

STATUS

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food during the war years, the club in 1918 set up a community canning kitchen in the clubhouse basement — an effort cited by President Woodrow Wilson and often mentioned as a model in government publications.

During the spread of Spanish influenza, the group used a newly constructed thermal container to bring hot meals to 200 homes per day. The group also set up the first rural delivery library in the world.

Aids Evanston causes

In recent years, the club has raised more than \$100,000 a year for local causes. Its recipient list reads like a Who's Who of Evanston agencies.

An Illinois panel will review the historic nomination in September, before forwarding the application to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

President Patty Shaw Sprague said those who've studied 20th century history know of the role that women's clubs played in shaping communities and making change, but a lot of people are not familiar with the history.

"We are following in the footsteps of those early 20th century women who came together and literally created organizations, made changes and improved lives," said Shaw Sprague.

"The bridge and garden focus of a lot of women's clubs has a place in the universe," said Shaw Sprague, "But that is not the tradition" behind the Evanston club's 117-year-old organization.