

HISTORY COLORADO

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I

Name of Property

Historic Name Cedar Mesa Community Club

Other Names Cedar Mesa Club, Cedar Mesa Women's Club

Address of Property

[] address not for publication

Street Address 15637 Peach Road

City Cedaredge

County Delta

Zip 81413

Present Owner of Property

(for multiple ownership, list the names and addresses of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)

Name Cedar Mesa Community Club, Inc.

Address P.O. Box 433

Phone 410-736-8781

City Cedaredge

State Colorado

Zip 81413

Owner Consent for Nomination

(attach signed consent from each owner of property - see attached form)

Preparer of Nomination

Name Kathleen B. Bradbury

Date January 15, 2016

Organization Cedar Mesa Community Club

Address 24623 Sorrento Lane

Phone _____

City Cedaredge

State Colorado

Zip 81413

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

Site Number 5DT.2020

1/26/2016 Nomination Received

5/20/2016 Review Board Recommendation

Approval Denial

6/15/2016 HC Board State Register Listing

Approved Denied

Listing Criteria A B C D E

Certification of Listing: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, HISTORY COLORADO

Date _____

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SECTION II

Local Historic Designation

Has the property received local historic designation?

no

yes --- individually designated designated as part of a historic district

Date designated _____

Designated by _____ (Name of municipality or county)

Use of Property

Historic Social/clubhouse

Current Social/clubhouse

Original Owner Cedar Mesa Community Club, Inc.

Source of Information Warranty Deed, August 18, 1949

Year of Construction 1949

Source of Information Cedar Mesa Club Minutes August 18, 1949; Clubhouse dedication 1950

Quist, R., *Delta County Independent*, March 30, 2011

Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer Members of the Cedar Mesa Club and their Families

Source of Information Cedar Mesa Club Minutes, June 22, June 25, 1949

Locational Status

Original location of structure(s)

Structure(s) moved to current location

Date of move _____

SECTION III

Description and Alterations

(describe the current and original appearance of the property and any alterations on one or more continuation sheets)

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SECTION IV

Significance of Property

Nomination Criteria

- A** - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history
- B** - property is connected with persons significant in history
- C** - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan
- D** - property is of geographic importance
- E** - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history

Areas of Significance

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –
prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeology –
historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/
Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/
Settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Geography/
Community Identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/
Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community
Planning and
Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social History |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

Significance Statement

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

Continuation Sheets attached

Bibliography

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

Continuation Sheets attached

SECTION V

Locational Information

Lot(s) 1.5 acres Block 2550 Addition CED ECAR3 COMMERCIAL (bldg.)

USGS Topographic Quad Map Cedaredge, Colorado 2013

Verbal Boundary Description of Nominated Property

(describe the boundaries of the nominated property on a continuation sheet)

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SECTION VI

Photograph Log for Black and White Photographs

(prepare a photograph log on one or more continuation sheets)

SECTION VII

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

Owner Consent Form

Black and White Photographs

Color Prints or Digital Images

Sketch Map(s)

Photocopy of USGS Map Section

Optional Materials

Use of Nomination Materials

Upon submission to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, all nomination forms and supporting materials become public records pursuant to CRS Title 24, and may be accessed, copied, and used for personal or commercial purposes in accordance with state law unless otherwise specifically exempted. History Colorado may reproduce, publish, display, perform, prepare derivative works or otherwise use the nomination materials for History Colorado and/or State Register purposes.

For Office Use Only

Property Type: building(s) district site structure object area

Architectural Style/Engineering Type: No style

Period of Significance: 1949-1986

Level of Significance: Local State National

Multiple Property Submission: n/a

Acreage 1.5

P.M. 6th Township 13S Range 94W Section 34 Quarter Sections SE SE SE NW

UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 249495 Northing 4307411 NAD83

Site Elevation: 6,400 feet

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DESCRIPTION and ALTERATIONS

Located at 15637 Peach Road on Cedar Mesa near the town of Cedaredge, the 1949 Cedar Mesa Community Club (also known as Cedar Mesa Club) clubhouse is a gathering place for the women's club organized in 1908. The building is located in an agricultural and ranching community where residents grow alfalfa, fruit, grapes, and hops, and raise alpacas, sheep, goats, cattle, and horses. The clubhouse sits on the northern half of a trapezoidal parcel along the west side of Peach Road (see Figure 2). To the north of the building is a small grassy area. The western edge of the property is bounded by Lone Pine Ditch (5DT.1036.1), an irrigation ditch built in 1905 along which tall cottonwood and elm trees grow, and beyond which are the McPherson orchards.¹ The south end of the property is a large open area that is currently used as a parking lot for club functions and which has also served as an informal ball field. To the southwest of the clubhouse is a two-seat privy and woodshed, also built in 1949.

Clubhouse, contributing building, built 1949 (Photo 1, 6-9; Figure 3)

The clubhouse is a boxy, compact single-story building, 25' x 36', with a concrete perimeter foundation and gabled roof with open and slightly overhanging eaves. The roof is sheathed with modern standing seam metal; the gable ends have vertical wood boards. The walls are of concrete block covered with stucco.

The main entrance, on the shorter, east end of the clubhouse, faces Peach Road. This east-facing side features a central entry with screen door and a concrete slab stoop accessed by a short, gently sloped concrete ramp leading down to grade to the south. The entry door is flanked on either side by original double-hung wood windows with two-over-two horizontal lights. Above the entry is a stenciled wood sign that reads "CEDAR MESA / CLUB." Within the gable wall is a louvered vent and overhanging light fixture. To the left of the entry on the wall is a mounted electrical meter and conduit.

The south-facing side features a second entrance at the west end, which opens onto a small raised porch with shed roof. The porch is simply constructed of square wood posts and wood post balustrade with wood board railings. Two steps lead down to grade. The shed roof is covered with the same modern metal roofing as the main gabled roof. The entrance features a wood screen door. To the east of the porch is a concrete chimney with metal pipe stack that rises above the main roof ridgeline. Beyond this chimney to the east are two sets of double wood casement windows, each with six lights.

The west-facing side has another set of these six-light double casement windows at the south end and a mounted evaporative cooler at the north end in an original window opening. The north-facing side of the building features three sets of the same six-light double casement windows regularly spaced along the wall.

¹ Lone Pine Ditch is not within the boundary of the nominated property. No water rights are associated with this nomination.

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Interior (photos 11-13)

The clubhouse interior is not partitioned, but remains as it was constructed as a single-room meeting house with a kitchen area. The interior has plaster walls and hardwood floors and is heated by a cast iron wood pellet stove near the south entrance that is serviced by the concrete chimney. The kitchen area is along the west wall. Although water is supplied to the building, there is no septic system.

Privy/Woodshed – contributing building, built 1949 (Photo 1, 10)

The nearby privy and woodshed building measures approximately 4' x 10' and is constructed of unfinished building materials leftover from the construction of the clubhouse. The shed roof is covered with corrugated metal. The walls are sheathed with horizontal boards. At the east-facing side, two doors access the partitioned interior; the southern-most partition is no longer in use. The northern door is aluminum frame with plywood panels, whereas the second door is made of vertical boards. Adjacent to the second door is a four-panel wood door that has been reused as part of the privy wall. At the south end is the area historically used for storing wood, which is accessed by a wood board door with a simple latch at the east corner of the south side.

Alterations

Although the clubhouse and privy were built in 1949, it was not until 1951 that the club had raised enough funds to finish the floors and wall. In 1958, a new hardwood floor was laid and repairs to the foundation were made. An electric cook stove was added to the kitchen area in 1960. The original Army Surplus wood-burning stove was replaced in 2006 with the current wood pellet stove. In 1962, a water pipeline to the building was laid, and in 1964, the original metal roof was replaced with the current roof. In the 1970s, the concrete perimeter footer was installed at the foundation. The south porch was built in 1985, and in 2008, the small access ramp to the east entrance was installed, along with the evaporative cooler at one of the east windows. The south porch metal roof was replaced with the current metal roof in 2013. The clubhouse remains essentially as it was built in 1949, with very few changes to the exterior save for replacement of the roof and construction of the south porch. The privy remains in use today, although one of the pits was filled in 2008.

Integrity

Overall, the clubhouse retains a high level of integrity. Aspects of integrity for location and setting are high in that it remains in its original location and is surrounded by orchards and other agricultural land as it was when first constructed. Feeling and association also remain high in that the building has continuously served as a clubhouse and other related social activities. Design, materials, and workmanship are high as well, with very little on the exterior of the building having changed from the time of construction, save for the roof replacement and construction of the south porch, both within the period of significance, and the installation of a small access ramp and an evaporative cooler. The character-defining features of the clubhouse and privy remain intact.

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SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Cedar Mesa Community Club property is locally significant under Criterion A for Social History for its association with the Cedar Mesa Community Club and local social activities. The building was constructed in 1949 to be used as a meeting house for the Cedar Mesa Community Club, a women's club that formed in 1908 to serve the women of this relatively isolated agricultural community. The club first held meetings in the homes of its members but eventually raised money to build a clubhouse as their membership grew. Club members have used the clubhouse continuously since it was built for annual social, educational, charitable, fundraising, and community events.

The property is further locally significant under Criterion E for non-aboriginal Historic Archaeology for the potential to yield information from the privy pits, which provide a high likelihood of obscured and buried artifacts. The information yielded may include such details as the diet of the individuals who attended club events, including members and other community members; and how those diets may have changed over time from the era immediately following World War II through the Cold War. It may also provide information on the life-ways/material culture of rural club members as well as the greater community.

The period of significance is from 1949-1986, from the date of the clubhouse and privy's construction to a date thirty years in the past.

Historic Context and Development

National Women's Club Movement

During the Progressive Era of the early twentieth century, women nationwide formed clubs to support common interests in the communities in which they lived. In her publication, *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America* (1898), Mrs. J.C. Croly describes how the beginning of the organized club movement can be traced back to an event, before March 1868, when the Press Club of New York offered tickets to attend a dinner with Charles Dickens after he had finished his reading tour in the United States. The privilege was offered to men, but not extended to the women who applied for tickets. Mrs. Croly and several others conceived of a club that would "represent the active interests of women," and "create a bond of fellowship between them" (Croly, p. 15). Five women met at Mrs. Croly's home on the first Monday in March 1868 and wrote a constitution for their group. Twelve women became charter members. They wanted clubs for women who would not be part of a system regarded as exclusive. The women who came together supported values of self-knowledge and self-worth of each woman and tried "to make all work honorable by doing the share that falls to her." They met twice a month for "social, literary and business purposes" (Croly, p. 16).

The charter organization wrote a constitution, rules of order, designated officers, and called themselves *Sorosis*. They did not perceive their primary purpose to be a charitable organization, but rather became involved in many activities planned by different committees, representing member interests: committees on education, house and home, sanitation, literature, science, drama, and current events, including "benevolent work." The concept of a "woman's club" that brought all kinds of women together "to work out their own objects in their own way" was a novel idea (Croly, p.18).

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Women's clubs began to be formed in other cities and states and on October 15, 1873, the first women's congress met in Union Square in New York City. Four hundred women met for three days, and the organization was known as the Association for the Advancement for Women. The officers of the organization represented eighteen states, and thirty-five authors presented papers; the first paper, presented by Julia Ward Howe, a prominent social activist in the abolition and suffrage movements, was "How Can Women Best Associate Their Efforts for the Amelioration of Society?" (Croly, p.29). Committees on higher education, house and home, and sanitation were formed, in addition to committees on literature, art, and drama.

Early Women's Clubs in Colorado

A National Convention was held in 1889, and the representatives of different clubs called for the formation of state federations of women's clubs. The women's club movement had become a national movement. On April 5, 1895, the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs was formed in Denver, and thirty-seven clubs sent delegates to the state convention. The members resolved to follow parliamentary rules and do practical work, as a part of their programs (Bain, 1956, p. 260). By 1896, there were fifty-eight women's clubs in Colorado, in cities, small towns, and rural areas; ninety-five percent of the members were married. In 1897, there were ninety clubs in the Colorado State Federation of Women's Clubs that included delegates from Boulder, Pueblo, Denver, Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, Greeley, Longmont, Creede, Victor, Cañon City, Grand Mesa, Montrose, and Ouray (Bain, 1956). In the towns and rural areas of western Colorado, women were often isolated by weather and road conditions. For example, the Women's Club of Ouray was organized in 1884, at which time the women in Ouray noted that without a railroad in the town "the isolation through the winter was very depressing" (Bain, p.292).

By 1908, as the club movement grew across the United States, some female residents of Cedar Mesa had begun meeting in each other's homes "for mutual benefit" (Quist, 2011). That same year, Sarah Sophia Platt-Decker, from Colorado, became president of the national organization, now known as the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). In May 1908, "Decker was invited by President Theodore Roosevelt to attend the Governors' Conference on Conservation of Natural Resources, which brought a great deal of public recognition to GFWC" (GFWC/International Presidents Photograph Collection/ MWeb Online Catalog).

The same year that Platt-Decker met with President Roosevelt, the Cedar Mesa Community Club was officially formed. Mrs. Frank Coryell was the first president, and charter members included Mabel Hood and Emma Pember. By 1917, Maybel Lowell, Viva Loucks, and Charlotte Nicols had also joined (Barr, 2008). The members got together once a month and rarely missed a meeting, although for some it meant driving several miles across the mesa with a horse and buggy (Barr, 2008).

Women's Club Movement in Western Colorado

The importance of community contacts for women in the rural communities of northwest Colorado is discussed in Julie Jones-Eddy's book, *Homesteading Women, An Oral History of Colorado, 1890-1950* (Jones-Eddy, 1992). The author interviewed women who had moved to small communities in counties of northwest Colorado, specifically Moffat and Rio Blanco. She asked them about their living

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conditions, support systems, social lives, and the challenges of living in isolated areas (Jones-Eddy, Preface).

Jones-Eddy wrote down the oral histories of different women living in scattered homesteads. She discussed the challenges they faced, their living conditions, and how residents coped with the isolation of rural life. "Many ranches had no electricity, and roads were sometimes impassable in winter" (Jones-Eddy, xi). Some women, such as Chloe Bunker Vaughn, hosted a woman's club in Craig and the members met in her home. Because Vaughn had been in a home demonstration club in Brown's Park, she suggested to some women whom she knew that they meet on Sundays. Because the roads were "terrible," their husbands brought them. The women met and the husbands worked during the meetings. These women's clubs became involved in community projects, such as putting up headstones or cleaning the cemetery, and social activities, such as skating and sledding in the winter and having big dinners (Jones-Eddy, p. 152).

Another characteristic of the women's clubs of northwest Colorado during the 1900s, was that family members became club members: mothers, daughters, and siblings. Ruby Rector Kirby joined a women's club in Rangely in which her sister was the first president, Kirby the second president, and her mother the third president (Jones-Eddy, 1992 p.147). Jennie Brown Spence was a women's club member in Meeker for "a long, long, time." When interviewed in 1984, Jennie Brown Spence also commented, "our membership has fallen off. The younger girls, they've got their families and their activities, and they're just not too interested in it (Jones-Eddy, p. 149)."

Cedar Mesa Community Club History

Surface Creek flows across Cedar Mesa, which is located on the southern slopes of Grand Mesa, eventually reaching the Gunnison River. The early settlers came to the Surface Creek area after the Utes were forced to leave in 1881. One of the first houses built was in the early 1890s (Austin, 1988, p.5). The rural environment of the women who lived on Cedar Mesa was similar to that of the women from the rural areas of Rangely, Meeker, and Craig farther north. The road grade up to Cedar Mesa from the town of Cedaredge was laid out in about 1906 by early settlers Robert James and W.W. Sackett with a carpenter's level and a 16' board. Residents worked to make the grade by hand until it was wide enough for the county grader, pulled by a team of six horses (Austin, p.16).

During the early years of the twentieth century, when roads were often too muddy or rough to drive to town, a small group of female residents of Cedar Mesa began meeting monthly in each other's homes for social, educational, and community related activities. Decades later, in 1946, Cedar Mesa Road was often still too muddy or rough to drive down the steep grade to town. During Verna Barr's interview with former Cedar Mesa Club member Netha McFarlane, Netha related "The road leading up from Cedaredge was a gravel road. It wasn't bad though...well, at times in winter. When it got bad...you stayed home" (Barr, 1966).The road up to the Cedar Mesa still has a steep grade, although it is now paved.

The members of the small group included Mrs. Frank Coryell, Mabel Hood, Viva Loucks, Mabel Lowell, Emma Pember, and Charlotte Nichols. In 1908, they officially organized the Cedar Mesa Community Club. All the aforementioned founding members, except for Emma Pember, remained

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active into the 1940s. Descendants of founding members who became members in the 1930s were: Lillian Coryell, Ruby Loucks, Judy Loucks, Claudia Nichols, Rosie Pember, Eunice Pember, and Anna Pember (Barr, 2008).



Historic Photo 1. Cedar Mesa Club Officers Bertha McPherson, Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Nichols, late 1930s

During the early years, the membership of the club grew significantly. Minutes from a 1939 meeting noted that 85 people, “likely most of the Mesa’s residents at that time,” attended a picnic sponsored by the “Cedar Mesa Women’s Club” in Dr. Bolton’s pasture (Gabehart, 2011) and were served “8 gallons of home-made ice cream, followed by men and boys boxing and playing horseshoes” (Cedar Mesa Club Minutes, July 1939). In addition to the monthly meetings, members and their families gathered for social and recreational purposes.

As the children and grandchildren of early members and new residents of Cedar Mesa became members of the group, they needed a place larger than a home in which to hold their meetings. In 1944, members and their families began to raise money to build a clubhouse.

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Historic Photo 2. Cedar Mesa Community Club Members and Families prior to clubhouse construction, ca. 1945-47

Meanwhile, the Cedar Mesa Community Club contributed to the World War II effort, raising funds for the Red Cross, Bond Stamps, and the United Service Organizations, all while simultaneously raising money to build a clubhouse. By 1949, the families had raised enough funds to begin construction of the clubhouse. It was built on land deeded by Bertha Belle McPherson, president of the club at the time, and her husband, A.W. McPherson, who in 1949 donated part of their fruit orchard on Cedar Mesa specifically for a clubhouse and a ball field (*Delta County Independent*, March 30, 2011). As long as the Cedar Mesa Club exists, the organization can keep meeting at the clubhouse on Peach Road. The deed on the land, ceded to the group, specifies that if the club no longer exists, the land reverts to the descendants of the McPherson family.

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Historic Photo 3. Cedar Mesa Community Club Members and Children, ca.1950

Husbands of club members formed a building committee and scheduled workdays. A fence was built from posts brought by members, and husbands dug the foundation. Current Cedar Mesa Club member Darlene Fritchman, granddaughter of Bertha McPherson, recalls members making tables and chairs out of scrap lumber for the children to use (Darlene Fritchman, personal interview, August 2015). While the building was being constructed, members continued to meet in homes. (*Delta County Independent*, March 30, 2011). A two-seat privy was constructed on the property to be used until toilets could be added to the building. Members discussed hiring someone to lay the concrete block and voted 6 to 0 to hire someone (Cedar Mesa Club Minutes, June 25, 1949).

On August 18, 1949, before the windows and doors were installed, members held their first meeting in their new clubhouse. In November that same year, sixty-two members and their families attended the first Harvest Dinner at the clubhouse (Quist, 2008). Some of the first pieces of furniture constructed were benches for adults. A *Clubhouse Dedication* was written in 1950, recognizing the contributions of early club members, current members, and spouses in the construction of their clubhouse (see Figure 1). After the windows and exterior work was completed, work on the clubhouse interior continued for several years. The small desks and benches for the children were made from scrap lumber. A few of these items are currently located at Fritchman Orchards in Eckert, Colorado, south of Cedaredge. Gradually the interior of the clubhouse was finished; by 1951, members had raised enough money to finish the floors and walls, and in 1958, the hardwood floors were finished. During the entire construction period, members continued to meet. Water was not available to the building until 1962. Plumbing and a septic system for toilets continue to be too costly,

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and the privy built in 1949 continues to be used in 2016. One side has reached capacity and is no longer used.



Historic Photo 4. New Benches in Meeting Room, 1958



Historic Photo 5. Oak Floors Laid Down, 1958

The wood stove is still in use today, and it is customary for a member or relative of a member to arrive early on meeting days to start the fire in the wood stove and heat water on the stove. The handicapped accessible outhouse is kept clean and available for all functions. Member families maintain the integrity and safety of their original meeting house so that it is available for both community and member functions.

Cedar Mesa Community Club: 21st Century

Many descendants of local families have moved from the Cedar Mesa area, but current member Darlene Fritchman, the granddaughter of Bertha McPherson, is still a member. Retired citizens who have moved to Cedar Mesa area join the women's club each year. Although some of the new members have lived in the area for many years, other new members moved here from varying geographic areas. As the women in early women's clubs of the late-nineteenth century and twentieth century often had diverse interests, the Cedar Mesa Community Club members still have differing interests and faiths. One of the elderly members, Ruth McKenna, interviewed by the Cedar Mesa Club President Jane Romatzke and President-Elect Kathy Bradbury, fondly recalled how members of varied faiths and backgrounds gathered to just have fun, socializing while working on quilts, singing favorite songs on the old piano, and playing games (Bradbury and Romatzke, August 2015 Interview with Ruth McKenna).

Today's members of the Cedar Mesa Community Club continue to gather, 108 years after their first meeting, and with their bond of fellowship, they work together to support the needs of the local community, and participate in social, educational, and charitable activities. The clubhouse, although a small building of the World War II era, still accommodates the numerous fundraisers held by

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members for area residents.

The Cedar Mesa Community Club monthly meetings follow the traditions of the early twentieth century club and its founding members. Each meeting begins with the Pledge of Allegiance, reading the minutes from the previous meeting, and following basic parliamentary procedure. The sense of community and fellowship remains a strong bond between all members, both those newly recruited and members of many years. They support the principles and goals of the founding club members who gathered together in 1908 in homes in the rural area of Cedar Mesa. Members try to “keep alive the spirit and intentions of the women who started this fine organization.” The Cedar Mesa Community Club seeks members “who would like to know their neighbors” and “wish to help improve the lives of people living here” (Barr, 2006).

The club members support the Cedaredge community through contributions to local charities and non-profit organizations. Erica Gabehart reported in “Independent Pastimes,” that it is evident from looking through the Cedar Mesa Community Club’s scrapbooks that “the club has helped hundreds of women and their families celebrate life, death, harvest, and holidays” (Gabehart, 1997). These traditions motivate other women on Cedar Mesa to join the women’s club. In Verna Barr’s article in the *Delta County Independent*, Donna Turner discussed her reason for joining the Cedar Mesa Community Club: “I believe a group of ladies meeting together, putting together small actions, can influence and accomplish large changes. That is why I joined the Cedar Mesa Club at the invitation of my mother, Edith Boggs, a long time club member” (Barr, 2006). In addition, there are longtime residents of the Cedar Mesa and Cedaredge area who regularly attend annual fundraisers at the clubhouse and contribute each year to the scholarship fund (Scholarships and Donations June 14, 2014 – August 15, 2015).

In 2009, the Cedar Mesa Community Club officially became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization. Members currently support the Surface Creek community through donations to Hospice, Surface Creek Community Food Bank, House of Promise, Backpack Program, Angel Tree, Animal Shelter, and scholarships to local high school students who are starting college. The club has also supplied bibs, lap blankets, catheter covers, and oxygen covers to nursing homes and made donations to the Red Cross and veterans’ groups (Charitable Projects, Scholarships and Donations, 2014-2015).

Fundraisers include elegant dinners, baked potato night, pot luck dinners, and soup suppers, in addition to the bratwursts, burgers, and bake sales at the Cedaredge Apple Fest. Members volunteer in community schools, the library, the senior center, and other local organizations. An annual tea is held to introduce women in the area to members of the Cedar Mesa Club, and in 2015, the members began a tradition of welcoming new residents to Cedar Mesa by giving them a “welcome basket,” containing homemade cookies, discount coupons from local businesses, and practical items, such as water bottles.

Recent monthly meeting topics include members and invited guest speakers presenting on: care of fruit trees, a woman’s life in Saudi Arabia, favorite books of members, wives of American presidents, astronomic events, and tree planting. The meeting house is available for both member and community use and continues to be a place where women and neighbors can gather in a rural area

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for friendship and common purpose (Quist, 2011).

As part of a club tradition, members contribute their time and energy twice a year to keep the community clubhouse and grounds up-to-date. They attend member workdays and clear the acreage of brush and weeds, repair the building, and clean the clubhouse. The workday is followed by a group barbeque, a tradition that has been in place for the past 65 years. The next fundraising goal is to have indoor plumbing for toilets.

As did many of the original founders of the Cedar Mesa Community Club, some of today's members irrigate and harvest acreage they have planted in fruit trees, grapes, and hay. In this rural area, many homes are spread out across the mesa, and the members look forward to each monthly meeting as an opportunity to gather together for common interests. For members who have moved here from across the country to be a part of a rural community, they discover a place where they can participate in club and community activities. Husbands of members still help out with fundraisers and building maintenance. Whether it is grilling brats and burgers during Apple Fest or raking and hauling brush during fall clean up, the members and families who participate in the club's activities form long-lasting friendships, know each other socially, and welcome new members.

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Cedar Mesa Community Club Records

Minutes and Attendance, 1939-1943

Minutes and Attendance, 1946-1950

Websites

General Federation of Women's Clubs www.gfwc.org (accessed March 10, 2016)

Women's History and Resource Center, Archive Record GFWC, "International President's collection, Portrait of Sarah Platt-Decker"

Property Name Cedar Mesa Community Club

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is the legal parcel that has historically been associated with the Cedar Mesa Community Club, including the clubhouse and privy/woodshed. It is located in the Cedaredge Quadrangle in the Surface Creek District, on 1.5 acres of land, more specifically:

A portion of land situated in the Southeast Corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 34, Township 13 South, Range 94 West, of the 6 P.M.

Beginning at the southeast corner, go north 400 feet, thence west 70 feet, thence, in a southwesterly direction 475 feet, thence east 265 feet to the beginning point in the southeast corner of the southeast quarter.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG: CURRENT PHOTOS

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1- except as noted:

Name of Property: Cedar Mesa Community Club
Location: 15637 Peach Road
Cedaredge, CO 81413
Photographer: Kathleen Bradbury
Date of Photographs: October 2015: 4, 6-13
January 2016: 1-3, 5, 14
Negatives: digital

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 Southeast corner of property looking North
- 2 North side of property looking north of clubhouse
- 3 Looking South from clubhouse
- 4 Looking East on Peach Road across from clubhouse
- 5 Looking West from Southeast corner of property
- 6 East side/handicapped entrance facing Peach Road
- 7 South side porch and entry
- 8 West side gabled end
- 9 North side
- 10 Privy Southwest of clubhouse
- 11 Meeting Room, looking east from kitchen area (tables for community dinner)
- 12 Wood burning stove on South side
- 13 West side kitchen area
- 14 Historic furniture and other club objects in the collection of Darlene Fritchman, granddaughter of Bertha McPherson.

Property Name Cedar Mesa Community Club

HISTORIC PHOTOS/IMAGES

All historic photos are from the archives of the Cedar Mesa Club.

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 Cedar Mesa Club Officers, late 1930s
- 2 Members and Families, ca. 1945-47
- 3 Members and Children, ca. 1950
- 4 Clubhouse Benches, 1958
- 5 Oak Floors Laid Down, 1958

Property Name Cedar Mesa Community Club

Figure 1. Clubhouse Dedication, 1950

CLUBHOUSE DEDICATION / 1950

5-0

The month of June we started to build our Club house. So today I think we should pay honor to that day and to our Past Presidents & Sec. that gave there time in helping raise money to build this building. We could not of done what we have with out a leader. Don't think it is a little job to be a leader. It takes lots of work so today I would like to have the past leaders to set here as I call there names.

Presidents in Past years. **Marcella, our honer Guest of today,** Anna Pember, Pearl Thomason, Lottie Nichols, Bertha Mcferson, Lillian Toothacer, Vivia Loucks, Ruby Louck, Claudia Nichols Sec. Eunice Pember, Jessie Nichols, Lucill Kimes, Ida Cook, Ergal Benson, Anna Miller.

I want to Thank the Past President for the time and help you gave to raise money for this building. I think we owe a special thanks to Pearl Thomason, Bertha McFerson and Ida Cook of the board members in there help and time getting help to build this building. They done a lot of work. And a special thanks we owe our husband and children.

A Club Dream

Written by Viva Loucks & Mabel Lowell

Many years ago we had a dream under the Leadership of
Viva, Pearl, Anna, Ruby, and Lottie Nichols, too.
We talked & talked but let it sleep, until Jan 1944 and 1945 when
Bertha was elected to lead us throu a year or two.
Two it was and the dream began to grow for Bertha started our fund
To build our Club house dream.
With many a back slap and tongue lashing to,
I know for I gave them.
Bertha could of killed me,
Wouldn't blamed her much, for we had so much to do.
Red Cross, Bond stamps and U.S.O.
We were at War and such trying times,
Our sons were gone,
How we worked hand in hand serving, raising money
For Bond, Red Cross & Blood Plasma,
No Club in Delta Co, done any more than we.
The war was won our sons was to return home.
2 Mabel Lowell was given the honor to give a Prayer in Thanks to God
for our Victory and our sons safe return.
So with a smile Bertha said lets get to work and finish it through,
Of all the things she thought to do.
With the help of Jessie and Anna to count the dimes
Our fund grew and grew.
1946 and 1947 Lillian was elected to lead us on
and took many a back slap and tongue lashing to.
Would smile and say lets put her throu,
Of all the things she thought to do
And how we laughed, for Lucil was kept busy counting our dimes
This goes in the sack and that in the can.
So they decided to start our first Bank Account.
In 1948 Claudia was our Leader true,
Took many a back slap and tongue lashing to

Property Name Cedar Mesa Community Club

5-D

But with a smile we put her throu.
With the work she gave us to do our fund grew and grew,
Until Ida her Helper said our fund was large enough to start our Club Dream at last.
In 1949 and 1950 Marcella was elected our Leader
and again took many a back slap and tongue lashing to.

But with a smile said come on girls lets go.
With a new board of Directors, Bertha, Lillian, Lottie Gobbles, Pearl,
Ida and Lottie Nichols.

Our Site was picked and put in order.

We was ready to start the building of Cedar Mesa Community Club House
Our land donated by Mr. & Mrs. McPherson.
June 1949 The Club house was started with the help of our husbands and children.
The ground was Cleared, fences built, foundation laid,
Then the walls, Roof, and floor.

Then the cry by the men, we are out of this and out of that.
Marcella would say I will get it and away she would go.

At times she would think it can't be done
But would say By Golly it can and pushed us on.

Then the cry by Eunice, we are broke.
July 1949 we lost one of our Club Members in death Lillian Coryell.
Making the third member in death

Mrs. Fred Benson and Mother Coryell several years ago.
Mother Coryell helping start the Club 44 years ago or more.
Aug 18, 1949 our first meeting was held in the Club house

With no windows and doors.
Plans were made to carry on,

Money we had to have,
Of all the things Marcella had us do!
And by Golly we done it too.

Next the windows, doors, coat rack and cabinet to.
At last Boxes, old chairs, benches of a kind,

We set and rested
What a time.

Lots of good dinners we have had while we worked, pinched & saved
Our Club house partly finished at last.

The Last Meeting of the Year Our Faithful President
Made Plans to finish our building on the out side with white stucko
and finish cleaning the ground for our Picnic ground.

May 18, 1950 Judy was elected our New Leader
Viva as Sec., Mabel Lowell V. Pres.

The Board Mabel Hood, Bertha, Pearl, Lottie Gobbel,
Lillian and Mabel Lowell

With the help of our Club members we hope to finish our Club dream.
Marcella I speak for the Club members

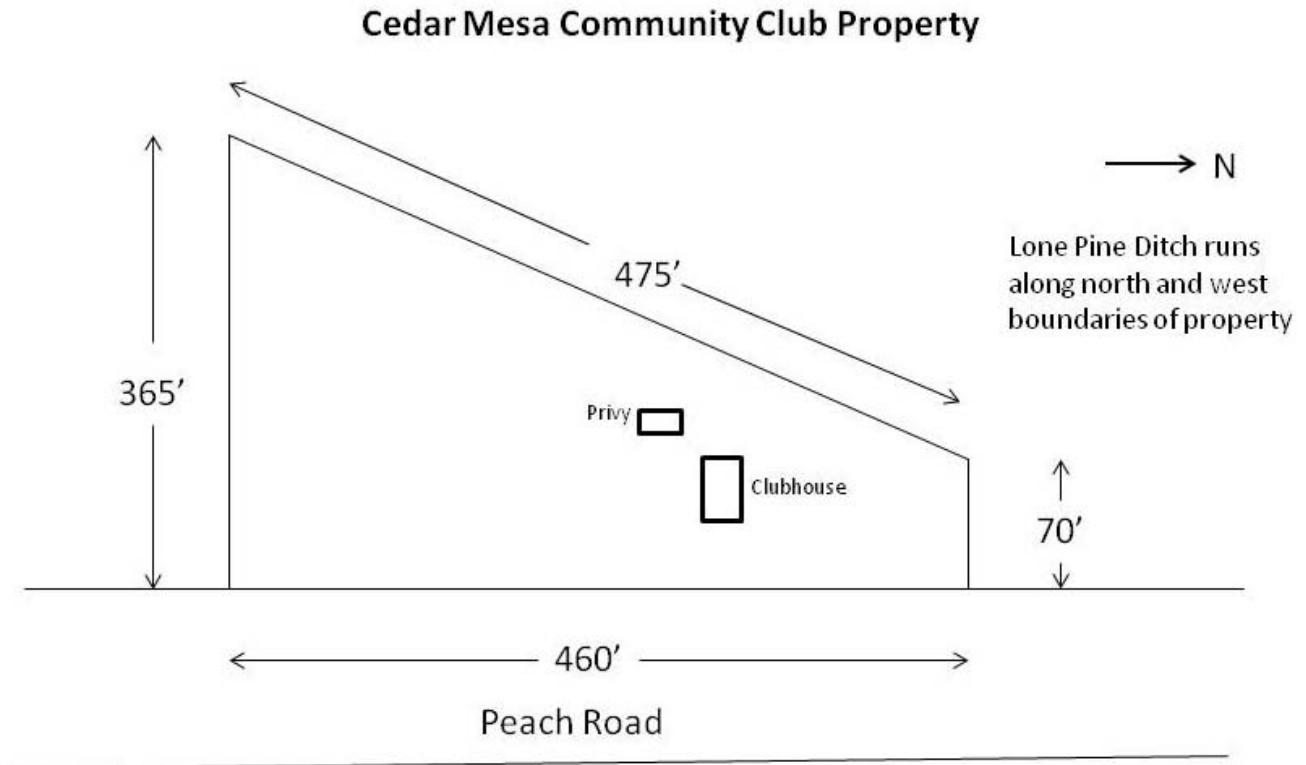
None of us could of done what you have accomplished
A Club House for Cedar Mesa.

We never can repay you the time days and hours
You have spent building this club house
Always with a smile.

So today to show our appreciation we give this gift
To you and your Sec. too

Thanks so much Marcella for all you have done.

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(Not to scale)

Figure 2. Site Plan

Property Name Cedar Mesa Community Club

Plan of Cedar Mesa Community Club

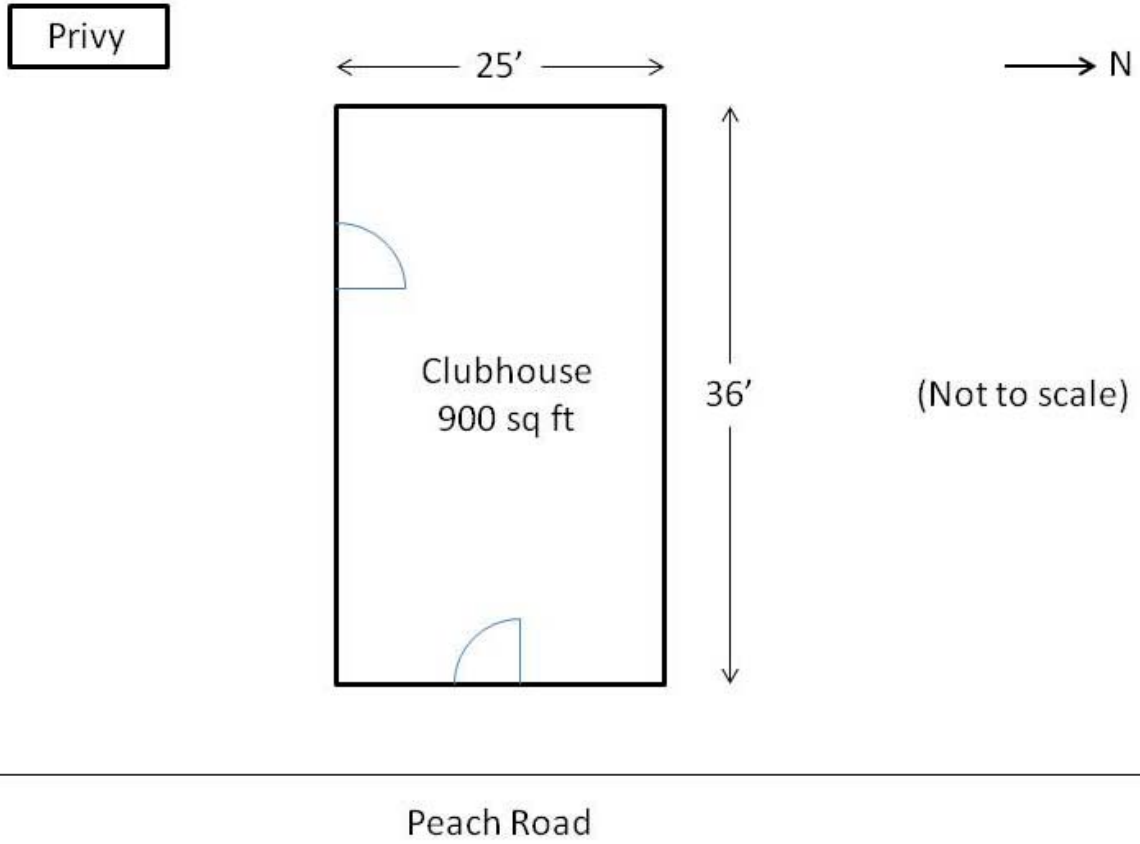


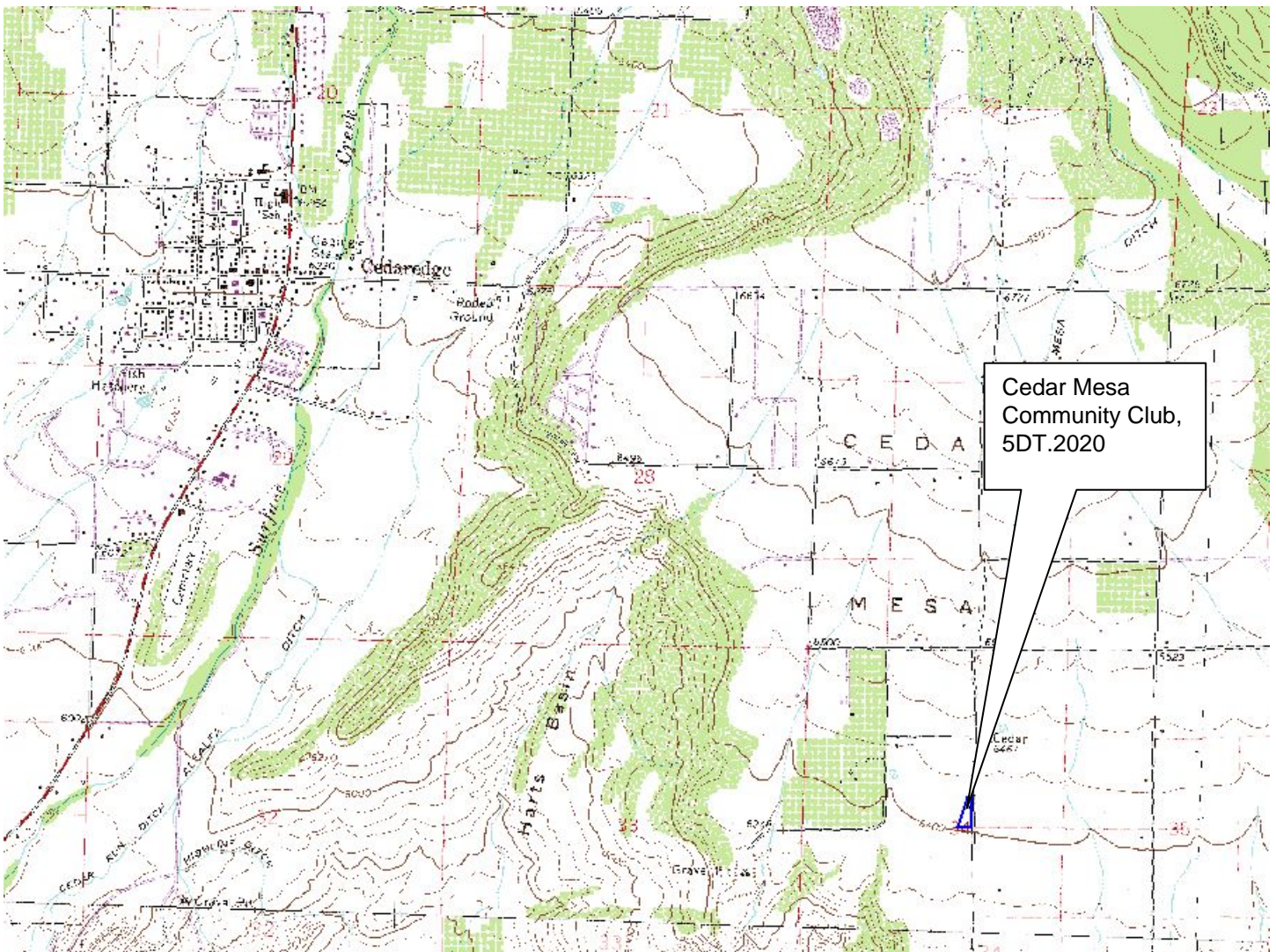
Figure 3. Plan of Clubhouse

Property Name Cedar Mesa Community Club



Colorado Perspective: Delta County

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Quadrangle, Cedaredge Colorado
7.5 Minute Series



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