

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SENT TO D.C.

4-25-08

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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(s) Village of Davis Junction Town Hall

other names/site number Scott Township Hall, Union Hall, Bushman Hall

2. Location

street & number 202 Pacific Avenue [] not for publication

city or town Davis Junction [] vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Ogle code 141 zip code 61020

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.)

Wendell L. ... 15HP0
Signature of certifying official/Title

4-24-08
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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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
 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 See continuation sheet.

Village of Davis Junction Town Hall
Name of Property

Ogle County, Illinois
County/State

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
(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall
SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Concrete
walls	Asbestos siding, Weatherboard
roof	Asphalt shingles
other	Brick

Narrative Description

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

Village of Davis Junction Town Hall
Name of Property

Ogle County, Illinois
County/State

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.)

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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY

Periods of Significance

1877-1958

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:

Davis Junction Historical Society, Ogle
County Courthouse, Ogle County
Library

Village of Davis Junction Town Hall
Name of Property

Ogle County, Illinois
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1.
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 Kelly Little/Susan Benjamin
organization Benjamin Historic Certifications date January 2, 2008
street & number 711 Marion Avenue telephone 847-432-1865
city or town Highland Park state Illinois zip code 60035

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 Kim L. Smeja
street & number 1974 N. River Road telephone 815-543-0334
city or town Oregon state Illinois zip code 61061

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 range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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SUMMARY

The Village of Davis Junction Town Hall is located at 202 Pacific Avenue in Davis Junction, Illinois, a small community of approximately 4.2 square miles with a 2000 population of 455. The town hall rests on a parcel of land that is 50 x 91.9 feet. It is a small rectangular building that is approximately 22 x 40 feet. It stands one story and is topped by a gable roof. The exterior is wood clapboard sheathed in asphalt siding. Windows are predominantly 1/1 double-hungs. It is a vernacular building with little stylistic ornamentation, except for a semicircular window over the centrally-located double doors and a raised parapet with a slender cornice, both located on the front of the building. There are no other structures on the site.

Historically called Union Hall, Bushmen Hall, and Scott Township Hall, the building is located where Elm Street meets Pacific Avenue, in the oldest section of the village. Although the early history of the town hall is not well documented, evidence indicates that the structure was likely built in 1876 as Union Hall, one year after the village of Davis Junction was platted.

The front façade of the building faces north, set back about 25 feet from Pacific Avenue. Across Pacific Avenue to the north is a two-story, frame, Upright-and-Wing-style residence that was formerly the Junction House Hotel, built in 1875 as the first hotel in the village. To the east and west of the town hall are single-family frame homes. Railroad tracks run immediately behind the hall's lot (about 50 feet behind the building), and the clanging sound of trains switching is frequently heard from within the hall. Sufficient integrity remains of the structure to express its historical significance as the most important municipal building in Davis Junction.

THE GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Davis Junction is located in Scott Township, which was organized in 1850, on the northeast side of Ogle County. It is nestled at the intersection of the Union Pacific Railroad and the Iowa, Chicago and Eastern Railroad. It is immediately surrounded by farmland. 13 miles to the north of Davis Junction is Rockford; five miles east is highway US 51 and the village of Monroe Center; three miles to the south is the unincorporated community of Holcomb; to the west is the village of Stillman Valley (five miles west) as well as the Rock River and the city of Byron (nine miles west). Davis Junction is approximately 95 miles west of Chicago.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURE

The one-story Davis Junction Town Hall building, with a raised basement and a rectangular footprint, is a false-fronted vernacular structure. The 22-x-40-foot building is set on a flat lot with a concrete sidewalk immediately in front; a front lawn and a shallow, grassy drainage ditch separate it from the

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road. A concrete walkway leads around the east side of the building. Hosta plantings line the base of the building on the east side, and willow trees run along the walkway.

The town hall is timber construction with clapboards; the clapboard has been covered by asbestos siding. The siding is painted dark green up to the window sills and painted white from the sill line to the cornice line. On the south façade, a portion of the siding has been removed to reveal the intact clapboarding underneath, which the owner intends to restore. The doors and windows have simple wood window surrounds with a wood drip edge at the top. All the trim is painted white. The historic wood-frame, double-hung windows are intact. The structure is set on a raised foundation of rock-faced concrete blocks, which were very likely a 1908 addition. On the east and west façades, awning windows have been set into the concrete blocks at the building's base.

The north (front) façade of the town hall is three bays wide with a centrally-located entrance. A concrete stairway with metal railings leads up to the front entry, which consists of a pair of painted wood doors topped by a four-light transom divided by slender wood muntins. Each door has a tall narrow rectangular glass panel at the top and a wood panel at the bottom. About two feet above the transom is a semi-circular wood lunette window, divided into four pie-shaped sections by slender wood muntins. There is a metal lamp in the center of the sill of the lunette. Centered above the entrance doors and the lunette is a rectangular panel with letters set into it identifying the structure: "TOWN HALL". A rectangular false front frames the front façade. It consists of a parapet wall with a raised rectangular center section, with a projecting slim rectangular cornice, framing the "Town Hall" panel. Two lower sections with a slender molded cornice extend to the sides of the front, each terminating in a slim raised rectangular molded cornice. The east and west facades are identical, each four bays wide, consisting of four double-hung windows. The south façade has no openings. Capping the structure is a moderately-pitched gable roof with asphalt shingles. The three secondary facades are topped by projecting eaves of the roof, but only the projecting eaves can be seen from the north side of the building because of the false front. A tall, narrow, rectangular, red-brick chimney with a limestone cap rises up from the roof at the north end of the west side of the building.

The interior floor plan of the town hall is very simple with a single major space consisting of one large meeting room (approximately 34 x 21 feet). The exterior double doors lead into a small entrance vestibule. A single-pane, wood-frame window is set into the west wall of the vestibule. This window, which was used for paying bills, looks into a small alcove off the meeting room.¹ The inside set of doors leading into the main room are varnished five-panel wood doors with ornamental historic door knobs and escutcheon plates. The walls are of painted plaster over lathe. Six historic lights hang down from the ceiling of the meeting room. The plaster ceilings are intact, but have been covered by a dropped ceiling of acoustical tile; the ceiling in the entrance vestibule is plaster. The wood frames around all of

¹ Interviews with Bernice Duhigg, Davis Junction Historical Society member, July 17 and 29, 2007.

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the windows are varnished wood with brass hardware. The room has simple decorative treatments consisting of wood accents: a wide wood baseboard, a slender crown molding at the level of the dropped ceiling, a slender molding about 1' beneath the crown and a broader chair rail at sill level extend around the room. Wood bands also link the windows at the level of the meeting rail. There is a historic wood floor that has been refinished.

At the east end of the north wall of the meeting room, east of the foyer, is the former coatroom, which was converted to a bathroom in 2007. The bathroom has a wood five-panel door. A wood five-panel door at the west corner of the north wall of the room opens onto stairs leading to the basement.

In the basement, the building's heavy timber construction can be seen. Heavy timber posts support Douglas fir girders, which in turn hold up Douglas fir joists. Two turned posts resembling Doric columns sit underneath the heavy timber posts. These turned posts are not original. The floor of the basement is concrete as are the walls; the walls have eroded in several places due to flooding. The three courses of concrete block that form the foundation rest on the concrete basement walls. The basement consists of two rooms, separated by a concrete wall. At the southwest corner of the north room, the chimney leads up through the floor. New mechanical equipment, consisting of a new HVAC and sump pump, is contained in this room. The room at the south end of the building has a small area for standing. The rest of the room is at grade, with only about 2' between the ceiling and the ground (the height as the concrete block foundation). The awning windows, set into the concrete block, open out from the basement.

The building is a simple vernacular structure built to serve as the municipal and social center of rural Scott Township. It is a simple, symmetrical structure, governed by order. The Davis Junction Town Hall has undergone some alterations over the years, but the historic fabric of the structure remains and the building reflects its basic historic purpose as a meeting place. Underneath its asbestos siding, the town hall's clapboarding remains intact and the owner plans to restore this historic cladding.

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SUMMARY

The Village of Davis Junction Town Hall meets Criterion A for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a locally-significant building associated with the governmental administration of Scott Township beginning in the 1870s. The building is the only municipal structure left from Davis Junction's early history when it was a burgeoning railroad town. It is an excellent example of a rural town hall and is intimately tied to the community's small-town activities. The building's period of significance dates from 1877, when Scott Township began holding meetings in Union Hall, until 1958, fifty years ago. In 1993, the township sold the building.

The building also has local social significance as a meeting hall. The building was the center of social activity in Davis Junction during the late nineteenth century and most of the twentieth century. Nicknamed "Bushman Hall" for its association with a local fraternal organization, the Davis Junction Town Hall was the township's primary gathering place for clubs, dances, and socials.

The town hall's clapboards reflect an early stylistic period of town hall history. Later town halls were frequently constructed of brick or stone that "conveyed a sense of permanence – not only because many early frame courthouses and town halls had burned, but also because many new towns simply withered and died."² The Davis Junction Town Hall, a simple vernacular structure, was built to serve as the municipal and social center of rural Scott Township. The building's plan, with its single large meeting room, is representative of a small-town hall of its era:

"[C]ity halls played a central role in community life—often providing the only assembly hall large enough for plays, entertainments, or even church services... A meeting room was often granted in perpetuity to the local ladies' auxiliary, patriotic or civic organizations and lodges."³

Its vernacular construction and false front reflect the typical rural general store, post office, and schoolhouse of its era.

HISTORY

The village of Davis Junction was founded by settler Jeremiah Davis. Davis made his fortune panning for gold in California. He moved to Ogle County from Wisconsin in the 1850s and over several years

² Inghram, Cheryl A. and Melanie Betz. "Preserving County Courthouses and City Halls," *Small Town*, May-June 1985, p. 4.

³ Inghram, Cheryl A. and Melanie Betz. "Preserving County Courthouses and City Halls," *Small Town*, May-June 1985, p. 4.

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purchased more than a thousand acres within Scott Township, which had been organized in 1850.⁴ At that point, “there was not a house to be seen from any portion of his land.”⁵ Davis was a member of the Illinois Legislature from 1871 to 1872, Scott Township Supervisor for eight years (between 1864 and 1874), and a stockholder in the Chicago & Pacific Railroad.⁶ In 1875, Davis submitted a plat and Davis Junction was recognized as a village. He immediately allowed a right of way through his property for the Pacific Railroad and the Chicago & Iowa Railroad and also donated \$4,000 for the grading of the Pacific Railroad.⁷

Davis Junction became an important railroad crossroads. The railway spurred growth throughout the rural area. Trains initially transported grain and livestock from area farms to Chicago and Rockford, but the railroad crossing made the village desirable for manufacturing purposes. As of 1878, the village had a population of around 200.⁸ Businesses developed, including the York River Butter Factory, Burdick & Wilson carriage and wagon makers, a steam feed mill, a livery stable, general stores, and two hotels. A grain elevator was situated on the Chicago, Rockford & Northern.⁹ In 1882, the two train lines erected a Union Depot in Davis Junction. In 1905, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company extended its right of way into Central Illinois’ coal fields and Davis Junction became one of the terminals on the Rochelle and Southern branch. Numerous freight and passenger trains stopped daily on their way to Chicago and Rockford.¹⁰

Over time, the railroad business slumped. With the closing of many of the Illinois coal mines, the greater part of the activity on the Rochelle and Southern branch was discontinued. Passenger travel on the railways declined nationwide due to mass production of the automobile in the 1920s and the burgeoning popularity of air travel in the 1950s.¹¹ By 1952, there were only two passenger trains

⁴ Duhigg, Leland and Bernice. *Centennial History: 1875-1975; Davis Junction, Illinois*. Davis Junction, Illinois: 1975.

⁵ Bateman, Newton, Paul Selby, Horace G. Kauffman, Rebecca H. Kauffman. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Ogle County*, Munsell Publishing Company, Chicago: 1909, p. 821.

⁶ *The History of Ogle County, Illinois, Containing a History of the County—Its Cities, Towns, Etc.* Chicago: H.F. Kett & Co., Times Building: 1878, p. 834.

⁷ Behnan, Christopher. “Village history brings triumphs, challenges and adversity,” *Ogle County Life/Rock Valley Shopper*, June 12, 2000, p. E-3.

⁸ *The History of Ogle County, Illinois, Containing a History of the County—Its Cities, Towns, Etc.* Chicago: H.F. Kett & Co., Times Building: 1878, p. 606-7.

⁹ *The History of Ogle County, Illinois, Containing a History of the County—Its Cities, Towns, Etc.* Chicago: H.F. Kett & Co., Times Building: 1878, p. 606-7.

¹⁰ “Davis Junction’s History Began Back in 1838”, *Stillman Valley News*, August 15, 1952.

¹¹ Beem, Ron. “Davis Junction to celebrate birthday,” June 19, 1985

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through Davis Junction to Chicago a day.¹²

The population of Davis Junction stayed steady through most of the 1900s, but has more than tripled in the last 5 years. Large subdivisions have developed on the outskirts of old Davis Junction. The town hall lies in the largely-intact old section of Davis Junction, roughly a ten-block area bounded to the south and east by railroad tracks. The rural small-town feel of Davis junction presently remains intact in this section despite area development.

The early history of the Davis Junction Town Hall is not well documented; however, sources indicate that the structure was likely built in 1876 as Union Hall, one year after Davis Junction was platted and recognized as a village. A recent newspaper article reported that Jeremiah Davis moved an old school house north of where Davis Junction now lies into the current village limits; while the town hall certainly has the shape of a one-room school house, there is no concrete evidence that the building is the same.¹³

Minutes of Scott Township meetings state that the township began holding meetings and elections in Davis Junction's Union Hall in 1877. Prior to this, town meetings were held in the clerk's office or in the Berkshire and Wilbur Schoolhouses.¹⁴ The township was an important governmental body in rural Ogle County. A recent book describes the significance of the township throughout the Midwest: "No other feature marks the Midwestern landscape as the signature of townships ... We know the Midwest by this arbitrary and artificial pattern that has been imposed upon it."¹⁵ The "imposed grid" of the township not only provided geographic divisions, but was the main local government in rural areas. The township was charged with building roads, bridges, and schools in areas with no towns.

The first township meeting held in Davis Junction's Union Hall was on April 3, 1877. At the Scott Township meetings, decisions were made about the election of township officers, maintenance of the roadways, and dispensation of aid to farmers (at that time the township exercised a dog tax, the proceeds of which were used to compensate farmers who lost livestock to dogs). Davis Junction did not incorporate until the 1970s and, until that point, Scott Township was the area's main local government.

Scott Township meetings were held at Union Hall until around 1880; however, later meeting minutes do not record the meeting place and as of 1885 the township meetings were inexplicably held in a local

¹² "Davis Junction's History Began Back in 1838", *Stillman Valley News*, August 15, 1952.

¹³ Behnan, Christopher. "Village history brings triumphs, challenges and adversity," *Ogle County Life/Rock Valley Shopper*, June 12, 2000, p. E-3.

¹⁴ Scott Township Records – minutes of meetings, Scott Township Hall.

¹⁵ Martone, Michael, ed. *Townships*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1992, p. 5.

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residence.¹⁶

Throughout the 1890s, the hall was controlled by the Modern Woodmen of America, a nation-wide fraternal society, started in 1883, whose goal was to alleviate the financial difficulties of families following the death of the breadwinner. The Davis Junction branch of the Modern Woodmen was established in 1888, and was locally nicknamed the "Bushman Camp."¹⁷ A long-time resident of Davis Junction stated that as a youth, she always knew the town hall by its nickname of "Bushman Hall."¹⁸ The Bushman Hall was rented out for local events such as dances and meetings. In 1890, the *Stillman Valley Graphic* newspaper reported in its 'Davis Junction' section that the Good Templars were giving "an entertainment in Bushman's."¹⁹ In 1894, Davis Junction's school building was destroyed by fire. Classes were held in Bushman Hall until a new school building was constructed the following year.²⁰

Another event brought attention to the Town Hall in 1894. The hall gained notoriety as home to the Davis Junction "Dance Wars." The *Chicago Tribune* reported that the Jolly Three club, which organized dances in Davis Junction, had leased the only public hall in Davis Junction from the Modern Woodmen with the intention of hosting dances throughout the year. However, Davis Junction was also home to a forceful anti-dancing faction, which quickly elected a new Board of Trustees that vowed not to honor the Jolly Three lease. On January 12, 1894, a member of the anti-dancing faction guarded the hall in an attempt to prevent that evening's dance from taking place. After standing watch all afternoon, he was overtaken by a "forcible charge of forty or fifty young people."²¹ The Dance Wars escalated in February, when the anti-dancers took more drastic measures. They cut a hole through the floor, ran a pipe up into the stove, and then:

"When the revelry was at its height, the anti-dancers below blew a charge of sulphur into the stove. Presently there was no dance. The dancers were compelled to flee to the street to clear their lungs and recover their breath. After a while some ventured back to the scene of the action and threw the stove out of doors. Then the room was aired and the dance went bravely on."²²

¹⁶ Scott Township Records – minutes of meetings, Scott Township Hall.

¹⁷ Draus, Thomas J. *Davis Junction-Scott Township Historical Society Bulletin, Volume 13*, Davis Junction, IL: 1996, p. 1.

¹⁸ Interview with Bernice Duhigg

¹⁹ Draus, Thomas J. *Davis Junction-Scott Township Historical Society Bulletin, Volume 11*, Davis Junction, IL: 1994, p. 21.

²⁰ *Centennial History: 1875-1975, Davis Junction, Illinois*, 1975.

²¹ " 'Dance' War at Davis Junction," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, January 20, 1894.

²² "Return to the hall, Throw Out the Stove, and On Goes the Dance," *Chicago Tribune*, February 4,

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After the excitement of 1894, no written mention is found of Town Hall events until 1908. That year, an article in the 'Davis Junction' section of the *Ogle County Republican* documents a fire in the hall:

“An exciting time was experienced here in our little village Saturday noon, when it was discovered that the roof of the old Hall was on fire ... the fire caught from sparks from an engine that was switching just back of the building. The building, which has stood empty for some time, is very old and dilapidated and should be condemned and torn down. This is the fourth time in its history that it has been on fire.”²³

That same year, an indenture was filed in which Scott Township purchased the town hall lot for \$50 from Jeremiah Davis, the village founder. The indenture demonstrates the strong moral character of this small community:

“neither the party of the second part, its assigns, shall or will manufacture, sell or give away, or shall or will allow, suffer or permit any intoxicating drink or drinks to be manufactured, sold or given away upon said premises, nor any gambling to be carried on, nor any house or other place of lewd or immoral practices thereupon.”²⁴

The township also issued a check for \$1,500 to Menzo Nashold for the purchase of the town hall (the township had paid rent to Nashold for the rent of the hall in previous years).²⁵

The township immediately set about outfitting the town hall. Between 1908 and 1909, their expenses included \$35 for chairs from Hallock Bros. Furniture Co., \$5 for curtains from Ashton Dry Goods, \$3 to A. Rice for purchase of trees, and \$4 to L. Grishirt for setting trees.²⁶

The new town hall immediately became the center of civic activity. Township meetings and elections were held in the building, and the hall was regularly rented out to local individuals and organizations for events such as ice cream socials. In 1910, town hall rent for an event in the hall was \$3. The Modern

1894.

²³ 'Davis Junction,' *Ogle County Republican*, 1908.

²⁴ Indenture dated November 25, 1907, between Jeremiah Davis and Town of Scott.

²⁵ Draus, Thomas J. *Davis Junction-Scott Township Historical Society Bulletin, Volume 12*, Davis Junction, IL: 1995, p. 7.

²⁶ Draus, Thomas J. *Davis Junction-Scott Township Historical Society Bulletin, Volume 12*, Davis Junction, IL: 1995, p. 8.

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Woodmen of America rented the hall for their meetings until the Camp closed in 1930.”²⁷ In 1909, they paid \$35 for annual rent.²⁸

The hall continued to be central to the lives of Davis Junction residents. In 1918, when the Davis Junction village church burned down, religious services were held in the Town Hall.²⁹ The local church burned down once again in 1953, and services were again held in the Town Hall.³⁰

In the 1960s, Scott Township made a motion at their annual meeting to allow the possibility of saving money by moving township functions into the newly-built firehouse. The motion passed, but no action was taken to sell off the building and it continued to be used as a meeting and polling place. In 1975, the newly-formed Davis Junction Historical Society began meeting in the town hall.³¹ The township continued meeting in the town hall until the 1990s. In April 1993, a motion was passed to proceed with the process of disposing of the town hall by sealed bid. Scott Township sold the hall to Richard Carter in August of that year.³² In 2006, the building was purchased by the current owner and converted to the Davis Junction Scott Township Historical Society Museum. The historical society maintains the building’s original function by using the hall as a meeting place. In addition to displaying Davis Junction and Scott Township history, they have also held social functions such as a dance and bake sales to draw the community into the building.

²⁷ Draus, Thomas J. *Davis Junction-Scott Township Historical Society Bulletin, Volume 13*, Davis Junction, IL: 1996, p. 1.

²⁸ Draus, Thomas J. *Davis Junction-Scott Township Historical Society Bulletin, Volume 12*, Davis Junction, IL: 1995, p. 7.

²⁹ *Centennial History: 1875-1975, Davis Junction, Illinois, 1975.*

³⁰ *Centennial History: 1875-1975, Davis Junction, Illinois, 1975.*

³¹ Draus, Thomas J. *Davis Junction-Scott Township Historical Society Bulletin, Volume 8*, Davis Junction, IL: 1994, p. 1.

³² Scott Township Records – minutes of meetings, Scott Township Hall.

Village of Davis Junction Town Hall
Name of Property

Ogle County, Illinois
County/State

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018
(Expires 1-31-2009)

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CONTEXT

A survey of town halls in Ogle County turned up few extant comparable examples to Davis Junction's town hall. The town hall in Kings, Illinois, is stylistically the closest. Like Davis Junction's hall, the Kings hall is one story tall with a raised basement. It is a vernacular structure with a centrally-located entrance with a transom above, and is sheathed in clapboards. It does not, however, have the integrity or the detailing of the Davis Junction Town Hall. It does not have the semi-circular lunette or an inset name-plate like the Davis Junction hall; and the transom and front doors are not original. The Rochelle City and Town Hall, located thirteen miles south of Davis Junction, is the only city or town hall in Ogle County that is listed on the National Register. This building is a two-story brick Italianate with brick quoins. Stylistically it has little in common with the Village of Davis Junction Town Hall.

Although the town hall has undergone minor alterations over the years, it retains sufficient integrity of association, location, and materials to meet National Register criteria. The Davis Junction Town Hall retains the appearance of a rural, vernacular village hall, and stands at its original location, in the heart of old Davis Junction.

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Ogle County Library
Rockford Library
Scott Township Hall

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National Register of Historic Places
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Geographical Data

Zone 16 326489E 4662811N

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 1 Block 11 Town Hall in the Village of Davis Junction

Boundary Justification

The structure being nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places lies within the boundary described in the above legal description. This is the property associated with the building being nominated.

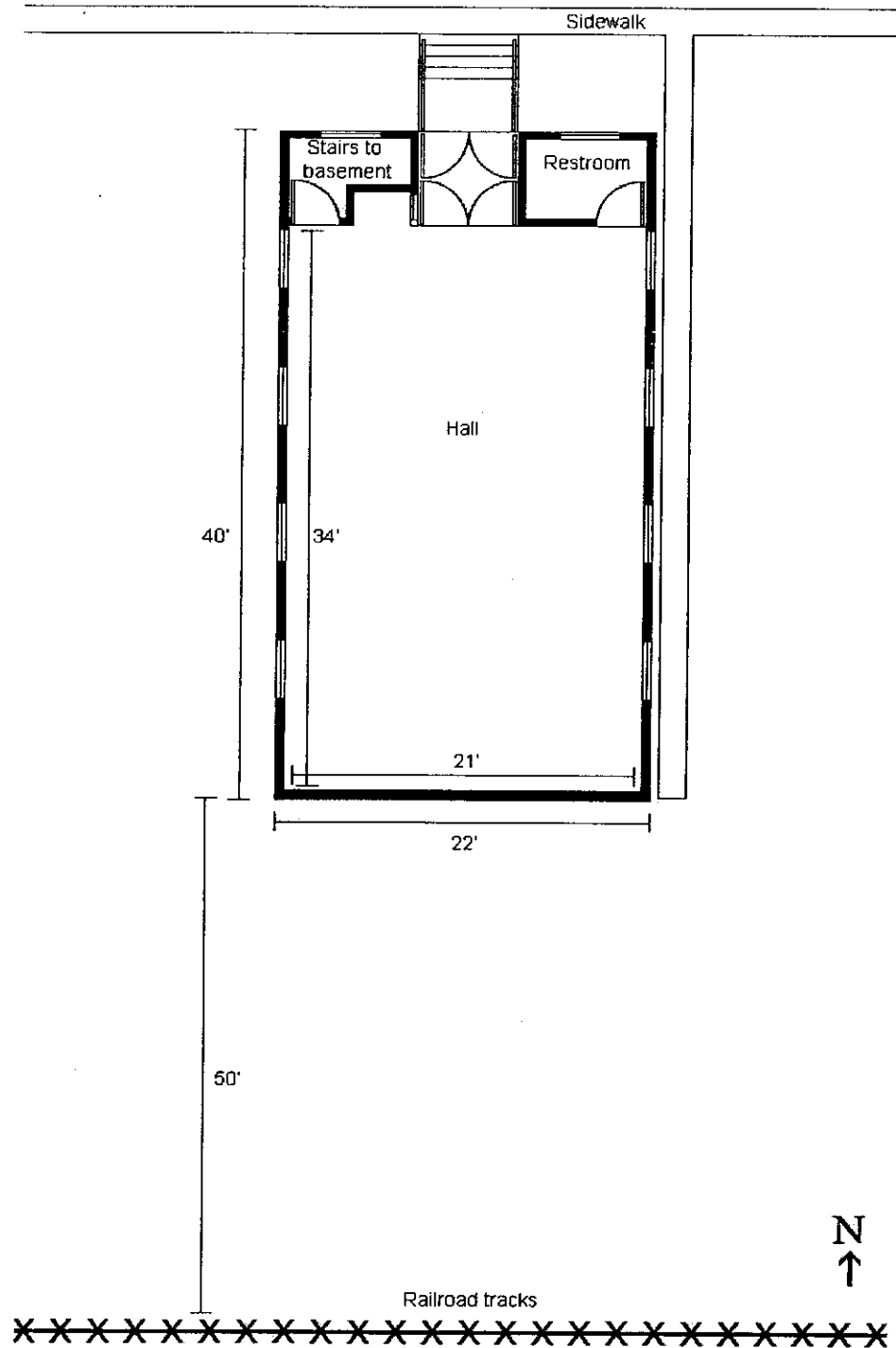
Photographic Log

- 1: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; north elevation with photographer facing south
- 2: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; north and west elevations with photographer facing southeast
- 3: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; south and west elevations with photographer facing northeast
- 4: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; east elevation with photographer facing north
- 5: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; north elevation with photographer facing south
- 6: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; detail of entrance (north elevation) with photographer facing south
- 7: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; detail of north elevation with photographer facing south
- 8: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; window with photographer facing east
- 9: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; wood cladding underneath asbestos siding on south elevation, photographer facing north
- 10: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; interior of hall with photographer facing north
- 11: Susan Benjamin; June 16, 2006; digital image; interior of hall with photographer facing south
- 12: Susan Benjamin; June 16, 2006; digital image; interior of hall with photographer facing north
- 13: Susan Benjamin; June 16, 2006; digital image; detail of doorknobs of vestibule doors with photographer facing east
- 14: Susan Benjamin; June 16, 2006; digital image; detail of window in vestibule with photographer facing west
- 15: Susan Benjamin; June 16, 2006; digital image; interior door leading to basement stairs, photographer facing northwest
- 16: Photographer unknown; circa 1965; digital image of photo on file at Davis Junction Historical Society; photo of north and east elevations with photographer facing southwest
- 17: Photographer unknown; circa 1965; digital image of photo on file at Davis Junction Historical Society; photo of north elevation with photographer facing south
- 18: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; chimney in basement with photographer facing southwest
- 20: Kelly Little; July 28, 2007; digital image; timber in the crawl space at south end of basement with photographer facing southwest

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645 Charles Van Damme Way,
Sonoma, 08000529,
LISTED, 6/09/08

FLORIDA, GADSDEN COUNTY,
Gretna School,
722 Church St.,
Gretna, 08000502,
LISTED, 6/10/08

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,
Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church,
5253 N. Kenmore Ave.,
Chicago, 08000503,
LISTED, 6/10/08

ILLINOIS, OGLE COUNTY,
Village of Davis Junction Town Hall,
202 Pacific Ave.,
Davis Junction, 08000504,
LISTED, 6/10/08

MASSACHUSETTS, BARNSTABLE COUNTY,
Sea Call Farm,
82 Tonset Rd,
Barnstable, 08000530,
LISTED, 6/12/08

MASSACHUSETTS, HAMPDEN COUNTY,
Westfield Center Commercial Historic District, 91-115, 100-174 Elm St., Westfield, 08000506,
LISTED, 6/10/08

MASSACHUSETTS, MIDDLESEX COUNTY,
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church,
61 Bowers St.,
Lowell, 08000507,
LISTED, 6/10/08

NEVADA, CHURCHILL COUNTY,
Cottage Schools, The,
255 E. Stillwater Ave.,
Fallon, 08000509,
LISTED, 6/10/08
(School Buildings in Nevada MPS)

NEVADA, LINCOLN COUNTY,
Smith Hotel–Cornelius Hotel,
100 Spring St.,
Caliente, 08000510,
LISTED, 6/10/08

645 Charles Van Damme Way,
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