



A Look Back in Time...

In 1913, each of the original 15 club members contributed approximately \$2 to create a \$35 fund to purchase city lots with the goal of building a clubhouse. A year later, Lillian Peart and Angela Hammer purchased additional lots for \$175 so the remainder of the block could be donated to the Woman's Club.

It is Lillian Weaver Peart who is remembered as the "Mother of the Woman Club" for it was at her home that the group met to organize, and it was there the club's records were kept and the books for the projected library collected.

The Peart family was prominent in Casa Grande. Their name has been etched in the minds of current and future residents by the naming of our historic downtown city park and a street. The name was first introduced when the family moved here from North Dakota in 1907.

The Woman's Club structure was a result of a need to use inexpensive local materials combined with the availability of a skilled local stonemason, Michael Sullivan. The plans were drawn for what has been characterized as a Hopi Indian style structure built predominately of dark-colored stone. Much of the rock was hauled from the Hager land near the Casa Grande Mountains. Each club member was asked to contribute a load of stone or sand or its equivalent. Papago Indian workers performed much of the stone hauling labor. The structure cost over \$7,300.

Since opening in 1924 the Woman's Club has been in constant use by the community. For 80 years, most organizations in town were launched either by the Woman's Club or in their building.

A street widening in 1960 caused the removal of the northwest corner of the building. (A section 5x8' x 8x10'). A local high school shop teacher helped restore the removed portion. It is barely noticeable today.

Dates of Interest:

1997 - the Woman's Club organization gave their deed to the City of Casa Grande for \$1.00
(With aging members and an aging building, a change needed to occur, guaranteeing this property could serve the community for future generations.)

1998 - the City of Casa Grande received a Heritage Fund grant to assist with the rehabilitation of the building.
Rehabilitation was complete in March 2001 at a cost of \$248,000.

2002 - the project received an Arizona Main Street award for Best Historic Rehabilitation.

2003 - the rehabilitation received a Governor's Honor Award.

March 2003 - the Woman's Club organization celebrated with a 90th birthday party at the club. The public was invited.

May 2006 - the Woman's Club organization disbanded.

August 2011 - Kay Benedict, archivist for the Casa Grande Historical Society, completed the project of archiving the 80 plus years of records given to them by the Woman's Club when they disbanded. A wealth of material has been recorded and recognized, preserving an organization that was one of the basic building blocks of this community.

The building is managed by the City of Casa Grande's Community Services Department. It continues to serve as a meeting place for events, groups, classes, and many other community events.



WOMAN'S CLUB

Pueblo Revival Style Built 1924 407 N. Sacaton Street
(National & Local Historic Registers)

Updated 9/6/11 by Marge Jantz, Historic Preservation Commission member

Resources: Casa Grande Valley Historical Society, Casa Grande Main Street, Arizona State Historic Property Inventory No. CG-172, Casa Grande Historic Preservation Commission