

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse

Fuquay-Varina, Wake County, WA4420, Listed 4/24/2007

Nomination by Shirley Simmons

Photographs by Shirley Simmons, February 2007



Façade view



Side view

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse
other names/site number Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse

2. Location

Street & number 602 North Ennis Street N/A not for publication
city or town Fuquay-Varina N/A vicinity
State North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27526

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 for 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/Title _____ Date _____
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
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 certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<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:)	_____	_____

Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
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.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: Clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Shingles: asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
County and State

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** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1937-1957

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .21 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 699950 3940780
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Shirley D. Simmons
organization Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club date November, 2006
Street & number P. O. Box 595 telephone 919-552-5562
city or town Fuquay-Varina state NC zip code 27526

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

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

Name Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club
Street & number P. O. Box 595 telephone _____
city or town Fuquay-Varina state NC zip code 27526

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse
Wake County, North Carolina

Narrative Description

Built on a corner lot measuring ninety feet wide by one-hundred feet deep, the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse faces west and is set back thirty-five feet from North Ennis Street, Fuquay-Varina, Wake County, North Carolina. The .21 acre lot is bordered on the north by a private residence of a later date, on the east (rear) by a vacant lot and on the south by Faucette Street. On Faucette Street, a small grass parking area is provided for those entering the kitchen. The lot features two mature oak trees on the north, one in front and one in back, and shrubs across the front and along the south side of the building. Smaller trees and vines encroach upon the east property line.

Architecturally classified as a craftsman style building, the one-story, frame clubhouse, sheathed in plain weatherboards painted white, has wood sills and floor joists supported on a brick foundation. The façade (west) exhibits exposed rafter tails while the two gable ends have triangular knee braces supporting the roof. Two original chimneys extend through the roof line. The exterior chimney is centered on the north gable, protected by the deep overhanging eave, while a smaller interior chimney rises between the main room and the ell with flue openings in both the main room and the kitchen. The entire roof is covered with asphalt shingles and supported by knee braces under all the gables. A lean-to storage, floored in concrete and roofed in tin, was added beneath the back kitchen windows and houses the hot water heater.

The T-shaped building is one room deep, side-gabled, with a centered rear ell. It contains one main room across the front, with a kitchen on the south and a bathroom on the north in the rear ell. All windows are original six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, except where otherwise noted. Two windows balance each side of the center entrance on the façade. Two windows flank the chimney in the north gable, and three windows are equally spaced in the south gable. The rear ell features one window and a rear door on the south wall, two windows on the rear wall, and two, smaller, two-over-two sash windows on the north wall. One of these was originally the pantry window before that half of the pantry was incorporated into the bathroom.

No significant exterior changes have occurred; however, some updates have been made for specific purposes. The original small gabled porch hood centered on the façade is now supported by three wooden columns in each corner. Four brick steps (circa, 1956) leading to the front door have modern metal railings, as do the handicapped ramp and right side of the entry porch, ca. 1990. The concrete porch floor, replaced the original wood floor, and it now extends down a ramp built from the north front corner in 1990. A concrete and brick rear stoop and steps replaced wooden structures there in 1963-65. As a decorative feature, the four front windows are flanked by wooden louvered shutters painted black. Storm windows were added over the original wooden frames.

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The 1,296 square foot building is comprised of a rectangular meeting room twenty-four by forty feet, and a fourteen by twenty-four feet rear ell containing the kitchen, a small pantry and a bathroom. The interior retains the original pine paneling on the walls and ceiling throughout, with the exception of the bathroom. Over the years, this unfinished paneling has taken on a soft darkened patina. All interior doors are original pine. Carpet in the main room and linoleum and plywood in the kitchen were removed, exposing the original heart pine flooring. The restored pine floor contributes to the integrity to the interior decor.

While the original fireplace is retained behind closed glass doors, this unsafe firebox was given a modern brick chimneypiece (circa, 1950) rising from floor to ceiling from a slightly raised hearth on the north wall. Modernization improve the electrification of the clubhouse brought two false beams housing wiring to light two brass chandeliers (circa 1983-84) and some recessed lighting (1958-59) for the meeting room. At this time an electric stove replaced the wood burning range and the first electric refrigerator and hot water heater were added.

Only the bathroom/pantry area has seen substantial change. The original plumbing was modernized in 1957-58 and a portion of the pantry was incorporated into a small commode room. It is separated from the lavatory and coatroom which still opens into both the front room and the kitchen. This renovation included lowered ceiling tiles covering the original paneling, tiled flooring, upper wall wallpaper over a lower half tiled wall and painted woodwork.

Further interior renovation took place in 2004. The original location of the wood range in the kitchen was utilized for the first time, gaining five new wall and base cabinets with counter space. A smaller central island was replaced by a new free standing range and five base cabinets. A double porcelain sink, similar to the earlier free standing iron one, was built into a new base cabinet under the windows along the rear wall. This white cabinetry featuring blue countertops brightens the original pine paneling.

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Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse
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Summary

The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club gains historical significance from its role in the development of civic and cultural life in the community of Fuquay-Varina during the mid-twentieth century. Constructed for a clubhouse and in continual use from 1937 to the present, the building represents the goals and leadership of the oldest civic organization in this small municipality. As part of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs (GFWC) across the United States and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina (GFWC-NC), it is reflective of the "impact of women on communities and of the effects of community involvement on women's lives." (Miller 84) The property meets Criterion A in the area of social history, and the period of significance is from 1937-1957, the fifty year cut-off date for properties meeting Criterion A.

Background and Historical Context

The General Federation of Women's Clubs--one of the world's oldest non partisan, non denominational women's volunteer service organizations--traces its roots back to June Cunningham Croly who became indignant that she and other female journalists were denied admittance to a banquet in 1868 honoring British novelist Charles Dickens at the all-male New York Press Club simply because they were women. Determinedly founding a Serosis Club for women only, they became aware over the next twenty-one years of the existence of other women's clubs that had formed independently to meet the needs of women. (Capsule History, 3) Mrs. Croly proposed the 1890 conference in New York that brought together delegates from sixty-one women's clubs who took action to form a permanent umbrella organization. (Wells, 466-468) Their constitution adopted the name "General Federation of Women's Clubs" and declared "The object of the General Federation is to bring into communication with each other the various women's clubs throughout the world, in order that they may compare methods of work and become mutually helpful." (Wells, 26) Chartered in 1901 by the United States Congress, GFWC reached its peak in 1953 with 800,000 clubwomen in approximately 15,000 clubs across the United States. (Wells, 34)

The organization of a General Federation of Women's Clubs in North Carolina is directly attributed to Sallie Southall Cotten who had been thrust into the women's movement upon appointment by Governor Elias Carr as an alternate state lady manager to the Chicago World's Fair Exposition in 1893. (Smith & Wilson, 202) In 1899, Cotten suggested in a circular letter mailed "to all North Carolina women whose addresses I knew, and who I thought would be interested," the possibility of forming a state federation of clubs in North Carolina. When no immediate results materialized, she organized the End of the Century Club in Greenville, N.C., although "Clubs were few and unpopular--considered unwomanly and existed solely for mental culture." (Stephenson, 107) State success came in 1902, when Lucy Bramlette Patterson of the Embroidery Club of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, repeated the invitation to representatives of all known clubs to discuss federation at Salem College. Seven clubs organized the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs as "a statewide

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organization for the promotion of education and activities in civic, cultural, educational and social welfare for the betterment of the commonwealth." (History GFWC-NC, 112; Weathers, 15, 21) Mrs. Cotten described the meeting as "thrilling with enthusiasm at the consciousness of having launched a new factor for good in the Old North State." (Stephenson, 118) At their 1903 state convention, twenty North Carolina clubs decided to unite with the GFWC. The 1954-55 administration recorded the impressive membership of 343 clubs and 18,068 members in North Carolina. (History GFWC-NC, 112)

Membership in GFWC, although sometimes viewed as radical, became the avenue through which white middle class women were able to affect the public realm. Each club exercised freedom to vary its agenda to fit community mores. Likewise, each state federation selected programs seen as beneficial. (Turco, 9) By 1896, GFWC had declared education to be "a central part of the interest and work of all clubs" (Wells, 167) and "scholarships among the most concrete contribution." (Wells, 172) The new North Carolina Federation chose as its first departments: Education, Library Extension, Village Improvement, State Charities, Art and Music. Through these departments, "North Carolina women became well informed, forceful, progressive, responsive, and responsible citizens and influenced those around them." (History GFWC-NC, 112) Prominent among the contributions of GFWC and GFWC-NC was the establishment of public libraries and traveling libraries. Nationally seventy-five percent and in North Carolina fifty-three percent of the public libraries were established by women's clubs. Other goals include the federation's successful 1920's campaign to name official state birds and flowers. During World War I, the sale of bonds and stamps were goals, while in World War II the "Buy a Bomber" campaign led to 431 planes purchased. North Carolina's twenty-four planes ranked fourth among the states. (History GFWC-NC, 113) A 1955 goal of GFWC, now called the Community Improvement Project (CIP), remains one of the longest running and most important efforts. (Our Story, 3)

Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club 1926-37

"Enterprising women used their work in voluntary associations as a means to do good in their community and as an opportunity for personal growth." (Smith & Wilson, 209) Balancing their husband's civic and business endeavors was an impetus for the eight women of Varina who decided to charter a woman's club in 1926. Among the husbands of early members were merchants, a doctor, bankers, landowners, and railroad men. No official record exists but the eight charter members recorded from memory during the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Fuquay-Varina Club were: Mrs. Bessie (N.H.) Hopson, Mrs. Amorette (J.M.) Judd, Mrs. Mabel (Wingate) Howard, Mrs. Hattie Byrd, Mrs. J. E. Brown, Mrs. Mary Ennis, Mrs. Louise Flynn, and Mrs. Eva Galloway.

This oral history further records that they met for the first year at the home of Mrs. Bessie Hopson and then, until the clubhouse was built, in one of the rented rooms of the Judd Building with outside access from Ransdell Road and Broad Street. The motivation for the establishment of the club is illustrated by the club's motto "Service" adopted at the chartering. The Varina Woman's Club went on to become federated in 1927 with GFWC and the GFWC-NC. (Simmons appendix, Scrapbook'90)

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Following Mrs. Hopson's four-year presidency, Mrs. Ennis, an employee of Wake County Welfare Department (and recognized in 1952 as the oldest living president and a charter member) served as president. (Simmons, 1) The third president, Mrs. Adele (R.E) Prince and Mrs. Hopson, both teachers in the local high school in 1928, lend credence to the club's focus on improving education. Club records state that the two women launched a drive in 1947 to purchase the lights and shades for the elementary school building for which the club had been lobbying Wake County some twenty-one years. (Simmons, 2; Scrapbook '47) Evidence that the club has enjoyed a long partnership with the municipal government is shown in the treasured silver goblet awarded to the garden department by the North Carolina Federation in 1932 for initiating outdoor lighted Christmas trees in town. (Simmons, 1)

Clubhouse Construction

The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse began as the Varina Woman's Club in the one-story building located along a residential street in the section of town identified as Varina. All eight charter members resided in Varina; however, the third president, Mrs. Prince, the fourth, Mrs. Gunter, and the fifth, Mrs. Tilley, lived in the town of Fuquay Springs. The dividing line between the two communities became virtually indistinguishable but two post offices were maintained. The town of Fuquay Springs and the area of Varina were not incorporated as Fuquay-Varina until 1963. Interestingly, the earliest existing yearbook - 1940, boasting a pencil drawing of the clubhouse, is entitled "The Woman's Club" with the address as "Fuquay-Varina, NC" twenty-three years prior to that incorporation. Early records note that, having been unable to work out the club's constitution, it was rewritten in 1949. (Scrapbook '49) Evidence of the progressiveness of the clubwomen can be found in the 1953 amendment to the club's constitution naming the club "The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club" ten years prior to that official action. (Yearbook '53)

The lot was deeded on November 23, 1936 by Dr. J. M. Judd and wife Amorette (a charter member) specifically "for the purpose of constructing thereon the Varina Woman's Club building." (Wake County) This deed conveyed ownership to President Annie S. Tilley and her successors in office in exchange for a consideration of \$1.00. (Deed)

The oral tradition that construction of the clubhouse began immediately is verified by The North Carolina Federation Yearbook of 1938-39, printed during the summer of 1938 for use that fall, which contained a report from the Varina Woman's Club for the 1938-39 year stating "the members consider finishing their new club house their best piece of work." Club members had memories of raising funds with chicken stew dinners, oyster dinners, and food booths at the state fair to pay for the building in the years following completion of the clubhouse. (Scrapbook '90)

Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club 1937-57

Exact membership at the time the clubhouse was built is believed to have been less than twenty. Membership records between 1926 and 1940 are missing, but sixth president, Mrs. G. C. Swain (1938-40) has the distinction of presiding over an administration under which membership doubled and the

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1940 roll lists 37 members. (Simmons, 2, Yearbook '40) In 1940, the entire club met twice monthly, once for business and the second for educational programs on literature, music, home decoration and safety. The garden department met a third time every month about more specific topics, i.e. bulbs, shrubs and trees. (Yearbook '40)

During the early years the membership was supportive of GFWC and state projects, along with specific efforts addressing local needs. By 1945, the club served dinner to the Lion's Club to raise money for the Cancer Control Movement; fought Infantile Paralysis with education and fund raising; and worked with the local PTA to organize a Teen Age Club. (Simmons, 2, Scrapbook '44) In 1947 they purchased the shades and lights for the local school for which they had long sought, and in 1948 they pledged \$200 and twenty-five percent of the gate to Campbell College for a performance of "Pinafore" at the school auditorium. Both international and local charities were supported: funds were sent to Care in lieu of members exchanging Christmas gifts, while a clothing closet serving needy children set up at the local school in 1949 operated for some twenty years. In 1950, the membership spearheaded the move to secure a special education teacher at the elementary level as well as helping to provide an art teacher. (Simmons, 2, Yearbook '49) Also during 1950, the club launched a thirty-three-year history of supporting scouting when three Brownie Troops were organized, transported, provided materials and leaders, and allowed to meet in the clubhouse. On their twenty-fifth anniversary the clubwomen noted that the clubhouse had always been a place for community activities and was being maintained so people would be pleased and satisfied to rent the building. (Simmons, 3, Scrapbook '50)

Originally a committee of the club, the garden department organized the first town flower show in 1951, worked to get grass and sidewalks for the school grounds, planted twenty-five trees in Falcon Park and engineered the cleaning up of vacant lots in a partnership with the town in 1952. (Simmons, 3, Scrapbook '52) The club participated in a number of "Finer Carolina Pageants", a state arts program during the 1950's, involving some 275 adults and school children in theatrical endeavors. Funds raised from the events provided a supplement for a public school music teacher and supported a Junior Glee Club in 1954-55. Finally in 1954, the garden department initiated the Fuquay-Varina Garden Club. (Simmons, 3, Scrapbook '54)

The historic goal of GFWC to establish public libraries led the newly-renamed Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club to initiate in 1954 the town's first public library. Begun in 1950 as a "little book shelf" in the school library, the club furnished sweat equity in preparing a three-room dwelling to house the library. The first librarian, Mrs. Bruce Gunter, was a club member and she was paid \$30 per month. Several club members were always on the library board. Open three days per week, the library debuted November 15, 1954 with a collection of 537 books purchased and donated largely through the efforts of the club. (Simmons, 3, Scrapbook '54) By 1957, the club entered another town partnership, the establishment of a Ceramic Center in Falcon Park for hobby and recreational opportunities. A donated mink stole was raffled to purchase the kiln while other club funds were used to provide free tennis lessons to seventh and eighth graders and to support Care and Unicef. (Simmons, 4, Scrapbook, '58)

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History, Post-1957

The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club reached a one time high of ninety-seven members in 1959-60 and currently maintains a membership of approximately forty active ladies. (Simmons, 4, Scrapbook '59) The club continued its partnership with the town through a GFWC project, the National Crusade for Light, and earned a national award in 1966-68. Twelve new street lights were added in dangerous areas and all other town street lights were increased in lumens. (Simmons, 4) Beginning in 1990 this partnership has seen the club's administration of the Fuquay-Varina Teacher Mini Grant Program rise from seven to eleven local schools. (Simmons, 7) Since 2002 the club has been involved with the administration of the Fuquay-Varina Town Technical Scholarships which are designed to reward seniors who will return to work in the area. (Simmons, 9)

Specific programs designed for community service included landscaping at the Fuquay-Varina hospital in the 1960's; organizing the Local Hospital Auxiliary (Scrapbook, '69); establishing the Sippihaw Pioneer Club for seniors which met in the clubhouse from 1971 until the 1990's; purchasing "Jaws of Life" for the Fuquay-Varina Rescue (now Wake EMS) in an alliance of support continuing from 1974; and collecting food and working monthly at the Fuquay-Varina Emergency Food Pantry which began in the 1990's. Involvement with education was evidenced by the club's organization of an annual Fuquay-Varina Arts Festival (begun in 1964) which currently involves students in thirteen area schools; the continuing annual scholarships for Sallie Southall Cotten recipients (documented annually from the 1960's); and an annual Hugh O'Brian Leadership Award for sophomores begun in the 1980's. (Simmons, 9, Scrapbook '60, '65)

Involvement with GFWC and GFWC-NC continues to be a vital part of the local club work. The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club won both the GFWC President's Special Project "Count 10 for Children" and the GFWC-NC President's Special Project "12 for North Carolina" in unprecedented back-to-back years. The 2003 reports recorded 1873 hours and 82 projects, and the 2004 reports involved 1785 hours and 87 projects ranging from international (Operation Smile) to local efforts (vaccinations and Spanish language books). (Simmons, 10) The club's latest CIP project (2006) was a cooperative effort with two sister women's clubs to found in Fuquay-Varina "Pass It On," a local shop and counseling center for Interact of Wake County, which earned a state silver award. (Minutes May 06)

North Carolina Women's Club Clubhouses

Attempting to document the ownership of women's clubhouses in 2004, GFWC conducted a national survey through their magazine "The GFWC Clubwoman." The response confirmed that 151 properties were owned by GFWC affiliated clubs in thirty states, ranging from forty-five in California to only one each in twelve of those thirty states. This request originally drew only four positive confirmations from North Carolina and prompted an effort from GFWCNC to encourage documentation. (History GFWC-NC, ____) To date, no more than fifteen houses in North Carolina are known to have been documented as owned by their membership, and a large majority of the clubs purchased existing private houses for

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use as clubhouses. Documented as built as clubhouses, the Trenton Woman's Club and the Pikesville Woman's club have subsequently been sold. The Raleigh Woman's Club and the Charlotte Woman's Club own their buildings – each housed a large membership. (NC Yearbook 29) Only the clubhouse owned by the Wallace Woman's Club in Duplin County is known to be similar in design to that of the Fuquay-Varina Club. Completed in 1938 as a WPA project, the Wallace clubhouse is the oldest building in that county which houses such an organization. Rectangular in structure, it, too, contains a large meeting room and has a roof featuring exposed rafter tails and knee braces under the eaves. (National Register nomination, Martin 119)

The Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club clubhouse stands proudly preserved largely in its original integrity. Pride of ownership motivates the club today to maintain the building, as one of "the myriad of local clubhouses that have survived to the present day....tangible reminders that the women's club movement spread to nearly every village, town, and city in the nation" and knowing that "little effort has been made to document and preserve sites and buildings that were associated with the first American women's clubs." (Miller, 90-91)

The membership recognizes the significance of the building to the overall contributions of the club and believes that "a woman's club is....a true community organization, alert to the needs of the society in which it has its being." (Wells, 460) The clubhouse stands as tangible evidence of the role assumed by these founding women. As wives of influential men, they agitated and persuaded, securing tangible support for their active vibrant organization and cementing their roots in public service.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section 10

Verbal Boundary Description: Wake County Tax parcel 0666195994

Boundary Justification: The boundary of the Fuquay-Varina Woman's Club Clubhouse encompasses the lot historically associated with the club.