

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name The Garret Club

other name/site number _____

2. Location

street & town 91 Cleveland Avenue not for publication

city or town Buffalo vicinity

state New York code NY county Erie County code 029 zip code 14222

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature], SARO 10/28/06
 Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

 State of Federal agency and bureau

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

 Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

[Signature]
 Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action 1.4.07

Edson H. Beall

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social/Clubhouse

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social/Clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/French
Vernacular style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls hollow-tile with stucco
roof slate
other

Narrative Description

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

*The Garret Club
Erie County New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

The Garret Club is located in Buffalo, New York, at 91 Cleveland Avenue, a long block running between Delaware Avenue on the east and Elmwood Avenue on the west. Cleveland Avenue is a quiet, tree-lined residential street about two miles inland from the city's central business district and industrial waterfront on Lake Erie. This part of North Buffalo became a prime residential neighborhood around the turn of the twentieth century. The clubhouse and the many well-maintained middle class and upper middle class homes on Cleveland Avenue are the legacy of Buffalo's golden age of prosperity. Delaware Avenue was once one of the grandest residential streets in America. Elmwood Avenue possesses many fine nineteenth-and-early-twentieth-century houses and is today the most frequented neighborhood commercial thoroughfare in the city. Immediately adjacent to the clubhouse on the west is the Nardin Academy, a large Roman Catholic school for girls. The Garret Club, a private club formed by local socialites, continues to provide its modern day members with facilities for dining and social events.

The architect, Edward B. Green, Jr., designed the two-story hollow tile, L-shaped clubhouse to blend in with the tasteful dwellings in this discrete residential neighborhood. Set back from the street behind a walled garden, the façade of the clubhouse is barely visible from Cleveland Avenue. A straight, narrow driveway along the west side of the lot leads from Cleveland Avenue to the main entrance, about one-hundred feet back from the street. (The drive continues to a parking area at the rear [north end] of the property, which extends to Auburn Avenue.) The building's understated design—there is no formal façade—recalls French vernacular country houses. A ground story basement of local gray stone laid in rusticated ashlar is surmounted by the first and second stories that are coated with stucco that is tinted a soft green color and applied in a pleasingly uneven manner. Each of the two sections of the building is sheltered beneath a pitched roof covered with gray slate tiles.

The interior of the clubhouse suggests the same informal ambiance of the exterior and is distinguished by many comfortable, well-designed communal and private spaces. From the main entrance, one ascends a wide flight of steps in the Main Stair Hall (ten feet by seventeen feet) to the main floor rooms that are used for dining and entertaining. To the right of the first floor landing is the Living Room, a large rectangular room twenty-four feet wide by sixty-eight feet long, painted white and with a white marble mantelpiece framing the fireplace in the center of the west wall. Opposite the entrance to this inviting room, a tall French casement window overlooks the garden. An opening with glass doors in the east wall connects the Living Room with the bright, semi-outdoor Loggia section of the dining room. With the exception of the acoustical tile ceiling, the general aspect of the living room, including its style of welcoming, homelike furnishings, is little changed from 1928.

To the left (north) of the main stair landing one enters the Garret, a double story space twenty-four feet wide by sixty-eight feet long covered by a peaked, unpainted wooden ceiling supported by wooden piers and trusses. This unceremonious-looking space was so-called to evoke the atmosphere of an attic or garret from which the founders derived the name of the club. A balcony reached by a small staircase at the south end of the main space and a smaller mezzanine at the north end of the room were used in the past by actors and musicians when club members put on plays and performances in the Garret. A wooden stage, visible in old photographs of this room, stood at the northern end of the Garret. Behind the stage area, a stair hall communicates with three dressing rooms and a toilet on the mezzanine level. In the middle of the west wall is a large fieldstone fireplace with a wooden mantel enhances the cozy, rustic atmosphere of this room.

Most of the first floor of the clubhouse is given over to dining facilities. The Dining Room, which is entered directly from the Main Stair Hall, is a lofty white space seventy-five feet long by thirty-eight feet wide in the center of the front section of the building. The flat ceiling is supported by paired unpainted ashen beams and the floor is laid with black triangular tiles. The showpiece of the Dining Room is a large antique stone fireplace in the center of the north wall. The mantel bears the carved Latin inscription "DEO LONGIUS...DEO PROPRIUS" on either side of a central medallion containing carved plants and the motto "MAIOR ORTUS." Opposite this tall hearth, in the south wall of the dining room, three double glass doors open onto the Loggia, an enclosed dining area that overlooks the garden. A smaller eating area, known as the Red Room, occupies the southeast corner of the building and communicates with the Loggia through a double glass door. Labeled the "Loggia" on the architect's plans, the Red Room has a high, groin-vaulted ceiling that imparts an airy feeling to the square space. To the north of the Red Room is the space labeled Private Dining Room on the architect's plans. This simple rectangular space, fifteen feet wide by twenty-two feet long, communicates with the main Dining Room through double glass doors. (The original plans show a wall separating the Private Dining Room from the Red Room. This wall is no longer there.)

The Garret Club
Erie County New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

The kitchen and a pantry are located directly behind the Dining Room on the north. (A second pantry opens onto both the Dining Room and kitchen at the east side of the Dining Room.) These ample work areas preserve many of the building's original features for the preparation of food, including free-standing, counter-top refrigeration units and glass-fronted wooden wall cabinets for storing dinner ware and glasses.

On the second floor, the foremost space is the Library. A long rectangular room eighteen feet wide by thirty-one feet long above the Living Room (there is nothing above the Garret room), the Library is entered from Main Stair Hall through a wide doorway that is several steps above the floor level of the room itself. Built-in bookcases flank the entrance. On three sides of the room, deeply recessed casement windows with interior wooden panel shutters provide abundant light to the cove-vaulted library space. A white marble mantelpiece frames the fireplace in the center of the west wall, adding a tasteful note to the home-like atmosphere. The second floor also contains three small card rooms located over the Dining Room. These rooms, which are lit by two large shed dormers overlooking the garden, are detailed with traditional wood moldings and decorated with bright wallpapers. The second floor also includes a groin-vaulted pantry with a dumb waiter rising from the kitchen, accommodations for the organization's administrative offices, and a suite of living quarters that were once occupied by the club's superintendent and maid. There is also a staircase to the unfinished attic that is used for storage.

The ground floor houses restrooms, coat rooms, the boiler room, and laundry and storage areas. There is a secondary building entrance at the northern end of the ground floor. It opens onto a long, flag-stone-floored corridor that leads directly to the lobby at the foot of the Main Stair Hall. From this lobby, which has a floor of small turquoise-glazed tiles that have an antique appearance, one ascends to the first floor vestibule on one of two flights of steps located either side of the wider central stair flight overhead that leads from the vestibule to the first floor. The lobby displays a blue and white glazed terra plaque of *The Madonna Adoring the Christ Child*, a work that appears to be from the Della Robbia studios. It is one of many works of art that decorate the clubhouse walls.

The Garret Club has survived into the twenty-first century remarkably little changed since its construction in 1929. In 1962, the open terrace on the south side of the Dining Room was turned into a year-round dining area by the construction of a permanent roof and the installation of sliding plate glass panels on the garden side. Plans for this work were drawn by the successors to the initial architectural firm and were conceived in a manner that respected the original design of the building and garden. The charming enclosed garden is still clearly visible and easily accessible from the Loggia, as the terrace space is known today. Moreover, the garden, which has a variety of flowers, shrubs, and small trees surrounding a central lawn, conforms to the general outlines indicated on the 1930 landscape plan that is preserved in the club archives.

8. Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1929-1956

Significant Dates

1929;building dedicated

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

E. B. Green Jr., Buffalo Architect

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

*The Garret Club
Erie County New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance Statement

The Garret Club at 91 Cleveland Avenue in Buffalo, New York, is an intact example of a women's social club from the golden era of women's clubhouse movement and is located on a street of costly homes. A local Buffalo architect, Edward B. Green, Jr., designed the Garret Club that was erected in 1929 and it is still used for the purpose for which it was built. The Garret Club resembles a large house designed in the French vernacular style of architecture and retains a remarkable degree of integrity of its original exterior and interior features. The Garret Club is architecturally significant under Criterion C and is historically significant under Criterion A for its association with the golden era of women's clubhouse movement.

Following the Civil War, women in the United States began to form various organizations to promote their wellbeing and advancement. Women's social clubs were an important part of this development, which eventually led to the ongoing struggle for gender equality in all occupations and areas of modern life. The American women's club movement, as it came to be called, can be said to have begun in 1868, when, based on her sex, Jane Cunningham Croly, a New York City journalist, unsuccessfully sought admission to a lecture by Charles Dickens at the New York Press Club. In protest of this injustice, she created an organization for career women. She called the new club Sorosis, a botanical term referring to fruit that contains many seeds within it. Up to this time, said Croly, no one in New York had heard of a "secular organization composed entirely of women, for the purpose of bringing all kinds of women together to work out their own objects in their own way."¹ At almost the same time, a group of forward-looking Boston women formed the New England Women's Club. "The politicization of Domestic Feminism, whereby women nurtured pride in lady's special qualities and confidence to reach out into the public domain," writes historian Karen Blair, "began with the founding of Sorosis and the New England Woman's Club in 1868."² Soon, women in other cities followed New York and Boston's lead and founded Sorosis chapters and other local women's clubs.

For the most part, these early groups were social and literary clubs. They focused their attention on the discussion of books and ideas at a time when women had little access to education, especially higher education. "The women's club movement", wrote Ellen M. Henrotin, one of its promoters, "represents a part of the great popular educational movement which is sweeping like a tidal wave over the country, and of which Chautauqua, summer schools, night schools, university extension, etc., are all manifestations."³ Reflecting the nationwide popularity and influence of such groups, the General Federation of Women's Clubs came into being in 1890. At both the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892 and the Pan American Exhibition in Buffalo in 1901 women's pavilions were important attractions. By the 1920's, as American women of the Progressive Era began to partake more and more in public life, the GFWC (the organization's headquarters in Washington, D. C. is listed as a National Historic Landmark), as well as many local women's clubs, had expanded their interests and activities and advocated for social reform, civic improvements, the amelioration of poverty, and women's suffrage. Historian Anne Firor Scott has likened these fully evolved associations to "mini republics" where

¹ Jane Cunningham Croly, *The History of the Women's Club Movement in America*, (New York: Henry G. Allen I & Co., 1898), 18.

² Karen J. Blair, *The Clubwoman as Feminist: True Womanhood Redefined, 1868-1914*, (New York: Holmes & Meier, 1980), 5.

³ Ellen M. Henrotin in Croly, *op. cit.*, x.

*The Garret Club
Erie County New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

their members "learned how to organize, administer, handle money, speak in public, deal with legislatures, deal with each other."⁴

The early history of The Garret Club mirrored the progress of many women's clubs. In the winter of 1902, Miss Margaret Scatcherd, the twenty-seven-year-old daughter of a well-to-do Buffalo family, who nurtured "a vision of a broader sphere,"⁵ invited a group of her female friends to meet at her Delaware Avenue home to discuss the formation of a woman's club.⁶ Their intention was to create a congenial place in which to socialize away from home. In March 1902, the club officially constituted itself with a membership limited to 100 women. The organization copied the constitution of the Saturn Club, a men's club formed in Buffalo in 1885.⁷ The stated purpose of the new women's association was to promote social intercourse and good fellowship among its members. The women gave no indication that their club would become a form for political reform, philanthropy, or self-improvement. Nonetheless, in the conservative atmosphere of Buffalo's upper middle class society, the young women's action laid them open to the accusation of radical feminism. A local newspaper reported that the parents "wondered if the clubhouse idea didn't smack too much of the New Woman." "I feel so wild having a club of our own, don't you?" ran a fictive conversation between two early club members. "Yes," replied her companion, "it makes one feel really wicked, doesn't it? Mama's down on it because she says she hates the new woman." "That's what Dad says", chimed in a third member, "he can't bear the independent woman. He says a woman isn't attractive without male support."⁸

Desire to deflect such criticism conditioned the way the women decorated their first headquarters, rented rooms in a house at 18 Ashland Avenue. (Because the furnishings consisted of items donated by members from their attics, the women lightheartedly chose to name their organization The Garret Club.) The new club's drawing room, for example, reads a description from a local newspaper, "was papered in white moiré with red rose garlands in a frieze at the top." And although copies of *Harpers* and *The Bookman* magazines were available in the small reading room, "the color scheme of shell pink and baby blue preclude the charge of intellectuality."⁹ Femininity expressed in interior decorations and respectability reinforced by a location in a premium neighborhood would characterize subsequent Garret Club quarters.

Despite its casual beginnings, The Garret Club enjoyed immediate success. In 1903, the women moved to larger rented space in a house at 205 Bryant Street. Moreover, while the new quarters had "plenty of ruffled sofa cushions," the addition of a few prints by Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones and some Arts and

⁴ Anne Firor Scott, *Natural Allies: Women's Associations in American History*, (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1991), 178.

⁵ Charlotte Bright Becker, *The Garret Club's Progress, 1902-1922*. Typescript in club archives of play performed at The Garret Club in 1922.

⁶ Unfortunately, Margaret Scatcherd died in 1903. According to one account of her death, she contracted a virulent disease while on a trip to California. Her death was all the more tragic for the fact that she had recently become engaged to be married. She appears to have been singularly equipped by nature and talent to become the driving force behind the founding of The Garret Club. "A young woman of rarely sweet disposition, of many graces of manner and attractive temperament," recounted a contemporary, "she enjoyed a popularity among all who knew her that was almost exceptional." She is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery. See "Sorrowing Friends," *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*, April 21, 1902, 8-5 and "Funeral of Miss Scatcherd," *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*, April 24, 1903, 9-3. A pencil portrait of her by Urquahar Wilcox hangs in the present clubhouse.

⁷ The present Saturn Club clubhouse, designed by Buffalo architect Duane Lyman is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

⁸ Becker, *loc. Cit.*

⁹ Ethel M. Hoffman, "Garret Club Asks Informality and Good-Fellowship" *Buffalo Times*, October 5, 1930.

The Garret Club
Erie County New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

Crafts furnishings indicated evolution toward more serious purpose. The Buffalo club women, like so many of their colleagues nationally, began to concern themselves more and more with community issues and with life beyond the circle of family and friends. Notable individuals were invited to speak. Among those who came were Emma Ponafidine, the chronicler of modern Russia, and the poet Carl Sandberg.¹⁰ Others spoke on women's suffrage, the Progressive Party, and the writings of the Swedish women's rights advocate Karolina Sofia Key. It was also during this period on Bryant Street that Katherine Cornell, perhaps the club's most illustrious member, made her debut as an actress on the clubhouse stage. And as a number of members married men who belonged to the Saturn Club, the two organizations began to sponsor joint bridge tournaments and other events. By the 1930's, the two clubs had become closely allied.¹¹

In 1905, a year after the Colony club had erected the first women's clubhouse in New York City, The Garret Club set up a building fund with the view of someday putting up its own structure. Eleven years later, the club took the important decision to construct a clubhouse. After searching for a suitable location, the club purchased a lot at 91 Cleveland Avenue. The women then engaged Robert North, a Buffalo architect who designed many houses and Episcopal churches in Buffalo, to prepare plans for the new clubhouse. North's design, a frame building costing \$18,000.00 to construct, was erected by the end of the year. Set back from the street behind a lawn, the "pink stucco house of Italian architecture,"¹² did not seem out of place in the quiet neighborhood of ample, detached residences. The club building represented both the continued success of The Garret Club in Buffalo and the nationwide growth of the women's club movement.

By the 1920's, many women's clubs had built commodious buildings of their own. "The clubhouse is a necessity today for the modern woman whose interests have widened beyond her own doorstep," claimed the *Handbook of Women's Clubhouses* in 1928; "It is the center of her community activities for better living, health, education, and morals, and also for her own education and further development." Identifying a veritable "women's clubhouse movement," the editors of the *Handbook* observed that 1078 women's clubs had built or were contemplating building or enlarging clubhouses. Of those already built, 172 had cost from \$50,000 to \$3,500,000. (The Illinois Women's Athletic Club in Chicago, the Town Club in St. Louis, and the Women's City Club of San Francisco for example, had constructed high-rise buildings in downtown locations.) The majority of women's clubhouses, however, had been erected for under \$50,000.¹³ Together with meeting rooms and, sometimes, athletic facilities, women's clubhouses were designed to meet modern feminine requirements. On the other hand, the women's clubhouse could be an extension of home. "In this day of crowded living," the *Handbook* observed, "it furnishes [the club member] some of the advantages of the old-fashioned home without its responsibilities. For entertaining, whether it be a chance guest or a debutante party, it offers her the convenience of a modern hotel with the charm of her own home." (Many women's clubs had guest rooms.) On the other hand, the clubhouse might also be a place of refuge from the pressures of modern life. "It offers

¹⁰ Notices of these and other events can be found in *The Garret Club Scrapbook, 1925-1937*.

¹¹ Hoffman, *loc. Cit.*

¹² Smith, *loc. Cit.* Robert North's floor plans for The Garret Club clubhouse are in the Buffalo & Erie County Historical. A black and white photograph of the former clubhouse is on view in the present building. A detailed written description of the 1916 clubhouse is found in American Appraisal Company. *Appraisal Report: Building Construction and Building Fixtures of The Garret Club, Buffalo, New York, May 1, 1924.*

¹³ *Handbook of Women's Clubhouses*. New York: The Woman's Journal, 1928, 1.

*The Garret Club
Erie County New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4

peculiar advantages to the business woman," the *Handbook* noted, "as it provides a place of relaxation from business cares, companionship if she is lonely, or restful solitude if she desires to be alone."¹⁴

By the time, The Garret Club celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1927, the clubhouse Robert North had designed for 150 members nine years earlier had become inadequate to the needs of the club. Membership now stood at 275 and was due to increase to 300 in 1932. In February 1927, a committee undertook discussions with North about enlarging the 1916 structure. Nothing came of these deliberations,¹⁵ and in March 1928 another building committee, under the chairmanship of Ruth Wickwire, was formed. The club membership charged the committee with finding a new site and securing plans for a new building, both of which together were to cost no more than \$200,000. Wickwire's committee now turned to Edward B. Green, Jr. (d. 1933), the son of prominent Buffalo architect Edward B. Green (1855-1950) who, with his former partner, William Wicks, had designed the Twentieth Century Club (1896) and the Albright Art Gallery (1904, National Register Listed). The younger Green had studied architecture at Harvard before falling victim to cerebral palsy. Physical handicap, however, did not prevent him from becoming a member of the partnership that his father had formed in 1926 with Albert Hart Hopkins.¹⁶ For Wickwire's committee, Green prepared "tentative plans" for a building on a yet-to-be-chosen site. In June 1928, however, the club members reversed themselves and expressed their desire to have the club remain at its present location. It was proposed that property adjoining the Cleveland Avenue site be acquired so that the clubhouse might be enlarged. Immediately after the club had purchased additional land adjacent to the north of its property line from its neighbor, Nardin Academy, Wickwire instructed Green to draw plans for an addition to the existing structure. This extension was to contain "a larger dining room, private dining room, new kitchen, three card rooms, and if possible an enlarged assembly room."¹⁷ Instead of a plan for a new wing to be attached to the old building, however, Green returned to the committee with a scheme for an entirely new building. "This was a complete surprise to us," recounted Wickwire, "for until that time we had absolutely dismissed the idea of a new building. He had decided that it was unsound to remodel this house, and refused to be our architect should we proceed with such a plan."¹⁸

Despite their surprise, the building committee approved Green's decision. Nevertheless, considering the strong sentiment among club members for enlarging and remodeling the existing building, the committee thought it best to consult a second architect. They called upon another well-known member of the local profession, Duane Lyman, the designer of the Saturn Club (National Register Listed). The committee asked Lyman to submit a proposal for expanding the current building. In April 1929, the committee apparently presented both Lyman and Green's plan to the general membership with the recommendation that their colleagues approve Green's proposal for a new structure. The membership followed the committee's advice. Demolition of North's frame clubhouse and construction on the site of Green's hollow tile fireproof building began in the spring of 1929.

¹⁴ Ibid., 3.

¹⁵ North had asked \$200 to prepare preliminary plans for changing and enlarging the existing building. "The committee felt that this was more than the Club would want to spend at this time," reported club member Marion E. Spaulding, "so nothing further was done with Mr. North." See "Report of the Committee on the Cost of Enlarging Present Club House," undated typescript in *Scrapbook*, 1902-1925.

¹⁶ Blueprints of floor plans for the new building are labeled E. B. Green & Sons—A. Hart Hopkins, Architects.

¹⁷ "Report of the Building Committee for Group Meetings, March 1929," 1.

¹⁸ Ibid., 1-2.

The Garret Club
Erie County New York

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5

The new clubhouse opened with a tea on December 21, 1929.¹⁹ At the time, the president praised Ruth Wickwire as “untiring in her efforts to have every thing as perfect as possible.”²⁰

E. B. Green, Jr.’s 1928 design for The Garret Club demonstrates that the architect was thoroughly familiar with the women’s clubhouse movement. Like most designers of women’s clubs of the day, Green developed the exterior from his knowledge of traditional domestic architecture. Green must have been well aware that clubs for socially prominent women had favored history over modernism for their mansion-like headquarters. The Twentieth Century Club, another women’s club in Buffalo, had erected a Neo-Classical style headquarters (1896; Green I&I Wicks, architects); the Colony Club in New York City had chosen Georgian Revival for its building (1904; McKim, Mead & White, architects; listed on the National Register); the Shreveport Woman’s Department Club had build a Colonial Revival clubhouse (1925; Clarence W. King, architect; listed on the National Register); and the Woman’s Club of Jacksonville, Florida, had preferred Tudor Revival for its structure (1927; Mellen C. Greeley, architect). Green’s two-story, French vernacular design, which included replacement of the front lawn with an enclosed garden (designed by Four Winds Farm Nursery of Williamsville, New York in the spring of 1930²¹), discretely took its place in Cleveland Avenue’s streetscape of comfortable homes.²²

Inside, the dining area is the clubhouse’s most significant interior feature. It consists of the generously proportioned main dining room--with its lofty beamed ceiling, quaintly uneven floor of burnished tiles, and a large antique stone fireplace--and three other related spaces.²³ On the east side of the main dining room, Green placed a smaller, low-ceilinged rectangular private dining room and a square, groin-vault room labeled “loggia” on the architect’s plans. (This latter space, today known as the Red Room, was intended also for small groups of diners.²⁴) On the south, the grand main dining room opens through three wide doorways onto a bright terrace dining area beyond which spreads the scenery of the enclosed garden. (In 1962, this formerly open terrace space was roofed and glazed; today it is commonly referred to as “the loggia.”²⁵) Green’s resolute treatment of this entire cluster of spaces expressed the importance of the dining room to the social life and financial wellbeing of the club. “Women’s thrift is at its best in managing a club dining-room,” declared the *Handbook of Women’s Clubhouses*. “Men’s clubs frankly expect a dining-room deficit even if their prices for meals average considerably higher than meals in women’s clubs. But women think their restaurants should bring a profit to the club.”²⁶ Architecturally, employing the idiom of traditional design, Green sensitively orchestrated

¹⁹ Apparently, some features of the older building were reused in the new clubhouse. An order sheet from Robertson Electric Construction Co. dated November 15, 1929, told the company to “remove fixtures from old Club House, rewire and hang same in new Club House.” Unlike the former frame building, the new building was constructed of fireproof hollow tiles. Peckham Construction Company was the contractor.

²⁰ “Annual Report of the President, April 1, 1930” in *Annual Meetings, 1920-1930*.

²¹ The statue of a woman holding a pitcher of water that stood in a niche in the center of the façade of Robert North’s clubhouse was relocated to the new garden.

²² In 1930, Green designed the Joseph Donner house in Buffalo in the same style.

²³ The architects purchased for the clubhouse “one stone Gothic Mantel and one hearth (Pietra Serena)” from Howard Studios in New York City for \$675.00 in October 1929.

²⁴ The wall that once separated these two rooms has been removed, and they are now one space.

²⁵ The task of enclosing Green’s original open-air terrace to make it useable year round went to the successor firm of Green and Hopkins, James, Meadows and Howard. The alterations were done in a manner sympathetic to the original design. The white acoustical stile ceiling admits light through six circular artificially illuminated skylights, while the wall facing the garden consists of floor-to-ceiling sliding panels of place glass. The garden itself remains little changed from the Four Winds Nursery design of 1930.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 16.

*The Garret Club
Erie County New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 6

easy flow of space from one eating setting to another along with an abundance of light and a view of the garden to impart an atmosphere of gracious informality to this prime suite of rooms. Green's design is the visible manifestation of the building committee's requirement that "the character and intimacy of The Garret Club be maintained."²⁷

The double-story Garret room on the north side of the principal floor conveys a more rustic mood than the dining room. It has a wooden roof open to the rafters and a large stone hearth in the center of the outer wall. Balconies at either end of this lengthy hall could be used in conjunction with plays that were staged here or by musicians when balls were the order of the evening. An architectural folly, the Garret room was intended to evoke an attic from which the club derived its name. (Furnishings for the new building were, however, were far from the hand-me-downs that filled the original Ashland Avenue rooms. Receipts preserved in the club archive document brocades from Sicily, curtains from Paris, and antiques from Florence.) Along with other parts of the clubhouse, the festive Garret was available to members for private events. "Few homes today are large enough for big parties, while skilled service is increasingly difficult to obtain," lamented the editors of the *Handbook*. An up-to-date hostess, therefore, would turn over "all responsibilities of her entertaining to her club."²⁸

Together with spaces for large gatherings, Green's clubhouse possesses smaller, less communal accommodations for reading, card playing and conversing. The Library on the upper floor is an especially tastefully relaxed space. One enters the room from the stair hall by descending a few steps, a clever device on Green's part to have those in the room look up to whoever was coming in. Gracefully simple moldings surround bookcases, doors, and windows; four recessed windows admit light from three sides of the room; and a handsome mantelpiece draws out attention to the shallow inglenook in the center area. Unaltered, these elements—combine with homelike furnishings of the type early members favored—perpetuate the refined, cheerful atmosphere that former generations espoused for their clubhouse.

Built in the late 1920's, The Garret Club building now serves a diverse membership. Its civilized atmosphere of gracious hospitality is the legacy of the association's founders. Latter-day members can be thankful that their predecessors were careful stewards of a building that is a splendid example of the women's clubhouse movement.

²⁷ "Report of the Building Committee, June 16, 1928," 5.

²⁸ *Idid.*

*The Garret Club
Erie County New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Blair, Karen J. *The Clubwoman as Feminist: True Womanhood Redefined, 1868-1914*. New York: Holmes & Meier Publishers, 1980.

Croly, Jennie June. *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America*. New York: Henry G. Allen & Co., 1898.

"Garrets were Combed for Club's First Furnishings," *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser*, May 8, 1922

Gere, Anne Ruggles. *Intimate Practices: Literacy and Cultural Work in U. S. Women's Clubs, 1880-1920*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997.

Handbook of Women's Clubhouses, vols. 1 and 2. New York: The Woman's Journal, 1928-1929.

Hoffman, Ethel M. "Garret Club Asks Informality and Good-Fellowship," *Buffalo Times*, April 3, 1930

Scott, Anne Firor. *Natural Allies: Women's Association in American History*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1991.

Smith, H. Katherine. "Arret Club's Modest Start in Upper Flat," *Buffalo Courier-Express*, April 3, 1932, 1; 5.

"Verve Keeps Alive the Flame that is Garret," *Buffalo Evening News*, April 12, 1952.

UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL

Shelton, Brenda K. "Social Reform and Social Control in Buffalo, 1890-1900." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University at Buffalo, 1970.

Walter, Francis Joseph. "A Social and Cultural History of Buffalo, New York, 1865-1901." Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University at Buffalo, 1958.

OTHER SOURCES ON FILE AT THE GARRET CLUB

*The Garret Club
Erie County New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

Album of photographs of the current building under construction, 1928-1929.

American Appraisal Company. Appraisal Report: Building Construction and Building Fixtures of the Garret Club, Buffalo, New York, May 1. 1924.

Constantine, Connie, and Baird, Susan O'Connell. "They Called It The Barret." DVD. Buffalo: By the Club, 2004.

Annual Reports.

Becker, Charlotte Bright. "The Garret Club's Progress (1902-1922)." Unpublished play, 1922.

Building Folder.

Reports of Building Committee, 1928-1930.

Scrapbook, 1902-1922

Scrapbook, 1922-1925

Scrapbook, 1925-1937

Scrapbook, 1952

The club also possesses four blue prints of floor plans from Green & Hopkins; three blueprints of plans for enclosing the terrace from James, Meadows & Howard; and a pencil-on-tracing-paper garden plan dated April 1930 from Four Winds Nursery.

The Garret Club
Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 673630 4753660
Zone Easting Northing

2
Zone Easting Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing

4
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claire L. Ross, Program Analyst (Consultant Dr. Francis R. Kowsky drafted nomination)
organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation date July 6, 2006
street & number Peebles Island, P. O. Box 189 telephone 716-237-8643
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name/title Ms. Clare Meyer, President, The Garret Club
street & number 91 Cleveland Avenue telephone 716-885-6010
city or town Buffalo state N. Y. zip code 14222

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing 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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

*The Garret Club
Erie County New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for the Garret Club at 91 Cleveland Avenue, Buffalo, New York is shown as a heavy black line on the accompanying 1952 Survey Map of the property with a scale 1" to 20', reduced 20%.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary for the nomination has been drawn to coincide with the current Survey lot line as drawn by Nussbaumer, Clarke and Velzy, Inc. Engineers of Buffalo, New York.

*The Garret Club
Erie County New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 11 Consultant Page 1

National Register Nomination Prepared by:

Dr. Francis R. Kowsky
Consultant
62 Niagara Falls Boulevard
Buffalo, New York 14214
716-836-6069

*The Garret Club
Erie County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs Page 1

Photograph Key:

The Garret Club

91 Cleveland Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222

Pictures taken June 30, 2006

Photographer: Francis R. Kowsky

Negatives: OPRHP, Peebles Island, Waterford, New York 12188

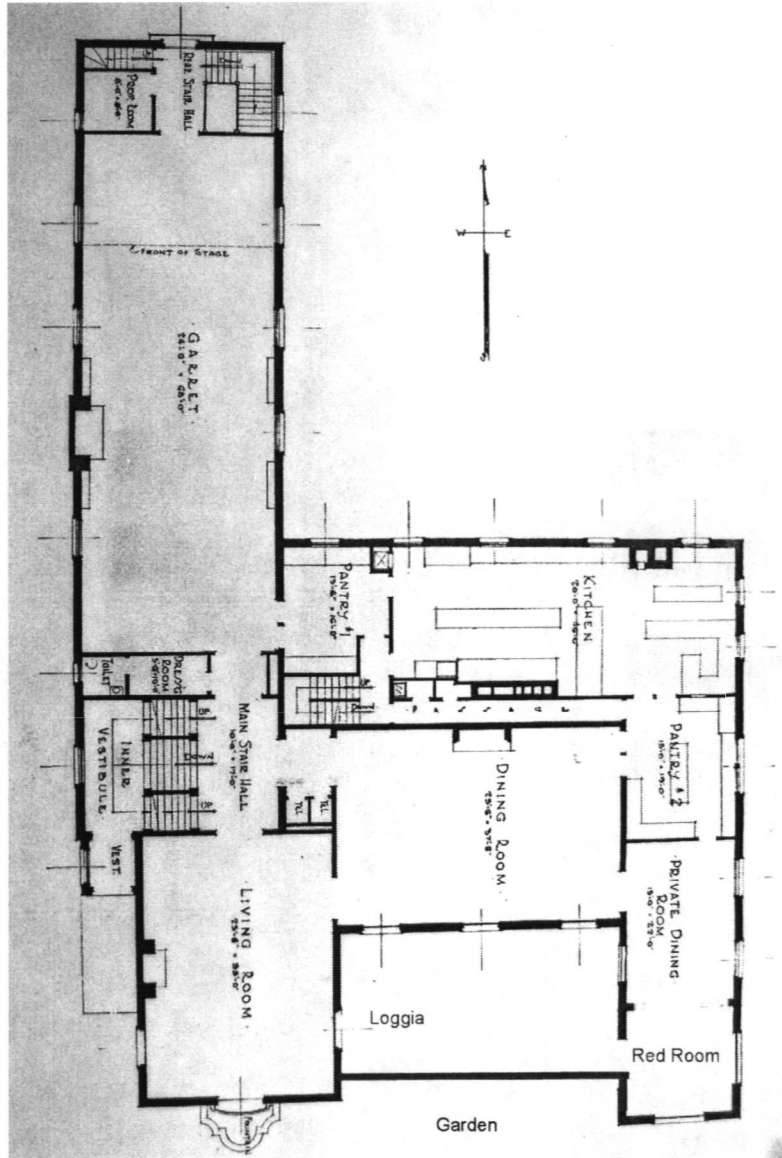
Views:

1. South elevation from the garden
2. West elevation
3. North (rear) elevation from Auburn Avenue parking lot
4. Interior view: the Living Room
5. Interior view: the Garret
6. Interior view: the Dining Room

*The Garret Club
Erie County, New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

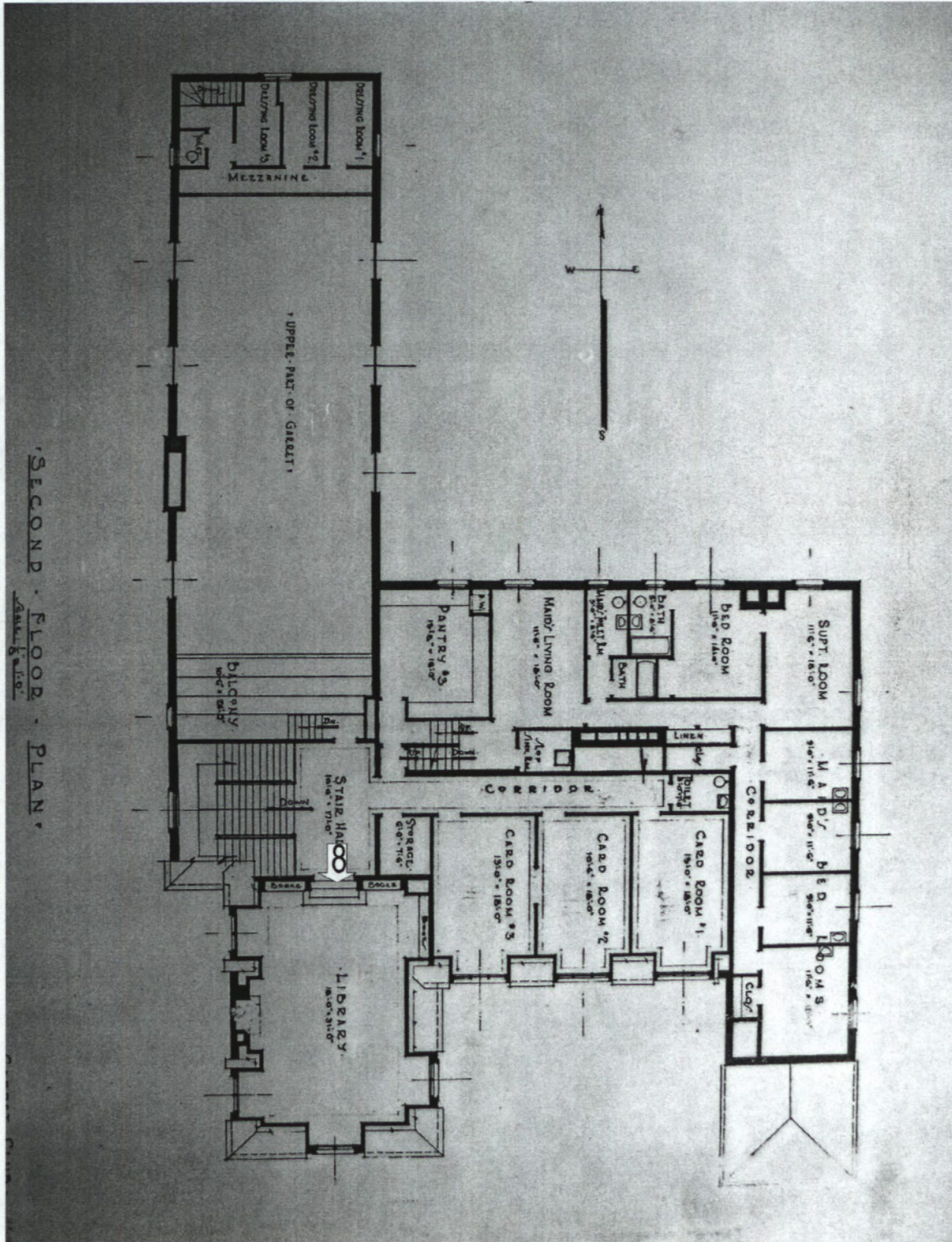
Plan of first floor



The Garret Club
Erie County, New York

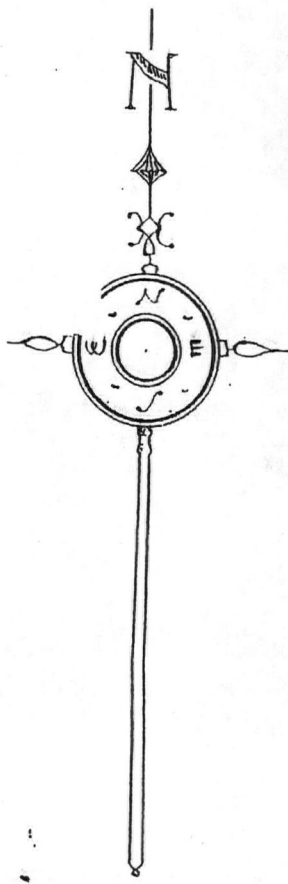
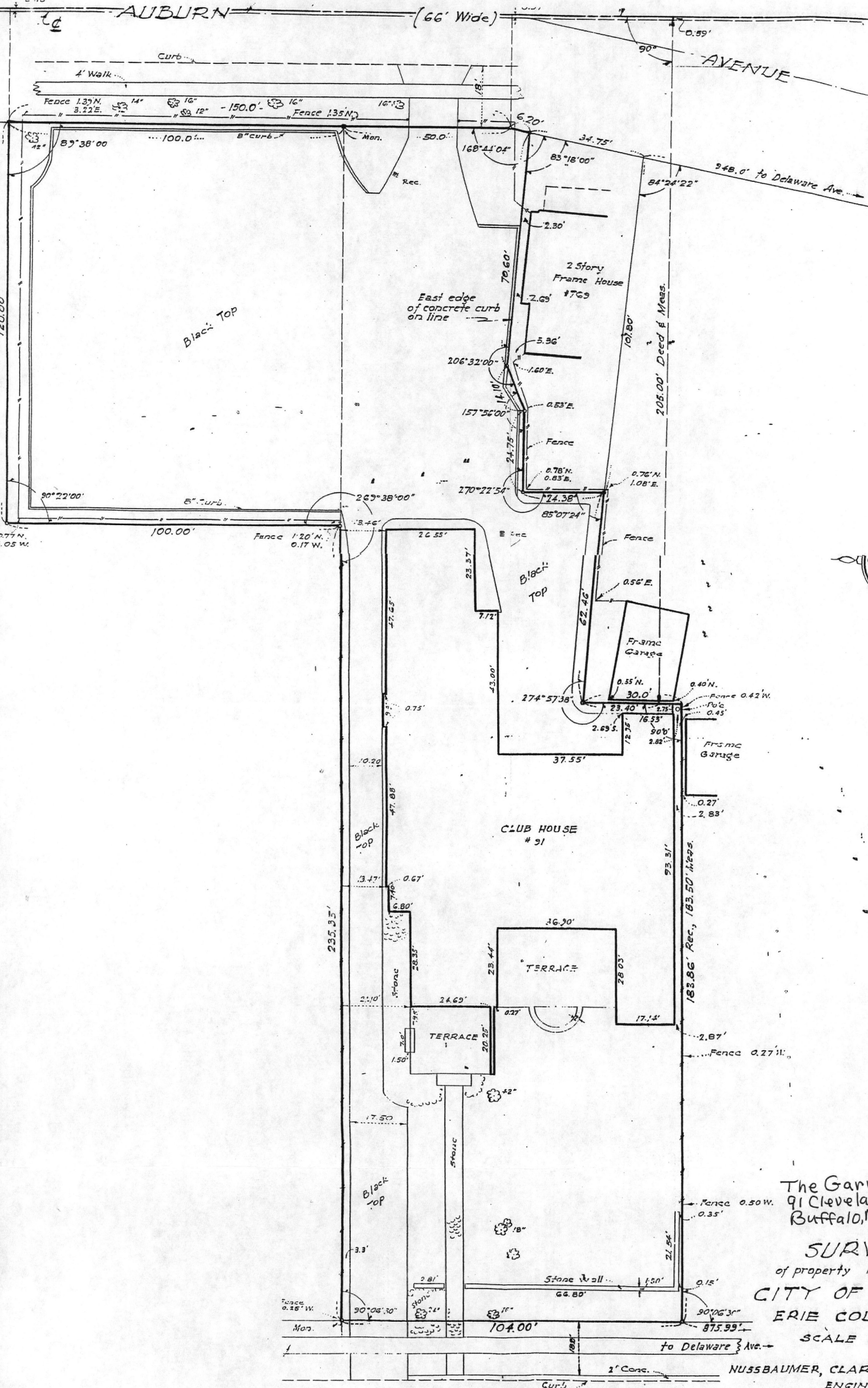
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Plan of Second floor



AUBURN (66' Wide)

AVENUE



The Garret Club
 91 Cleveland Avenue
 Buffalo, New York

SURVEY
 of property located in
CITY OF BUFFALO
ERIE COUNTY N.Y.

SCALE 1" = 20'

NUSSBAUMER, CLARKE & VELZY,
 ENGINEERS

OCT. 23, 1952

JOB NO. 14

(66' Wide)

AVE.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Garret Club
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Erie

DATE RECEIVED: 11/24/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/11/06
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/26/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/07/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001212

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1.4.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



The Garnet Club
91 Cleveland Avenue
Buffalo, New York

Photoby: F. Kowsky, 6-30-06

Negs at: OPRHP, Peables Island, P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188

View: South elevation (facade) from
the Garden.



The Gannet Club
91 Cleveland Avenue
Buffalo, New York

Photo by: F. Kowsky, 6-30-06

Negs at: OPRHP, Peck's Island, P.O. Box 189,
Waterford, New York 12188

View: West elevation



The Garnet Club
91 Cleveland Avenue
Buffalo, New York

Photoby: F. Kowsky, 6-30-06

Negat: DPRHP, Peckles Island, P.O. Box 189,
Waterford, New York 12188

View: North (near) elevation
from Auburn Ave parking lot



The Garret Club

91 Cleveland Avenue

Buffala, New York

Photoby: F. Kowsky, 6-30-06

Negs at: OPRHP, Peebles Island, P.O. Box 189,
Waterford, New York 12188

View: Interior, Living Room



The Gannet Club
91 Cleveland Avenue
Buffalo, New York

Photo by: F. Kowsky, 6-30-84

Neg. at: OPRHP, Peeples Island, P.O. Box 189,
Waterford, New York 12185

View: Interior, the Gannet



The Garnet Club

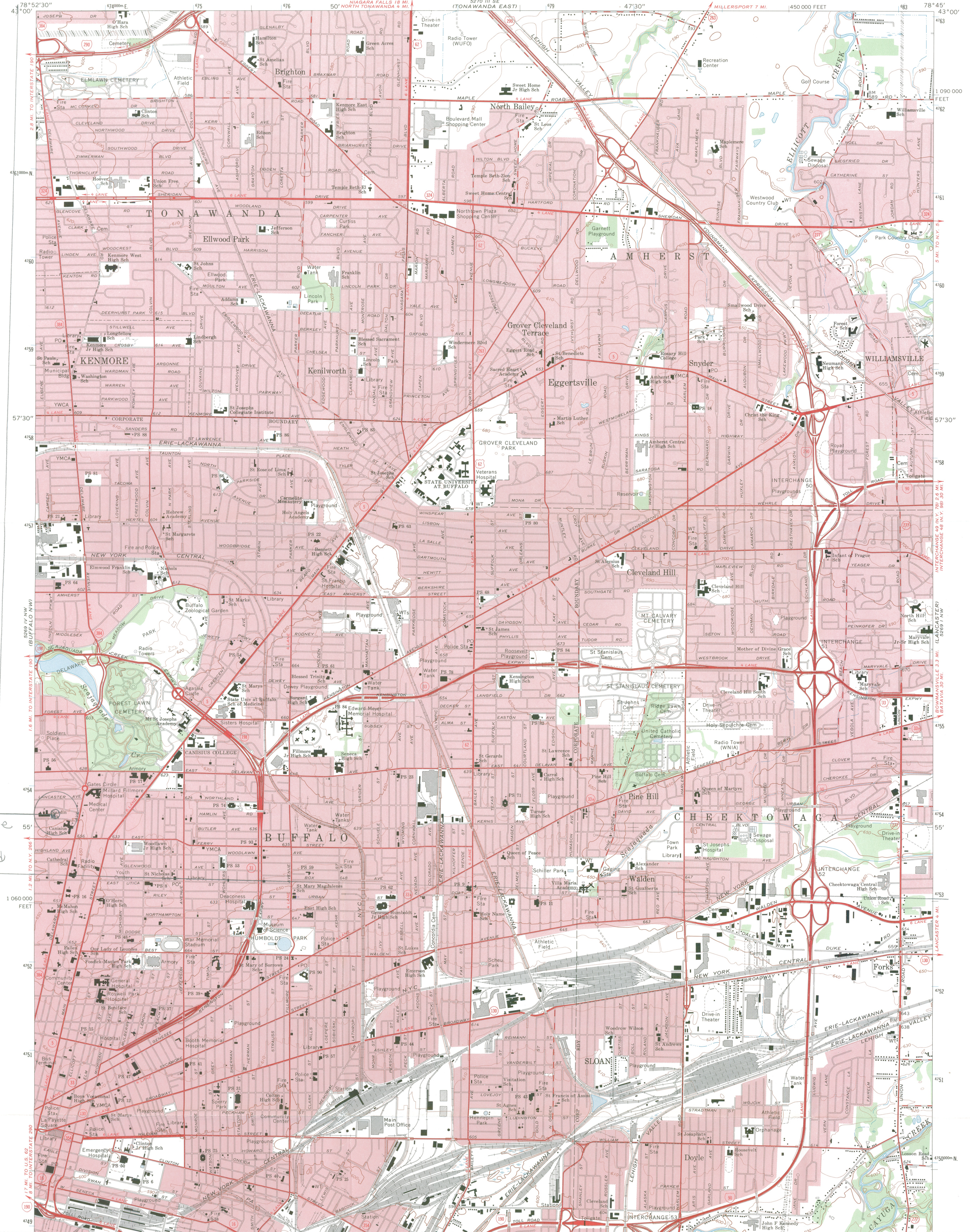
91 Cleveland Avenue
Buffalo, New York

Photoby: F. Kowsky, 6-30-04

Negat: OPRHP, Peckles Island P.O. Box 189,
Watutard, New York 12188

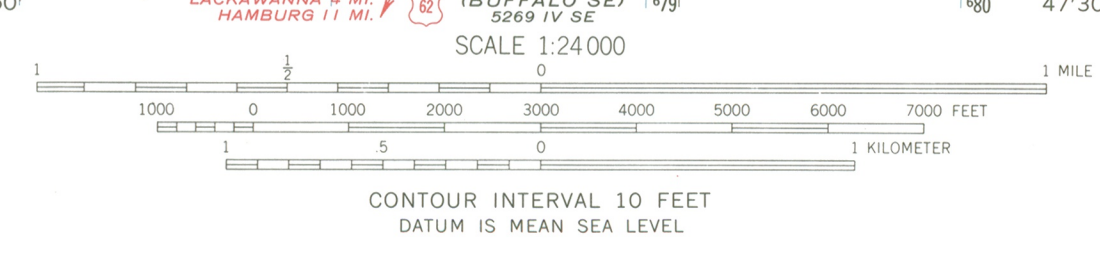
View: Interior, Dining Room

6



The Garret Club
91 Cleveland Avenue
Buffalo, New York
Erie County
Buffalo, N.E. Quad
Zone 17
Scale: 1:24,000
Nothing
4753 660
Easting
673 630

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with New York Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and U.S. Lake Survey
Planimetry compiled by U.S. Corps of Engineers from
aerial photographs taken 1942. Topography by
planetable surveys 1948. Revised 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



BUFFALO NE, N. Y.
NE/4 BUFFALO 15' QUADRANGLE
N4252.5—W7845/7.5
1965
AMS 5269 IV NE—SERIES V821

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



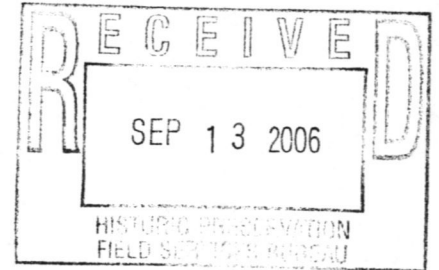
BUFFALO PRESERVATION BOARD

901 City Hall
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 851-5029
Fax (716) 851-4388

Thomas W. Marchese, Secretary

September 11, 2006

Claire L. Ross, National Register Program Analyst
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189



**Re: The Garret Club
 91 Cleveland Avenue
 Buffalo, New York, Erie County**

Dear Ms. Ross:

At its meeting on September 7, 2006, the Buffalo Preservation Board met to consider the nomination of the property listed above to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

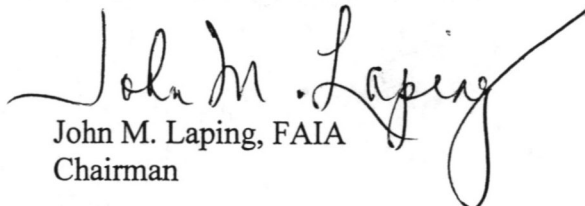
The Board after due consideration, finds that the property met the following criteria established for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places:

- That the Garret Club is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- That the Garret Club 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.

Consequently, we support the nomination of the Garret Club to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Buffalo Preservation Board


John M. Laping, FAIA
Chairman

JML: tm



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

November 21, 2006

Ms. Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW
8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Transmittal of National Register
Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to transmit eight new National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register as follows:

The Garret Club, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY
Swart House and Tavern, Glenville, Schenectady Co., NY
Sparta First Presbyterian Church, Groveland Station, Livingston Co., NY
Camroden Presbyterian Church, Floyd, Oneida Co., NY
Wereholme, Islip, Suffolk Co., NY
Rev. J. Edward Nash Sr., House, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY
Borodino District School #8, Onondaga Co., NY
"Sunset Hill," Warren, Herkimer Co., NY

Thank you for your assistance in processing these proposals. Please feel free to call on me at 518-237-8643 ext. 3258 if any questions arise.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Peckham
National Register
Program Coordinator

enclosures