly three-quarters of a century after its construction, the Round Room ceiling continues to convey the design ingenuity and workmanship of Garrison and his WPA crew.

By October 1939 the project was complete, and on October 27th the Carrizozo Woman's Club held its first meeting in the new facility. Six years later the village deeded the property to the club, which has since owned and maintained the property. In the ensuing decades, the club has maintained its voluntary role in the community and in Lincoln County, and the building has remained in continuous use. It played a key role in the

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establishment of Valley of the Fires State Park in 1954 and participates in the upkeep of the village's Evergreen Cemetery. It sponsored the creation of Senior Citizens' Centers in Lincoln County, and owns and operates a low-income Senior citizens' apartment complex. It also continues to make the Carrizozo Woman's Club building available to the public for a variety of activities including reunions and weddings as well as government and civic functions.

Two years ago when water damage to the east wall of the adobe building became apparent, the building was listed by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Alliance as one of state's endangered places. Although the Carrizozo Woman's Club underwrote the cost of repairing the wall, a heightened public awareness of the fragility of this landmark ensued. The club and the community regard preserving this building as essential to Carrizozo's history and regard register listing as a means of recognizing and celebrating its historic and ongoing role in Carrizozo.

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Carrizozo Woman's Club
Carrizozo, Lincoln County, New Mexico

Bibliography

Garrison, J. D. Interview with Van Shamblin, February 18, 2002. Mr. Garrison is the son the Jess C. Garrison.

Hefker, Sharon and Sue Stearns. "Historic Presentation about the Carrizozo Woman's Club." Presented to celebrate 80 years of service as an organization, October, 2001.

Kammer, David. *The Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico*. Prepared for the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, 1994.

_____. "New Mexico Federation of Women's Club Buildings in New Mexico." Multiple Property Listing prepared for the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, May, 2003.

New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs. Annual Yearbooks and Bulletins, 1920-1930. Housed in the Museum of New Mexico History Library.

_____. *Reflections*. 1991.

Pfingsten, Fred "Peg." Interview with Van Shamblin, March 27, 2002.

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Carrizozo Woman's Club
Carrizozo, Lincoln County, New Mexico

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1-4 of Block 4 of the McDonald Addition, Carrizozo, Lincoln County, New Mexico

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Carrizozo Woman's Club.

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Section Photo Page 13

Carrizozo Woman's Club
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Photo Log

The following information pertains to all photographs unless otherwise noted:

Carrizozo Woman's Club
908 Eleventh Street
Carrizozo, Lincoln County, New Mexico
Photographer: David Kammer
November 18, 2002
Location of Negatives: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

Photo 1 of 2
Main façade
Camera facing north

Photo 2 of 2
Patio with corner fireplace
Camera facing southeast