

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

## 1. Name of Property

**DRAFT**

Historic name: El Segundo Schoolhouse

Other names/site number: El Segundo Woman's Club; ESWC

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 541 Standard Street

City or town: El Segundo State: CA County: Los Angeles

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ statewide      \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A      \_\_\_ B      \_\_\_ C      \_\_\_ D

<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

SOCIAL: clubhouse

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: clubhouse

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

OTHER: Schoolhouse

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Beaux Arts/Neoclassical

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: wood

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The El Segundo Woman's Club occupies a one-story, approximately 4,000 square-foot timber framed building. The former school is located in a residential neighborhood on the southwest corner of Standard Street and East Mariposa Avenue. The property occupies four parcels totaling 0.316 acres. The four-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1912 and transported to this location in 1937, following its purchase from the El Segundo School Board. Clad in white-painted wood lap siding, it features a Neoclassical main entrance and large schoolhouse style windows. The primary entrance is on East Mariposa Avenue, with secondary entrances on the other three sides. The property retains all aspects of historic integrity.

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### Narrative Description

#### Setting

The clubhouse is located in a residential neighborhood one block east of Main Street, approximately a quarter of a mile from El Segundo's downtown area. When the building was constructed in 1912, it was located west of Main Street in an area that contained a general store and undeveloped land apart from a few houses, and the Standard Oil refinery to the south.

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With the intention of owning a clubhouse, the El Segundo Woman's Club purchased four lots in 1931 and 1936 on the corner of Standard Street and East Mariposa Avenue, in a residential neighborhood directly across from the recently completely El Segundo High School. The schoolhouse was purchased by the Woman's Club and moved to the lots on Standard Street and Mariposa Avenue February 23, 1937. The building has been used for club meetings and activities since that time. Over time, the nature of the residential neighborhood has not changed significantly, resulting in a continuous residential location.

The property is bounded on the west by an alley shared with the El Segundo United Methodist Church. The north façade faces Mariposa Avenue with the high school across the street. The south and east sides are bordered by residential properties. A lush green lawn separates the building from the Mariposa and Standard sidewalks. The primary entrance is located on the north façade facing East Mariposa Avenue. There is a secondary entrance on Standard Street. The building is also served by entrances on the west and south sides and a parking lot on the west side of the building. The building is bordered by low shrubbery and trees on all sides except for the south façade.

### **Exterior**

The one-story, 3,932 square foot, timber framed, white-colored lap sided rectangular building has a symmetrical main façade. The north main elevation is dominated by a Neoclassical entry designed by noted Los Angeles architect John C. Austin in 1940. Also designed by Austin are four shallow brick steps that lead to the entry portico. The composition of the entry portico includes double-paneled wood doors with a semi-oval fanlight window and a shallow pediment above. The doors are flanked by simple engaged columns and fixed glass panels.

On each side of the entry door are large openings composed of four symmetrical single hung windows separated by thick window trim. The windows are 3'8" wide with a solid trim. Above each single hung window is a small 3'8" x 1'10" fixed window. The steps to the entry door land on a wide brick herringbone patterned porch, also designed by Austin, and decorated with a few small blue railings.

The west façade of the building is an asymmetrical composition in a single-colored white lap siding. The north end of the west façade protrudes outward by around 3.5 feet to accommodate the large main hall. Below the half-hipped roof lies a rectangular vent with a thick trim. The secondary entrance lies asymmetrically to the more protruded section of the west side, yet it is centered in the overall west facade. The secondary entrance has a narrow porch wide enough for only the blue-colored double doors to open. There are five shallow steps between the ground and door entry. The right side of the west façade is punctuated by two large single hung windows. They are detailed with a simple white trim. Above each window is a small 3'8" x 1'10" fixed window. The rafter tails are exposed on this section of the west façade.

On the east façade, a porch added in 1948 links the large volume of the hall with the smaller scale of the boardroom wing. The half-hipped roof feature seen on the west is repeated on the east elevation. The northern end of the east elevation has two single hung windows consistent

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with those on the north elevation. It is the same style of window as seen on the south end of the west elevation. Above each window lies a small single fixed window.

The south elevation, perpendicular to the alley, is dominated by lap sided walls such as found on the rest of the building. The south elevation faces a concrete service drive that reaches the midpoint of the south elevation. At the center of this side lies the back door; there are four cement steps perpendicular to the door and a simple tube railing surrounds the cemented steps. The single door is clad on its left side with four single hung windows separated by thick mullions. As with the other elevations, each single hung window has a fixed window above it. The casing of the window connects all four windows to each other and extends out below the windowsill to meet the back door. The blue colored door has a simple frame, yet it is placed below two small rectangular fixed windows. A few feet from the right side of the door meets another identical four single hung windows. The roof of the south exterior has a two foot overhang met by visible white rafters. A small electrical box lies next to the door.

### **Interior**

On the interior, a large meeting room with a square flat ceiling and chandeliers is flanked by a large stage to the west and doors leading to the other rooms on the south wall. The entries to the boardroom and kitchen have simple solid wood doors. Double wooden doors lead into the meeting room from outside. They are placed symmetrically along the north wall and are flanked by sidelights on each side with the half oval window above. Generously tall windows, a distinctive feature of the building, bring an ample amount of daylight into the interior space.

The meeting room includes a large stage on the west wall of the building accessed by two four-step wooden stairs to the south of the raised platform. The first set of stairs are noticeable in the meeting room while the other set of stairs are in the vestibule of the west side of the building/secondary entry. The stage flooring is of continuous wood with a blue colored-wood cabinet space below. To the left of the stage, an opening from the south side of the building's vestibule leads to the closet and lounge area. To the north, the stage meets the edge of the wall and light flows in from the four single hung windows. On the south wall of the meeting room, the walls are painted flat in two different colors: white on the left side and blue on the right side and blue below the chair railing. The meeting room has a square ceiling with seven suspended chandeliers. The floor features staggered wood flooring.

The boardroom next to the meeting room and closest to the south elevation is a large open space that echoes around half the length of the main room and features four additional chandeliers consistent with those in the meeting room. It has four blue-colored wood closet doors on the north wall. The closet doors have a thick simple trim. One closet door lies by itself on the left side of the north wall with four panel slabs. The other three closet doors are connected with an eight-panel slab detailing. The boardroom connects to the main meeting room door with two doors on each end of its north wall. Windows on the south and east illuminate the boardroom.

The boardroom also features the 1948 addition of a small office room with a single four-panel interior door. The office is lit by two windows and features a small closet.

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Other spaces in the building include the long kitchen, a storage closet, and a lounge area. The kitchen has the same closet doors with eight panel detailing, as found in the boardroom. The space is also illuminated by a large 16'8" wide window and the back door is located on the south wall. A lengthy window-sized opening allows the kitchen to be visible from the boardroom. The kitchen features wooden cabinetry and shelving with white tile countertops on the east and west walls.

### **Alterations**

- 1937 Repairs to the schoolhouse to make it usable as a clubhouse
- 1940 John Austin created a new main entrance on the north side of the building and replaced the original wooden steps with brick steps and a platform
- 1948 Office was added on the east side of the building
- 1958 Parking lot was added on the west side of the building
- 1970s Toilets and the floors in the bathrooms were replaced
- 1979 iron railings were installed on the porches to replace the original railings

The initial remodeling in 1937 consisted of new partitions and general repairs, along with an auditorium in the north wing of the building. Based on newspaper clippings from the period, the general repairs included electrical work, plumbing, and plastering. In 1940, John C. Austin again donated his services in designing the removal of an inner vestibule, widening of the entry by removal of a closet, replacement of the wood steps on the north side of the building with brick steps, and the installation of a new pair of outer doors that gave the building the classical symmetry popular in Los Angeles in the 1940s. The flooring was to be "neatly patched out to match flooring in main room; plastered walls and ceilings shall be patched to tie in with existing work." (Memorandum Specifications dated May 1940).

In 1948, a porch was added to the east side of the building, which was constructed to be consistent with the existing building. Subsequent repairs have been minor, consisting of replacing elements as they have deteriorated.

### **Integrity**

The El Segundo Woman's Club building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance.

Location: The El Segundo Woman's Club building remains in its original 1937 location; therefore, the property retains integrity of location.

Design: The 1912 schoolhouse was moderately renovated in 1937 to enhance its functionality as a clubhouse. Since those minor alterations in plumbing, electrical, and plastering, the changes to the building include the John Austin-designed entry on the north elevation and the addition of a porch on the south elevation. The Neoclassical entry complements the schoolhouse design of the original building and provides a prominent entry point for the building, which enhances its façade. The 1948 porch addition is consistent with the early twentieth century schoolhouse

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design of the building. Because the porch addition is compatible with the rest of the building and the main entrance is of architectural note and relates to the period of significance, the building retains integrity of design.

Setting: The clubhouse has remained in its location since purchased and moved to the neighborhood in 1937. The city's 1927 public high school located north of the property remains, as does the 1928 El Segundo United Methodist Church to the west. The neighborhood to the east and south remains residential with many of the original Spanish style homes still in existence. Therefore, the property retains integrity of setting.

Materials: The building retains its original timber frame, white-painted wood lap siding, and schoolhouse style windows. The main entrance designed by John C. Austin retains its original materials, as do the decorative motifs on the interior such as the chair railing and chandeliers. Therefore, the clubhouse retains sufficient integrity of materials to convey its historic significance.

Workmanship: The building retains the original materials and workmanship of the period of significance. The 1940 entrance and 1948 addition remain unchanged. Only the interior changes to the bathrooms and kitchen counters are modern in their materials. Therefore, the clubhouse retains significant integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: The El Segundo Woman's Club building has the character of an early twentieth century historic building. While the homes surrounding the building on the south and east sides vary in design, many that remain feature the simple Spanish style of architecture that was popular in El Segundo in the late 1920s and 1930s. The 1927 neo-Romanesque high school across the street to the north complements the clubhouse's John Austin designed-main entrance in the prominence of its design. Therefore, the Woman's Club of El Segundo retains integrity of feeling.

Association: The building retains the significant materials and design that were part of its original construction and continued use as a clubhouse. Therefore, the Woman's Club of El Segundo retains integrity of association.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY: Women's History

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1936-1974

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1936

1940

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Austin, John C.

Ashley, Frederic M.

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The El Segundo Woman's Club building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History: Women's History. The El Segundo Woman's Club was founded in 1922 to promote civic, educational, and philanthropic interest in the community. The seventeen founding members, many of whom were wives of oil company workers who came from California, the Midwest, Colorado, and Nevada to settle the newly formed town, recognized the necessity of fostering civic engagement. The El Segundo Woman's Club remains the only organization of its kind in the City of El Segundo and continues to carry on the philanthropic and civic initiatives that have distinguished the organization since its founding. The period of significance begins in 1936 with the Club's purchase of the former El Segundo Schoolhouse for use as their clubhouse. The period of significance closes in 1973 when membership in the club dropped notably as more women began working outside the home and were unable to attend weekday luncheons and activities. A property moved prior to its period of significance does not have to meet Criteria Consideration B: Moved Properties.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The El Segundo Woman's Club's acquisition and judicious renovation of the original 1912 El Segundo schoolhouse reflects the organization's civic commitment to the community. By repurposing this historic building for their clubhouse, the Woman's Club has retained an important representation of the settling and development of Southern California. The 1940 Mariposa entrance preserves a small piece of residential architecture by John C. Austin, primarily noted for his creation of iconic civic buildings in Los Angeles. Since its renovation, the clubhouse has been used for member and community needs, including serving as a location to administer the polo vaccine in the late 1950s, as a gathering place for local merchants to sell their wares, and as a community rental space for personal and civic events. The revenue derived from clubhouse rentals has enabled the Woman's Club to fulfill one of its fundamental goals, that of donating to local, national, and international charities, as well as providing college scholarships to local high school students.

#### The Founding of El Segundo and Building of the Schoolhouse

The City of El Segundo was founded on land that originally belonged to the Tongva and later became Rancho Sausal Redondo in an 1837 Mexican land grant to Antonio Ygnacio Avila (1781-1858). Sir Robert Burnett, a Scotsman, began purchasing portions of Rancho Sausal Redondo in 1868, when the probate court ordered the sale of the Avila property after it had passed through the hands of a number of heirs. Burnett rented his estate to Catherine Grace

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Christie Freeman in 1873. In 1885, her husband Daniel Freeman acquired most of the original land grant.<sup>1</sup> Freeman sold off portions of the property, including what became El Segundo.<sup>2</sup>

In 1911, Standard Oil, which was looking for a location for a second refinery in California, hired R.J. Hanna to find land for a processing refinery and a storage facility with access to water and a harbor. Hanna identified 840 acres near sand dunes bordering the Pacific Ocean.<sup>3</sup> Standard Oil purchased the land on June 11, 1911 and completed the plant that year.<sup>4</sup> The El Segundo Land and Improvement Company acquired an additional 1,470 acres in July to develop the town of El Segundo, named by Hanna's wife Virginia to acknowledge its role as Standard Oil's second California refinery.<sup>5</sup>

The October 12, 1911 edition of the *El Segundo Herald* reported, with the headline "The Town that Must be Built," that "El Segundo is not a city of the distant future, or of doubtful speculative growth, but one that must be built, and built up quickly to provide for the army of well-paid and highly skilled workmen that will pour out daily from the \$3,000,000 refining plant of the Standard Oil Company."<sup>6</sup> "In September [1912], a four-room frame schoolhouse, built on the present site of Richmond Street School, opened its doors to the 62 youngsters then of elementary school age. The older children were bused to Inglewood High School in an open-sided truck."<sup>7</sup> As with other civic buildings erected in El Segundo's first years, the 1912 wood-framed schoolhouse was likely built by local craftsmen.

### Founding of the El Segundo Woman's Club

"Those traditional institutions that provided the social connections of a town also quickly followed, with churches, a post office, the Woman's Club and American Legion, sports teams, Camp Fire Girls, and Boy Scout troops."<sup>8</sup> These vital institutions included The Woman's Civic Improvement Club of El Segundo, organized 23 May 1922 by Mrs. Hallie Gregory, with seventeen charter members and dues of \$1.50 a year, for the "purpose of searching for knowledge and to help their neighbors. ... Their first officers were: Helen Brock, President; Effie Dix, Secretary; Stella McCarthy, Treasurer; and Florence Haines, Parliamentarian. Club discussions the first year focused on: a city park, sewage disposal, city management, hosting a reception for teachers, Soldier's Bonds, the Wright Act, a shelter to be erected by the railroad company at the train stop, and affiliation with the Federation."<sup>9</sup> Shortly after forming the club,

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Coast Architecture Database, "Rancho Sausal Redondo," [www.pcad.lib.washington.edu/building](http://www.pcad.lib.washington.edu/building) (accessed February 13, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Ellen Curry Hunter, *El Segundo Seventy-five Years: A Pictorial History of El Segundo* (El Segundo, CA: H2 Limited, 1991) 12.

<sup>3</sup> Greg Vitiello, *Chevron El Segundo Refinery: Energizing California for 100 Years* (El Segundo, CA: Chevron Corporation, 2011), 10.

<sup>4</sup> Debra Brighton, *Images of America: El Segundo* (Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 7.

<sup>5</sup> Hunter, *Seventy-five Years*, 16.

<sup>6</sup> Vitiello, *Chevron*, 18.

<sup>7</sup> Hunter, *Seventy-five Years*, 19.

<sup>8</sup> Brighton, *Images of America*, 31

<sup>9</sup> Hunter, *Seventy-five Years*, 139.

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members sent letters to every woman in El Segundo encouraging them to join.<sup>10</sup> The name was changed to the El Segundo Woman's Club on 17 October 1923. The club, which in its earliest years met at City Hall, the school auditorium, and in private homes, held its meetings at the American Legion Hall in El Segundo from 1925 until completion of the renovation of the El Segundo schoolhouse.<sup>11</sup>

The women who founded the El Segundo Woman's Club in 1922 came from towns in California, the Midwest, and the western states of Colorado and Nevada. Their husbands worked at the Standard Oil refinery as refiners, inspectors, and guards, and in the newly formed town as the City Clerk, a carpenter, and a gardener. Hallie Gregory attended school while most of the members had no formal education. They were likely homeschooled as they were literate and aware of organizational procedures such as bylaws, articles of incorporation, and governance.

Club members divided their efforts (study section; music and sweet sounds section; and philanthropy section), meeting the first and third Wednesday of the month. On 7 September 1927, the meeting schedule was changed to the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, which remains the meeting schedule. During the 1930s members pursued their interests in art, literature, music, and gardening with lecturers invited to speak on these topics at their meetings. Through the popular "Garden Exchange," members gave away seeds and plants to any interested resident of El Segundo, thereby helping in the beautification of the still nascent town.

The club was federated with the State in 1922; with the County, General, and District Woman's Clubs in 1931; and continues as part of the Marina District. In addition to the club's membership in the Marina District, three members—Lila Hummel, Ellen Friedin, and Carlota Guy—have served as district president. The mission of the General and State Federation of Women's Clubs, founded in 1890 and 1900 respectively, mirrored the interests and concerns of the women forming the El Segundo Woman's Club. Community involvement and the betterment of others locally, nationally, and internationally were at the core of the organizations, which advocated the need to "address worldwide issues and serve those in need within their communities and beyond."<sup>12</sup>

The Articles of Incorporation, adopted on 7 July 1931, stated "that said club is formed to promote educational, literary and philanthropic work among its members and to develop an interest in the civic, social and economic conditions of the community."<sup>13</sup>

### El Segundo Woman's Club: Building History

Board members began discussing the possibility of owning their own clubhouse in the late 1920s and formed a building fund in 1930. In October 1931, they brought up the idea of buying a lot at their board meeting; the following month, they voted to purchase two lots on the corner of

<sup>10</sup> Ramsey, Unpublished Synopsis, El Segundo Woman's Club archives.

<sup>11</sup> ESWC minutes, ESWC archives, passim.

<sup>12</sup> [www.cfwc.org/resources](http://www.cfwc.org/resources) (accessed August 8, 2022).

<sup>13</sup> ESWC archives.

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Mariposa Avenue and Standard Street. In February 1936, they purchased two adjoining lots for \$300, resulting in a property measuring 100 by 150 feet. In 1936, to make room for a new elementary school, the 1912 El Segundo schoolhouse was moved from the corner of Richmond Street and Palm Avenue to the grounds of the high school on Mariposa, across from the lot owned by the Woman's Club.<sup>14</sup> In its new location, the 1912 schoolhouse housed high school students while their school building was repaired following the earthquake of 1933. In 1936, with repairs to the building completed and the students returned to their classrooms, the original elementary school was put up for sale. "The President announced that the purpose of the meeting [November 18, 1936] was the discussion about securing the frame building on the High School grounds for a Club House."<sup>15</sup> The club's successful bid to purchase the building from the School Board resulted in a payment of \$63.35 and an agreement to move the schoolhouse from the high school grounds. To transport the schoolhouse to its new location, club members took out a loan from Bank of America for \$2,000, with a few of the members guaranteeing to pay the \$25 monthly loan fee.

Architect John C. Austin (1870-1963) donated his services to draw up plans for the remodeling and renovation and then donated his services, along with those of fellow architect Frederic M. Ashley, to supervise the work. Landscape architect Ralph D. Cornell and interior decoration specialist Douglas Donaldson also worked on the grounds and furnishings for the new clubhouse, in conjunction with local contractor A. J. Sullivan who also donated his services.

Born in England and relocated to Los Angeles in 1895, John C. Austin was a prominent Los Angeles architect working primarily in a Beaux Arts style.<sup>16</sup> He was the founding principal in the renowned firm of Austin, Field, and Fry established in 1946. Also a prominent civic figure, Austin was instrumental in the creation of iconic Los Angeles buildings such as Los Angeles City Hall, the Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles Times, and the Shrine Auditorium.<sup>17</sup>

In a letter to Mrs. James E. Hunt dated 29 December 1936, Austin estimated that of the \$2,000 loan taken out by the Woman's Club, \$450 would be needed to move the building from the grounds of the high school, \$400 to lay a foundation on the lots owned by the club, \$400 for plumbing and a sewer line, and the balance for new partitions, including an auditorium in the small wing, and general repairs.<sup>18</sup>

Newspaper clippings indicate that the women hoped that a large group of men and boys would help pour the foundation and do the electrical work, plastering, and plumbing. It was noted that there were 135 days of free man labor, twenty days of free boy labor, thirty days of labor from men whose wives did not belong to the club, and about fifty days of woman labor in painting the kitchen and cleaning up the clubhouse. As a result of the contributions of volunteer labor,

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<sup>14</sup> Hunter, *Seventy-five Years*, 60

<sup>15</sup> ESWC minutes, ESWC archives.

<sup>16</sup> David Gebhard and Robert Winter, *An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles*, rev. ed. (Layton, UT: Gibbs Smith, 2003) 17.

<sup>17</sup> [www.laconservancy.org/architects/john-c-austin](http://www.laconservancy.org/architects/john-c-austin) (accessed May 9, 2022).

<sup>18</sup> Austin to Hunt, 1936, ESWC archives.

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members held their first meeting in the new clubhouse 27 May 1937, just six months after purchasing the schoolhouse.<sup>19</sup> The last meeting of the year, it featured the installation of new officers, a “contributed” dish dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m., and a home movie showing the step-by-step renovation of the clubhouse.

The club held a variety of fundraisers to raise money to pay off the loan, including an early event attended by 350 people that added \$35 toward retirement of the \$2,000 mortgage. After that fundraiser, club members held town fairs in what became Library Park, fiestas in the clubhouse, rummage sales, card parties, bake sales, square dances, cookbook sales, and clubhouse rentals to pay off the debt and furnish the building. Through these varied efforts, club members succeeded in paying off the mortgage in 1943.<sup>20</sup>

### Civic Engagement: 1922-1979

Immediately upon forming the club, members became involved in advocating for social improvements from dealing with the offensive odors from the Hyperion Reclamation Plant to asking the school to open the Plunge swimming facility in the summer to allow people to bathe. On the issue of the Hyperion Plant, club members enlisted support from the El Segundo City Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and from organizations in neighboring cities. Concerned that El Segundo did not appear on the map of Los Angeles, members wrote letters to the Los Angeles Community Development Association, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *El Segundo Herald*. That issue was quickly rectified, unlike the Hyperion situation that continued to occupy club members for many years. Board members attended City Board of Trustee meetings, reporting back to the general membership, and requested several meetings with the City Manager to discuss his role.

In the 1920s, club members were instrumental in supporting the community’s campaign for a high school for El Segundo. Prior to this time, high school students attended Inglewood High School. El Segundo High School, designed by architects Alfred W. Rea and Charles E. Garstang in a neo-Romanesque style, opened on 13 December 1927.<sup>21</sup> Members worked to improve children’s welfare, consistent with advocacy issues of the larger Women’s Federation, and, upon establishing a Child Welfare committee, they invited the County nurse for public schools to address one of their meetings. Members supported the formation of Children’s Hospital and continued to assist the organization through charitable donations. In recognition of their community service, the Chamber of Commerce invited the Woman’s Club to become an honorary member in 1924.

Garden Club members were part of the City’s planning of Recreation Park in 1935 and joined with other civic leaders in selecting the fuchsia as El Segundo’s official flower. Members played a significant role in preserving the history of El Segundo.

<sup>19</sup> The El Segundo Herald, May 27, 1937; (also see Fig. 9. Crete Cage, *The Los Angeles Times*, June 27, 1937).

<sup>20</sup> ESWC minutes, ESWC archives.

<sup>21</sup> Sam Gnerre, *South Bay Daily Breeze*, 16 November 2011.

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Members of the El Segundo Woman's Club had begun gathering historical memorabilia in late 1957. Items for the collection were first stored in members' garages. When garages start to fill, the School District donated a small room in the high school administration building for the Woman's Club to display the historical items collected from residents. When the collection outgrew this space, a basement room in City Hall was made available in 1958, and the collection was organized for public viewing by a historical committee.<sup>22</sup>

This material resides in the El Segundo Library History Room and is managed by volunteer members of the History Committee.

The clubhouse was used as a polio vaccination site in the late 1950s. In 1967, the club supported El Segundo City's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with a booth selling baked goods. In 1969, the clubhouse was the location of a community presentation by the Director of the National Kidney Foundation, discussing how to help people in need of a dialysis machine.<sup>23</sup>

#### El Segundo Woman's Club: Educational and Social Programs

With the goal of "searching for knowledge," the Club offered lectures for members in the 1920s on topics such as American citizenship, the conservation of parks and natural scenery, California history and landmarks, public health and nutrition, and disabled war veterans. In 1929, attorney Mab Copeland Lineman spoke about law and logic and the new Drama Section held a pageant "bringing travelers from many lands. Each was appareled in the costume of her country and did tell us the story of her native land."<sup>24</sup>

In the 1920s, a representative from the American Legion spoke about California legislation and a speaker from Southern California Edison lectured on "Power Past and Present." Speakers were also invited to present on opposing sides of the Water Works Bond issue.

During the 1930s, members pursued their interests in art, literature, music, and gardening. New sections were formed in the 1930s focusing on welfare, American citizenship, and legislation. In 1930, the "ruler of the schools spoke on the World Court [Permanent Court of International Justice, later International Court of Justice], convincing members that it was a good thing," and the principal of Belmont High School read poetry by African Americans.

Members started a Business and Professional Woman's Club in 1932 to accommodate working women who were unable to attend daytime meetings and formed a Junior Woman's Club in 1935, with many of the members' daughters joining this branch. Junior members conducted their own programs, fundraising, and community service, often bringing their initiatives and a new perspective to the Woman's Club.

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<sup>22</sup> Hunter, *Seventy-five Years*, 109.

<sup>23</sup> ESWC newspaper archives.

<sup>24</sup> ESWC minutes, ESWC archives.

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In 1935, the club's executive board voted to use the student loan fund for emergency loans "with small amounts to students of El Segundo seeking higher education."<sup>25</sup> They established a committee to select the students and handle the disbursement of funds, not to exceed \$50 per student. The students were required to sign a contract detailing repayment and the idea of interest was left to the discretion of the committee.<sup>26</sup> In subsequent years, the idea of repayment was dissolved, and the funds were designated as scholarship grants.

In the 1950s, a clinic held at the clubhouse provided advice to new mothers on raising healthy children. Other programming included an evening division, an annual Easter event for members' children and grandchildren, a tour of the Standard Oil refinery, and a Food Fair. Lectures included a speaker on the dangers of narcotics and a presentation featuring slides taken by Mrs. Urho Saari at the 1952 Olympics when the El Segundo water polo team was the U.S. Representative. Her husband, Olympian Urho Saari, "a member of the water polo and swimming hall of fames [sic], coached El Segundo to 18 CIF championships—12 in water polo and 6 in swimming—during his 36-year career that began in 1942."<sup>27</sup>

Women's health was a topic in the 1960s, there was a talk by a former espionage agent on the suitability of women for this type of work, and in 1976, members joined with the Junior group to support the City's participation in the United States Bicentennial celebration by painting the town fire hydrants red, white, and blue.

#### El Segundo Woman's Club: Military Support

In the 1940s, Woman's Club members supported the war effort by "working in the Red Cross canteen, sponsoring dances for soldiers, wrapping bandages, hosting blood banks in the Clubhouse, donating blood, knitting, and raising money for war bonds and the Red Cross."<sup>28</sup> The Garden Club's popular Garden Exchange, with members giving away seeds and plants to El Segundo citizens in the 1930s, was expanded during World War II to aid residents who planted their own Victory Gardens.

In the 1960s, members collected paperbacks to "send to servicemen and women in Viet Nam [sic], as well as two thousand ditty bags and over fifty boxes containing a Bible, comb, gum, pen, calendar, writing pad, bar of soap, can opener, pocket tissues, towelettes, playing cards, razor blades, a Christmas card, Kool-Aid, and chap sticks, with much of the contents donated by local merchants."<sup>29</sup> In the same year, on the national level, members made lap robes for Vietnam war amputees.

#### El Segundo Woman's Club: Philanthropic Efforts

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<sup>25</sup> ESWC minutes, ESWC archives.

<sup>26</sup> ESWC minutes, ESWC archives.

<sup>27</sup> Rob Fernas, *The Los Angeles Times*, 10 January 1991.

<sup>28</sup> Ramsey, Unpublished Synopsis, ESWC archives.

<sup>29</sup> Ramsey, Unpublished Synopsis, ESWC archives.

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During the late 1920s, members donated to victims of the Santa Barbara earthquake, formed the Drama Section to perform and raise money, and held an annual bazaar to help local merchants and businesses by displaying their merchandise for sale.

In the 1940s and 50s members participated in state and national initiatives such as the Penny Art Fund, Pennies for Pines, and the Foundation Fund. Members raised money for philanthropy through pancake breakfasts, bake sales, luncheons, and fashion shows, and initiated a Ways and Means project in the 1960s to raise money for college scholarships.

Philanthropic efforts in the 50s, 60s, and 70s included funding for the Children's Development Center for playground equipment, and donations to Rancho Los Angeles, Junior Blind, the Handicapped Center Clinic, Multiple Sclerosis Society, March of Dimes, the Salk Institute, cancer and arthritis research, Veteran's Affairs, the Red Cross, the mobile food bank, Christmas baskets of food, and food and clothing for Native Americans.

#### Post-Period of Significance

In the 1980s, philanthropies included Children's Hospital, the Family Crisis Center, Canine Companions, Visiting Nurses Association, Hospice Indigent Fund, the International Guiding Eyes, Friends of the El Segundo Library, South Bay Children's Health Center, ALS Society, Veteran's Administration, Special Olympics, and funding the purchase of playground equipment for the YMCA jointly with the Junior Woman's Club, as well as a one hundred dollar donation to a fund for victims of the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. In 1997, a bench was installed at the El Segundo Old Town Theatre to acknowledge the Club's seventy-five years of community service. Philanthropic donations in the 1990s expanded to include Ronald McDonald House, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, South Bay Free Clinic, Arthritis Foundation, Airport Marina Counseling, Sierra Service Project, 1736 Family Crisis Center, Salvation Army, Love is Feeding Everyone, and participation in the Fourth of July El Segundo Recreation Park celebration. Club members also created *cascarones* (confetti-filled eggshells) for sale as a club fundraiser to people attending that celebration.

On 10 April 2013, in recognition of the club's ninety years of civic and social support for the citizens of El Segundo, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of El Segundo, California, issued a commendation for the El Segundo Woman's Club to mark their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a valued community institution.

The El Segundo Woman's Club has thirty-five members and continues the Club's longstanding tradition of supporting education through scholarships for El Segundo High School and Arena High School graduating seniors, along with donations to the El Segundo High School Choirs, the El Segundo Education Foundation, Penny Pines, Doors of Hope, the Downtown Women's Shelter, UNICEF USA, CDC Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Los Angeles Mission, American Red Cross, City of Hope, Braille Institute, Department of Veterans Affairs, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, C.A.S.E. Families, Girls Who Code, and more; the military through member volunteer hours for the Bob Hope LAX USO and MEPS USO, Coupons for the

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Military, Team Rubicon, quilts for wounded warriors, and filling boxes for Operation Gratitude; and the community through donations and volunteer hours for El Segundo Chamber of Commerce events, Mychal's Learning Place, the SPCA, El Segundo C.A.S.E., and El Segundo Parks and Recreation. During the 2020 pandemic the Club led a city-wide effort to make masks for Torrance Memorial Hospital, Little Company of Mary Hospital, first responders, postal workers, local restaurants, and Children's Hospital.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository: El Segundo Woman's Club

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** less than one acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.919182 Longitude: -118.416466

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

Lots Thirty-Three (33), Thirty-Four (34), Thirty-Five (35), and Thirty-Six (36), in Block Seventy-Four (74) of EL SEGUNDO, Sheet No.3, as per map recorded in Book 20 Pages 22 and 23 of Maps, in the office of the County Recorder of said County (Los Angeles).

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundary description as recorded in Deeds of Trust for the mortgages on the Woman's Club property on which the Clubhouse is located.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Jane Burrell; Jean Russo, Ph.D.; Frank Glynn, AIA; Javier Medina; and Samantha Quevedo

organization: \_\_\_\_\_

street & number: 300 West Maple Avenue

city or town: El Segundo state: CA zip code: 90245

e-mail: [janeburrell1972@gmail.com](mailto:janeburrell1972@gmail.com)

telephone: (323) 898-9420

date: May 2022; Revised June 2022; Revised November 2022, December 2022

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: El Segundo Woman's Club  
City or Vicinity: El Segundo  
County: Los Angeles  
State: California  
Photographer: Jane Burrell  
Date Photographed: April 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

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- 1 of 22 Perspective view of clubhouse front, from right, looking south
- 2 of 22 Clubhouse entrance, 1940 Austin renovation, looking south
- 3 of 22 Perspective view looking west
- 4 of 22 Perspective view from left with 1948 porch addition, looking west and north
- 5 of 22 Perspective view from left, looking east and south
- 6 of 22 Perspective view with 1958 parking lot addition, looking east
- 7 of 22 Meeting Room, looking northwest toward entrance and stage
- 8 of 22 Meeting Room, entrance door, 1940 Austin renovation, looking north
- 9 of 22 Meeting Room, entrance door, looking north outside
- 10 of 22 Meeting Room, looking east and north
- 11 of 22 Meeting Room, looking south and west toward stage
- 12 of 22 Meeting Room, looking west toward stage
- 13 of 22 Meeting Room, stage, looking west and south
- 14 of 22 Meeting Room, stage, looking west
- 15 of 22 Kitchen, looking south
- 16 of 22 Kitchen, door, looking out and south
- 17 of 22 Hallway, looking north to stage
- 18 of 22 Hallway, side door, looking west
- 19 of 22 Lounge, looking east and south
- 20 of 22 Side door, 1948 addition, looking east
- 21 of 22 Boardroom, looking north and west
- 22 of 22 Boardroom, looking west (original chalkboard on left)

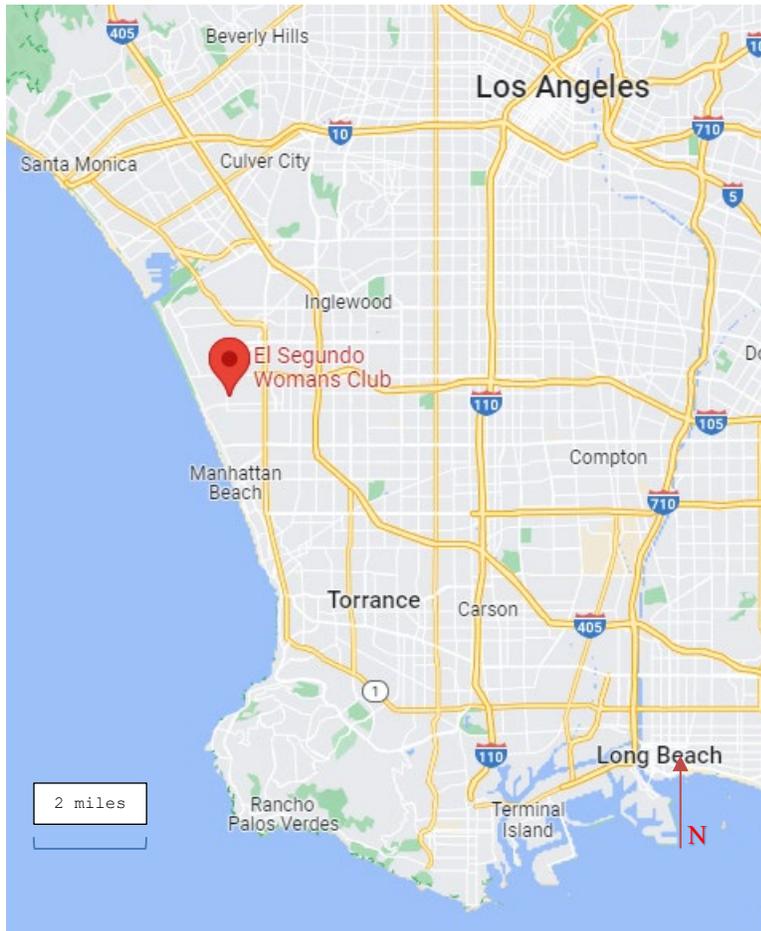
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## Location Map

Latitude: 33.919182

Longitude: -118.416466



**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

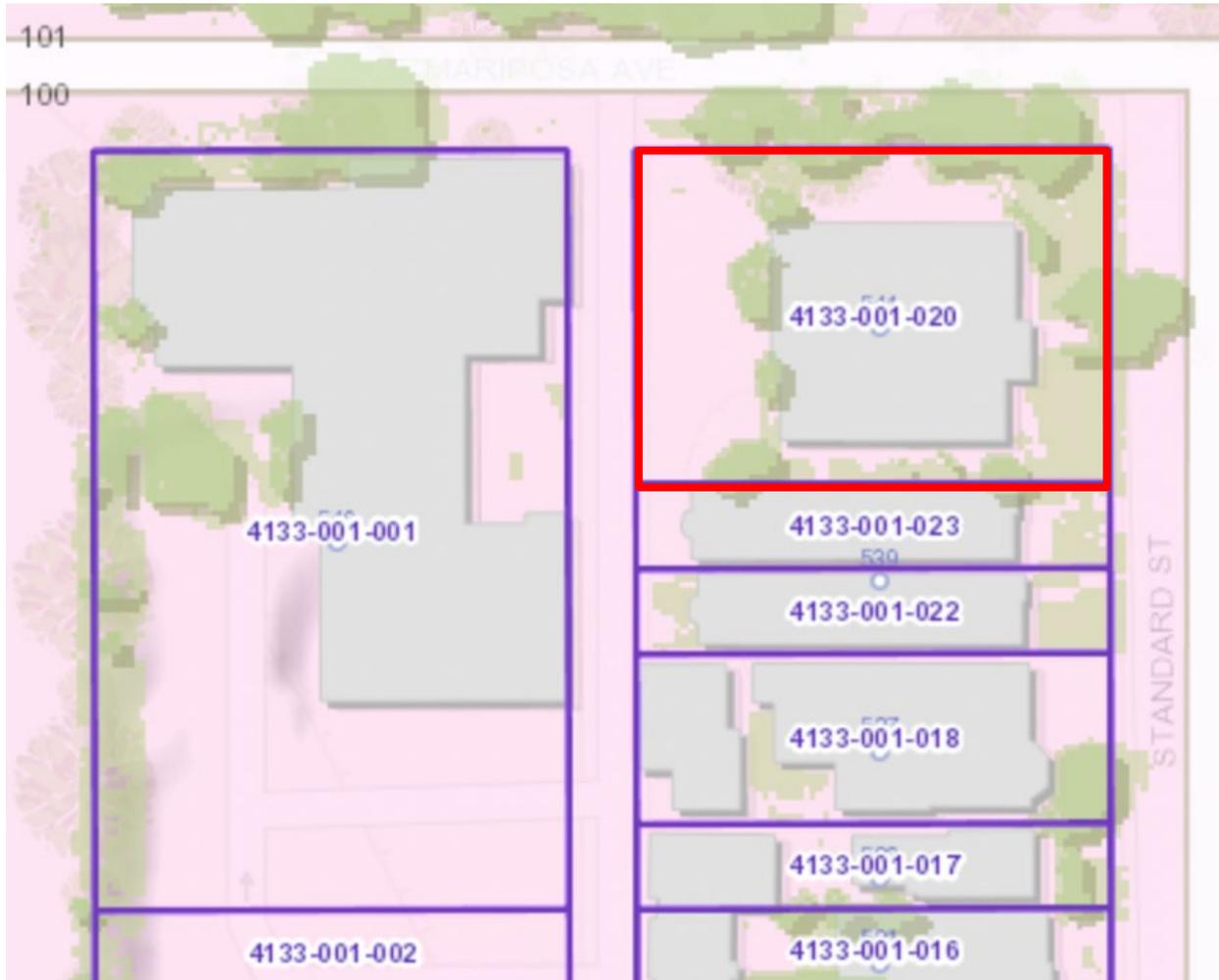
The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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### Boundary Map

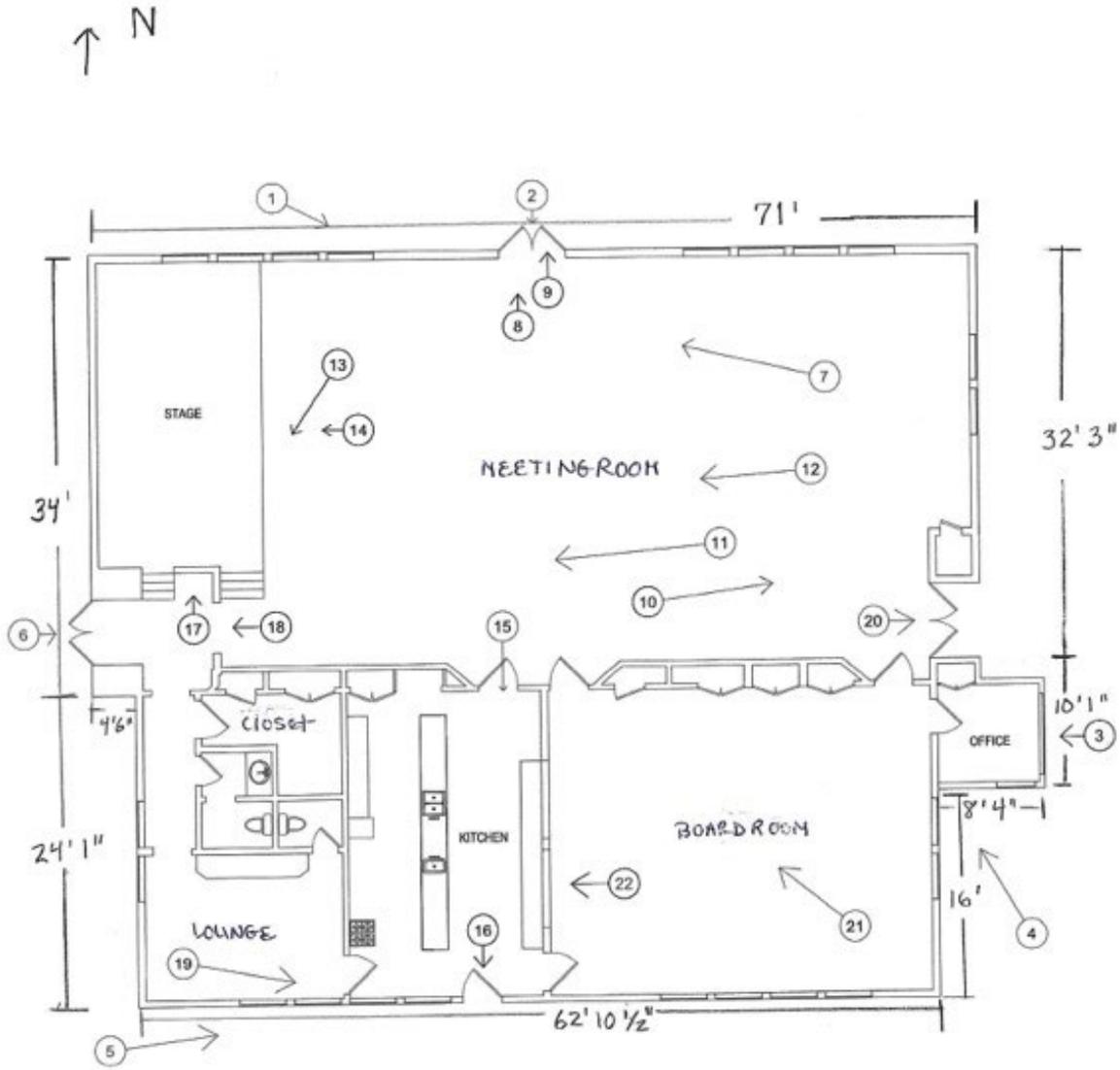
El Segundo Woman's Club Clubhouse at Mariposa Avenue and Standard Street.  
2022 El Segundo City Maps. Source: City of El Segundo website.



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**Sketch Map/Photo Key**



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**Figure 1** Schoolchildren on east side of schoolhouse, circa 1912, photographer unknown; ESWC archives



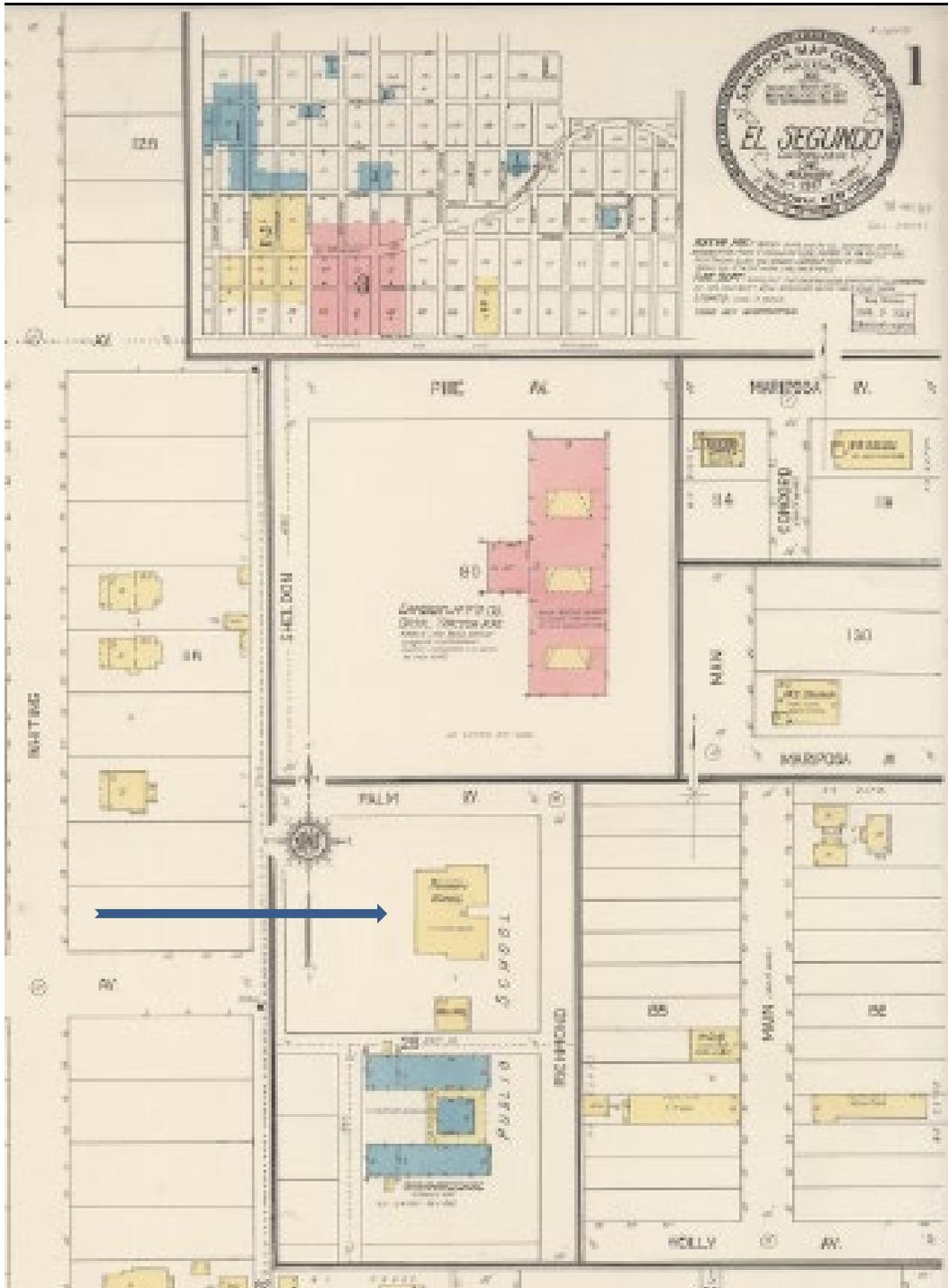
**Figure 2** Students in classroom that became clubhouse boardroom, circa 1912, photographer unknown; ESWC archives



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**Figure 3** 1917 Sanborn map, original schoolhouse location; Library of Congress



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**Figure 4** Schoolhouse at right, circa 1920s, photographer unknown; El Segundo Public Library Photo Archive



**Figure 5** North side of schoolhouse before Woman's Club purchase in 1936, photographer unknown; El Segundo Public Library Photo Archive



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**Figure 6** East side of schoolhouse on the grounds of El Segundo High School, circa 1936, photographer unknown; ESWC archives



**Figure 7** East and south sides of schoolhouse on the grounds of El Segundo High School, circa 1936, photographer unknown; El Segundo Public Library Photo Archive



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**Figure 8** Club members helping to renovate the clubhouse in 1937, photographer unknown, *The Los Angeles Times*; El Segundo Public Library Photo Archive



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**Photo 1** Perspective view of clubhouse front from right, looking south



**Photo 2** Clubhouse entrance, 1940 Austin renovation, looking south



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**Photo 3** Perspective view, looking west



**Photo 4** Perspective view from left with 1948 porch addition, looking west and north



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**Photo 5** Perspective view from left, looking east and south



**Photo 6** Perspective view with 1958 parking lot addition, looking east



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**Photo 7** Meeting Room, looking northwest toward entrance and stage



**Photo 8** Meeting Room, entrance door, 1940 Austin renovation, looking north



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**Photo 9** Meeting Room, entrance door, looking north outside



**Photo 10** Meeting Room, looking east and north



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**Photo 11** Meeting Room, looking south and west toward stage



**Photo 12** Meeting Room, looking west toward stage



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**Photo 13** Meeting Room, stage, looking west and south



**Photo 14** Meeting Room, stage, looking west



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**Photo 15** Kitchen, looking south



**Photo 16** Kitchen, door, looking out and south



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**Photo 17** Hallway, looking north to stage



**Photo 18** Hallway, side door, looking west



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**Photo 19** Lounge, looking east and south



**Photo 20** Side door, 1948 renovation, looking east



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**Photo 21** Boardroom, looking north and west



**Photo 22** Boardroom, looking west (original chalkboard on left)

