

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



FINAL
3-14-94

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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. 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 Dean Eldredge Museum

other names/site number The Museum Club

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2. Location

=====

street & number 3404 E. Route 66 not for publication

city or town Flagstaff vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Coconino code 005 zip code 86004

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or 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 commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this 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 of Keeper

Date of Action

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

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

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>taxidermy</u>	Sub: _____
<u>trading post</u>	-----
<u>Route 66 tourist attraction</u>	-----
<u>night club</u>	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: country-western night club Sub: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Depression era
Midland Revival log house

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, wood piers
roof asphalt shingle
walls wood log
other local rock fireplaces and chimney

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B. removed from its original location.
- C. a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce/tourism
Entertainment/recreation

Period of Significance 1931 - 1945

Significant Dates 1931 - Construction finished/building opened to public.

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Dean Eldredge, 1890 - 1937

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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: Peggy Pavlich Professional Communications,
705 N. Leroux St., Suite 2, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 1.4 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	12	389675	4455.00	3	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

____ 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 Steve Chambers, Ph.D. and Peggy Pavlich, Historical Consultants

organization Professional Communications date March 9, 1994

street & number 705 N. Leroux, Suite 2 telephone (602) 774-9585

city or town Flagstaff state AZ zip code 86001

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Additional Documentation
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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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Martin and Stacie Zanzucchi, c/o The Museum Club

street & number 3404 E. Route 66 telephone (602) 526-9434 or
526-9524

city or town Flagstaff state AZ zip code 86004

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Narrative Description:

Exterior: The Museum Club is an expressive example of a large massed Midland Revival log house with a Tidewater front porch (now enclosed). The building is constructed extensively from local natural materials and incorporates unusual natural features. The unusual features reflect the abundant variety of available construction materials and the builder's bent for showcasing uncommon organic and geologic specimens collected from around the world.

Eldredge incorporated pre-railroad folk house architecture in designing his museum with two distinctive styles represented. The building was constructed to resemble the Midland Tradition large log houses of Germanic settlers in the mid-Atlantic colonies in massing and employing a central chimney. The prominent full-width front porch was borrowed from the Southern Tidewater folk house where such covered extensions provided ample room and comfort from the hot summer sun.

On March 13, 1931, Dean Eldredge acquired title for a tract of land three miles east of Flagstaff, Arizona, situated immediately north of U.S. Route 66. Eldredge chose this site as the "museum to house many strange and curious relics." His dream would be realized over the coming months with the construction of a 72-foot by 42-foot two-story log house.

Structural support and a distinctive interior were provided by building around five upright ponderosa pine trees, branches and all.

Ponderosa pine logs were used to construct the exterior walls and a full-width one-story Tidewater porch. Situated in the largest stand of ponderosa pine found in the United States, this material was readily available and lent itself to the naturalistic setting desired by Eldredge.

The logs used for the exterior were cut green from the surrounding forest and trucked to the nearby construction site. Dean Eldredge is credited with overseeing construction of the house with assistance from laborers, some who likely worked for the sawmills in Flagstaff. Fred Ellis, a builder around northern Arizona and the White Mountain region of east central Arizona is reputed to have also been involved in executing the building to meet Eldredge's design.

The massing of the building called for logs of a sizable dimension to be used. The placed logs averaged 12-16 inches in diameter. A "V" or square saddle notch was used in stacking the logs. Chinking consisted of Portland mortar secured around inserted nails spaced approximately two to three feet apart tied together horizontally with a single line of "bailing" wire.

The building has a medium pitch roof with a ridge-placed chimney constructed of mortar and local rocks. A full-width, one-story Tidewater porch gives the southern facade the appearance of having a triangular pediment. The original balustrade consisted of three-foot-high tree trunks.

An original 11.5 feet by 9.5 feet inverted forked section of a ponderosa pine tree stands at the middle of the front porch serving as an unique entrance arch.

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The porch was enclosed with vertical pine siding extending to the original porch roof in circa 1946. This alteration further defined a triangular pediment. The enclosure was needed to increase the interior space to accommodate additional business. Enclosing the existing large porch was the only practical means of gaining additional space due to the inherent difficulty of expanding a rectangle log house. The enclosure also followed the national trend of foregoing the utility of exposed porches in favor of air conditioning.

Also around the mid-1940s, interior steps leading to the upstairs living quarters were removed (likely to increase business space) and a staircase was added behind the bar area along the southeast interior wall.

A prominent historic rectangular sign with an orange background and white letters spelling out THE MUSEUM CLUB FLAGSTAFF, AZ. hangs above the second-story windows.

Existing windows are original consisting of four 4-over-1 casement units on the second-story front facade and two 3-over-1 casement units on each side facade. Original first-story windows were removed with the 1946 porch enclosure.

By the late 1980s, The Museum Club was structurally weak, and, in some expert opinions, on the verge of collapse. "If something is not done immediately in repairs, the entire building would be lost soon," Wally Baird, a builder and remodeler of log houses for 17 years, recalls informing the owner.

The state of jeopardy was due to improper alterations over the years. A major source of fatigue stemmed from the circa 1946 porch enclosure which originally had an inadequate foundation. The original wood piers of the porch and attachment of the siding to the main building served as the sole support for the enclosure for over forty years. The placement of the staircase behind the bar area weakened the existing support rafters and exterior walls, causing additional stress to be inflicted. Location of a large air-conditioning unit on the east roof for about twenty five years lent added weight to roof supports and exterior walls. By 1989 some exterior walls had shifted and the building was threatening to buckle and collapse under its current strain.

Wally Baird, and his company Heritage Pine, Inc., oversaw the stabilization of The Museum Club between 1989 and 1991. The magnitude of changes to the building were limited by a focused scope of work. The objectives of the repairs were to restore structural integrity, retain historic materials and elements to the greatest extent possible, and to replicate the original construction craftsmanship and materials.

Much of the stabilization centered on the sagging porch enclosure. A new foundation with wood floor beams spanning the under joist was installed under the enclosure and where needed under the main building. The deteriorating siding from the 1946 remodel was removed. After resheathing, the front porch facade was secured by split timbers laid horizontally. Facade styling is intended to be congruous but not identical to the main building. Historic elements of the Tidewater porch, including the roof and roof support beams are still present. Native ponderosa pine and lodge poles served as the primary remodeling materials.

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Other stabilization undertaken at this time involved demolition of the non-historic interior staircase, removal of the 1960s air condition unit mounted on the eastern roof, and replacing two original, but overly large and heavy attic vents also on the eastern roof with similar but smaller units.

The garage, located at the east rear of the building was constructed circa 1946 and currently has similarly constructed exterior log walls as the rest of the building. Remodeling included bringing a 10-foot by 20-foot garage within the interior. A modern HVAC system was also installed during the remodeling. Location of the new system on the second floor alleviated the need to span large ducts and pipes within the historic exposed rafters.

The building is now structurally sound and will continue to be in good condition for decades to come. In recognition of the quality of the work completed to save the building, the Flagstaff Historic Sites Commission recommended and the Flagstaff City Council approved awarding The Museum Club the 1993 Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation.

Interior: The interior of The Museum Club retains a high degree of integrity, with many historic elements still in place. The recent remodeling retained and expanded on the original desired naturalistic design.

The exterior walls enclose a large open gallery area where five mature (dead) ponderosa pines support an array of exposed round wood rafters. An original fire brick chimney, which likely used a pot-bellied stove at one time, stands along the north wall of the gallery. Many taxidermied wild animals and birds are situated in the trees or along the gallery walls.

The gallery area contains a non-historic bandstand along the east wall and a historic (but not original to the building) large decorative wood bar along the northwest corner. A back door which stood in this corner was sealed with the installation of the bar. This ornate bar was acquired from the Coca Cola Company and previously stood at Legend City, a Phoenix amusement park, for a number of years. It is reported that this bar came to Scottsdale from San Francisco and was originally milled in Alabama in the 1890s. The primary (non-historic) bar is located in the southeast corner of the lobby.

An entry lobby toward the south is separated from the gallery area by a large rectangular fireplace. The hearth faces the lobby. Materials used to construct the fireplace wall are intended to create a conversation piece. Its variety of colors and textures beckon those entering the building to take a closer look. Upon inspection, the fireplace wall is composed of a plethora of mineral specimens and artifacts found in northern Arizona including: colorful pieces of petrified wood, geodes, two Indian metates, rough malpais rocks, cylindrical red volcanic "bombs," and smooth river rocks with colored strata.

The log construction is visible throughout the interior. Corners frequently show the saddle notches used to stack the logs.

The second-story living quarters consists of three small rooms with a centrally placed decorative stone fireplace.

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Areas of significance:

OVERVIEW:

Dean Eldredge's boyhood dream became a reality in 1931 when he built The Museum along Route 66 to house his unique collection. According to early newspaper reports, Eldredge's 30,000 specimens included everything from taxidermied animals, valuable rifles, Indian artifacts and art work, to Hawaiian trigger fish, freak calves and ducks, arrowheads and an Iowa pig. Scores of tourists would stop in at The Dean Eldredge Museum where the price of admission was 25 cents. Eldredge capitalized on creative commercial imagery in the construction and operation of The Museum, which stands out as a remarkable example of original roadside architecture and commerce.

In 1936, Doc Williams, a Flagstaff saddle maker, turned The Museum into a night club. Then, as today, bobcat, bear, owls and peacocks perch on branches in the rafters above the tree studded dance floor. The Museum Club was known by residents and visitors as the place where "the locals go dancing."

In the days before 50,000-seat coliseum concerts, roadhouses like The Museum Club were the places where people gathered to dance to the music of bands and performers working their way up to the big time. During the 1960s and 1970s almost everyone who was or became somebody played at The Museum Club because it was on Route 66. Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, Wynn Stewart, Wanda Jackson and Asleep at the Wheel are just a few of the acts which have appeared at The Museum Club. Many aspiring recording stars would make the pilgrimage from Nashville to Las Vegas in search of fame and fortune. Along the way, they would book into The Museum Club. Some, like Barbara Mandrell, would simply show up, grab a guitar and play impromptu.

The club's reputation as a magnet for budding musical talent is often attributed to the efforts of Don Scott, a colorful character who owned the club in the 1960s and 1970s. A retired member of the Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys band, "Pappy" had many contacts in the music industry and earned the affection of patrons and employees alike. Old-timers credit Scott for putting the club on the map in the western swing circuit.

Today, The ZOO, as the local police originally nick-named The Museum Club, continues to host the rising stars of country music and the new sounds of Nashville.

Generations of travelers, locals and Northern Arizona University graduates enjoy fond memories of dancing around the trees at The Museum Club. During war time--from World War II to Desert Storm--The Museum Club has always been a place to which soldiers looked forward to returning with friends and sweethearts.

As Flagstaff's most well-known Route 66 landmark, The Museum Club continues to contribute to the personality of the city. Owner Martin Zanzucchi has promoted the comeback of Route 66 in Flagstaff including the restoration of the name "Route 66" to the city's main thoroughfare. As a result, The Museum Club has drawn major media attention to Flagstaff including features in major national media including magazines and television.

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HISTORIC ASSOCIATION:

For centuries prior, the area where Flagstaff now stands, was a hub of transportation and commerce in northern Arizona. As a result, The Museum Club is in close proximity to several of the region's prehistoric and historic trails of human migration which formed the early framework for the much greater hub in the years to come.

The Sinagua people of the Elden Pueblo (circa 1000-1200 A.D) located about a mile northeast of The Museum Club at the base of Mount Elden passed over the area today known as U.S. Hwy. 89 and Route 66 as they ventured out in search of trade to the south and to the west.

In 1857, camels--not mules--were used as pack animals on the first expedition through the area led by Edward Fitzgerald Beale, a veteran of the Mexican War and friend of Kit Carson. Beale established the first federally funded wagon road in the Southwest which stretches from east of Flagstaff to immediately north of The Museum Club and beyond to the northwest end of town. During the 1860s and 1870s, the road served as a major transportation route, leading the way west for immigrants, Texas longhorns and more than a million head of sheep.

Transportation via the Beale Wagon Road was supplanted by the arrival of the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad (Santa Fe) in Flagstaff in 1882. Today, more than 50 trains a day rumble over the rails right across the street from The Museum Club.

By the time Dean Eldredge built The Museum, America's Route 66 was five years old. Centuries of human history and migration were entering yet another age; the American love for the automobile was thriving out of necessity more than frivolity.

In 1926, the National Old Trails road which had been made up of local roads strung together to form a continuous thoroughfare, was designated as U.S. Highway 66. This was so successful that a new alignment was executed in the 1930s to improve the original road. It was this version of Route 66 that carried many children from the dustbowl of the Great Depression in the Midwest to the promised land that was to be found in California. U.S. Route 66--covering more than 2,400 miles between Chicago, Ill., and Santa Monica, Calif.--became one of the most favored routes for Americans to travel to the southwest.

Hundreds of books and articles trace their history and are showcased in movies, books and on television. More and more tourists are increasingly leaving the fast-paced interstates to explore long forgotten sections of these captivating old roads. As one of the most popular tourist destinations on Route 66, Flagstaff and The Museum Club have historically received a hefty share of this attention.

In Arizona and other states, many towns and cities along the route vied for the traveler's dollars with all sorts of unique "Mom and Pop" restaurants, cafes, gas stations, local attractions and other points of interest. Among the most unique was The Dean Eldredge Museum--and later, The Museum Club. These wonderful places not only allowed people to meet one another, but gave Route 66 a personality all its own. This uniqueness instilled travelers with vivid and fond memories of "America's Main Street."

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Throughout the country, Americans are developing a new appreciation for famous old highways, the classic roadside architecture and the nostalgia associated with them. The Museum Club on Flagstaff's Route 66 is among the most memorable.

Contribution to architecture: The Museum Club is architecturally significant as a rare historic log house of Midland Revival styling which emphasizes this styling in portraying the commercial roadside architecture prompted by the passageway known as Route 66. Consultation with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, the Arizona Historic Sites Review Committee and a private architectural historian further indicates that The Museum Club is the largest existing building in Arizona constructed of (stacked) logs.

The style and materials used in the execution of The Museum Club follow the earlier national pattern of the 19th century Pre-Railroad Folk House. Timber-frame construction was carried to the United States by Germanic immigrants who settled in the Mid-Atlantic states. The availability of logs in many locations and the relative inexpense of construction outweighed longevity and resulted in the expanded use of log cabins and houses throughout the country, although most commonly found in the western territories.

The pine forests of northern and eastern Arizona provided the pioneers of the late 19th century with an abundant supply of building material. Logging business and sawmills continued to thrive in the area for a century after the first operations began in the 1880s; among the most notable logging businesses in the area were the Arizona Timber and Lumber Company, the Arizona Lumber Company, the Ayer Lumber Company, the Flagstaff (later Cady) Lumber Company, and the Saginaw Lumber Company. Many log cabins and houses were built in the Flagstaff area and in the surrounding forest (now the Coconino National Forest) from this time up to the beginning of World War II.

Log construction, while common in northern and eastern Arizona, was generally not used in other parts of the state. Large logs were not readily available in the desert regions. Adobe, and then brick, were the materials most likely to be used in construction during Arizona's historic period.

Most log cabins and houses built in and around the Flagstaff area were replaced with more permanent brick houses, or as numerous cabins found in the nearby forest fallen into disrepair or been consumed by fire. Exceptions to this pattern include the Governor's territorial mansion in Prescott and the one-room schoolhouse in Strawberry. Other historic buildings employing some timber construction include the Riordan Mansion in Flagstaff and the El Tovar Hotel at the south rim of the Grand Canyon. Joining this small group of exceptional examples of a once-common construction type is The Museum Club.

The Museum Club is further significant as an expressive example of Pre-World War II roadside architecture. The Museum Club was deliberately designed and constructed to attract travelers, and illustrates architectural historian Chester H. Lieb's observation that "roadside commercial buildings are most often viewed from that most ubiquitous of twentieth-century vantage points, behind the windshield of a moving car."

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Dean Eldredge and his construction of The Museum (Club) offer a classic example of those Americans who with the advent of automobiles and paved roadways shed limited or mundane toils in the employment of others to start businesses of their own catering to people traveling by car. Eldredge viewed the construction and operation of his Museum as a boyhood dream come true. In doing this, he joined a class of new entrepreneurs who saw opportunity and created thousands of family-run businesses dotting the nation's roadways. The many twists, turns and flat stretches of Route 66 was fruitful ground fashioning a new type of capitalism.

The small shops, restaurants, camps and motels and fruit stands--which emerged on the horizon, then in a flash disappeared behind a moving car--formed an alternative, although disjointed, commercial loci to the traditional downtowns of rows of storefronts along crowded, narrow corridors.

These budding proprietors were not contained by the need to maintain the preferred downtown architectural image. Instead, they spent any funds available toward quickly catching the eye of the speeding passerby. Creating aggressive imagery--whether it be the domestic appeal of a cluster of cozy cabins, the wonder and fantasy of a twelve foot replica of a fish or watermelon, or such popular historic and regional images as a stagecoach or tepee--proved a successful tool in generating interest, and as a result, income.

Broad themes in roadside architecture were to use deep-rooted symbolism, popular images, or a bent for the fantastic, to create commerce. Dean Eldredge achieved each of these types of images with The Museum (Club). Costs were kept to a minimum by using available native materials in a way to commercially exploit the psychological make-up of the travelers. The large-scaled, massed log house promptly caught one's view through the windshield of a swiftly moving car and instilled in longing travelers a reminder of their own domestic belonging. The use of a log cabin, along with collections of antique guns and Indian art works, capitalized on the public's imagination about the Wild West so often portrayed in travel brochures, "dime" novels, and motion pictures. Further, the use of other unusual natural features in construction, including the five trees used for interior support, the decorative stone fireplace, and the inverted tree trunk entry, are creative examples of "fantastic imagery" found in roadside architecture to create lure for the bizarre. In these aspects, and others, Dean Eldredge proved to be a master in roadside architecture in his design and construction of The Museum (Club).

The location of The Museum Club also adds to its significance. Nearly all, if not all, of the historic buildings in this area are found near the original Flagstaff town site. The Museum Club was built three miles east of the town site, and has since become enveloped by a small city of 49,000 inhabitants. The commercial and residential growth up to and past The Museum Club is representative of the development of many Route 66 communities with growth taking place along the linear corridor of the main thoroughfare. The Museum Club is likely the only historic building found in the large section of Flagstaff developed after World War II. The only site in proximity to The Museum Club is the pre-historic Elden Pueblo ruin of the indigenous Sinagua.

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Section 9. Major Bibliography

Bibliography

Martin Zanzucchi, owner and life-long resident of Flagstaff

Bob Eldredge, son of Dean Eldredge

The Coconino Sun, predecessor of current *Arizona Daily Sun* newspaper

Platt Cline, Flagstaff historian

Nolan Harrion, owner, Flagstaff Music Center

Liebs, Chester H., Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture; New York: Little, Brown, and Company, 1985.

Northern Arizona University Special Collections Library

Arizona Historical Society-Pioneer Museum

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses; New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

Wallis, Michael, Route 66 The Mother Road; New York: St. Martins Press, 1990.

Smith, Jack, A Guide to the Beale Wagon Road Through Flagstaff, Arizona; Flagstaff: Tales of the Beale Road Publishing Company, 1984.

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Section 10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Section 12; Township 21 North; Range 7 East -Coconino County, Arizona

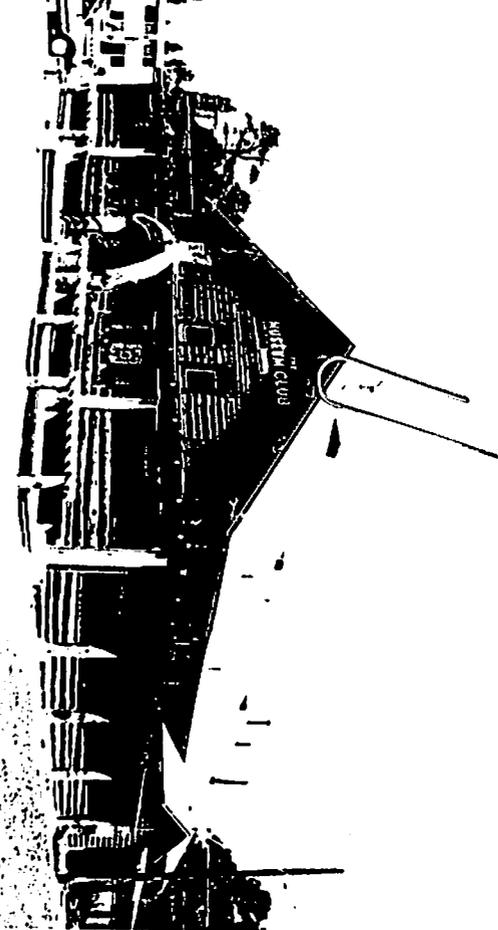
Boundary Justification:

Boundaries follow the original tract of land purchased by Dean Eldredge in 1931.

ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY

HISTORIC PROPERTY NAME The Dean Eldredge Museum/The Museum Club		COUNTY Coconino	INVENTORY NO. 370
COMMON PROPERTY NAME The Museum Club (The Zoo)		QUAD/COUNTY MAP Flagstaff, east	
PROPERTY LOCATION-STREET & NO. 3404 E. Route 66			
CITY, TOWN/VICINITY OF Flagstaff, Arizona		ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 108-06-003D	
OWNER OF PROPERTY Martin & Stacie Zanzucchi		PHONE (602) 526-9524	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 5150 Country Club Drive			
CITY, TOWN Flagstaff		STATE AZ	ZIP 86004
FORM PREPARED BY Steve Chambers & Peggy Pavlich		DATE 7/13/93	
STREET & NO./P.O. BOX 99 Kletha Trail		PHONE (602) 523-5669	
CITY, TOWN Flagstaff		STATE AZ	ZIP 86001
PHOTO BY Steve Chambers		DATE 7/3/93	
VIEW Looking north			
HISTORIC USE Taxidermy, Trading Post, & Night Club			
PRESENT USE Night Club		ACREAGE 1.4	
ARCHITECT/BUILDER Dean Eldredge, Taxidermist, Flagstaff, AZ			
CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION DATES Constructed 1931. Front porch enclosed circa 1946. remodel enclosed porch			

CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION 1991

The building is a two-story front-gabled house constructed of native ponderosa pine logs surrounding five mature dead standing trees which provide structural support and interior decoration. Measuring 72 feet by 42 feet, its 3,000 square foot massing was touted as the largest log cabin in Arizona at the time of construction. The entrance is formed by a large inverted forked trunk of a ponderosa pine. The exterior and interior integrity of the building is exceptional. The only alteration to appearance is enclosure of a large Tidewater front porch in circa 1946. A recent remodeling of the enclosed porch replicated original materials and craftsmanship, and has added to the historic appearance. Stylistic elements of the Tidewater porch, including the roof and roof support beams, are still present. Existing windows are original consisting of four 4 over 1 casement units on the second story front facade and two 3 over 1 casement units on each side facade. A decorative fireplace, constructed of a variety of local rocks and minerals, forms the interior wall of the entry lobby. Recent restoration efforts have recovered and preserved key exterior and interior historic elements of the building. The building is structurally sound and has been generally well maintained over the decades. Many of Dean Eldredge's taxidermied wild animals and birds are poised or perched within the interior.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY

The Museum Club is significant for its association with historic U.S. Route 66 and the contribution of the Club to the local commerce and history of northern Arizona. The impressive log house, located three miles east of Flagstaff, was built in 1931 as a beckoning showcase of oddity along the tranquil surrounding area. The increasing traffic on Route 66 were allured by the large log house to Dean Eldredge's extensive collection of taxidermied animals and birds, fossils, dinosaur tracks, rifles, and Indian artifacts and artworks. A trading post with local and regional Indians was also in operation during this period. Curious travelers and local patrons continued to frequent the property which was converted into a night club in 1936. The "roadhouse" along Route 66 has since operated as a night club, and through the decades has been a colorful historic landmark and a fondly remembered gathering place for residents and visitors.

The Museum Club is further significant in architecture as an expressive example of a large massed Midland Tradition log house with a Tidewater front porch. The building is constructed exclusively from local natural materials and incorporates numerous unusual natural features. Several of these features are exterior walls constructed from green native ponderosa pine logs surrounding five mature dead standing trees; a large inverted forked tree trunk serving as an entry way arch; and a large fireplace fashioned from (petrified wood, geodes, "metate" grinding stones, and) a variety of rock and mineral specimens.

The only change to the exterior appearance was enclosure of the front porch in circa 1946. A recent remodeling of the enclosure retained the original roof and other distinguishing elements of the Tidewater porch. The remodeling further sensitively treated the historic appearance of the property in the materials and craftsmanship used.

SOURCES OF ABOVE INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

Martin Zanzucchi, owner and life-long resident of Flagstaff

Bob Eldredge, son of Dean Eldredge

The Coconino Sun, predecessor of current Arizona Daily Sun newspaper

Platt Cline, Flagstaff historian

Northern Arizona University Special Collections Library

Arizona Historical Society-Pioneer Museum

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA/LEGAL DESCRIPTION/VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section 12: Township 21 North; Range 7 East

GENERAL COMMENTS/FUTURE PLANS FOR PROPERTY

Under the ownership of Martin Zanzucchi, The Museum Club will remain at the center of Flagstaff's entertainment community. Zanzucchi is dedicated to the revival of Route 66 and the preservation of The Museum Club heritage.