

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Grange Hall
other names/site number Somerset Grange #1553

2. Location

street & number R. R. #3 not for publication
city, town Murphysboro vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Jackson code 077 zip code 62966

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 3-22-90
Signature of certifying official Date
Director, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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 the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Township HallSocial/Meeting Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Township HallSocial/Meeting Hall**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th. & Early 20th. CenturyAmerican Movements/Commercial Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Brickroof Slateother Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Grange Hall building is located on a plot of ground measuring one square acre in Somerset Township, Jackson County, Illinois. The building faces the south with a gravel parking lot of about one quarter acre directly in front of the building. This one story structure was built in 1912 of soft red brick, three layers deep, measuring twenty-four feet by forty feet. This is the same site that was sold to Somerset Township in 1876 by William H. Davis for \$1.00. A frame building was built on this site for the promotion of Husbandry. The building burned in 1909. The Grange movement was organized at this Grange Hall in 1900 by W. D. Crews.

After the 1909 fire, the property reverted back to Mr. Davis. At the annual town meeting in April, 1910, a committee was appointed to find a suitable location to build a fire-proof building. The committee selected the "Old Grange Hall Site," and contacted the son of Mr. Davis, John L., and bought the site for \$350.00 to be paid over a period of nine years. The first payment of \$35.00 was to be paid from the fund known as the "Dog Money Fund."

On May 27, 1911 bids were received from four contractors in the Jackson County Court House, located in Murphysboro, Illinois. The bid of \$1,355.65 was accepted from W. A. Pittman to build the fire-proof building as specified by the committee. At the April town meeting in 1912 the building committee reported to the town board that the building had been completed at the cost of \$1,401.15.

The rectangular building stands fifty feet to the east of Illinois Highway 127/13. There is a main black-top road that runs east and west fifty feet to the south of the building. This road makes for a corner plot in the Southwest corner of the Southwest quarter of section fifteen, Township eight, South range two, West of the third principle meridian in Jackson County, Illinois. The site of a former Illinois Central Railroad Line with a passenger waiting station and an agricultural loading dock which were collectively known as Grange Hall Station. The loading dock foundation is still visible. The foundation of a large weighing scale is also visible on the west side of the building. The railroad tracks were removed in 1970.

The Grange Hall building is constructed of soft red brick, three deep with a below grade foundation of concrete. The building is one story with a four-sided hip roof of slate. The front and east entrances are recessed about

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GRANGE HALL

twelve inches. There is an arched crown design above each door and window. The windows are one over one doubled sashed with an outside concrete sill. There are four windows on the west side, three windows on the east side, two windows on the north side and two windows on the south side, making a total of eleven windows. The windows are covered by four by eight foot shutters of heavy sheet metal which are bolted to the brick walls.

The front door entrance has a paneled wood transom with an over-head light fixture which illuminates a large sign (10"X8') bolted into the brick wall that reads: GRANGE HALL. The east and west chimneys are in good condition and one is currently used with a Siegler model oil heater, circa 1940. The only known alteration to the exterior of the building is the door to the east side of the building. This side door replaced the most southern of the four windows which originally faced to the east.

The interior plans of Grange Hall are very simple. The walls are of plaster with a tongue and groove wooden wainscoting that extends from the floor upward three feet with a decorative wooden border about four inches wide. The ceiling is the original ornate decorative metal and is twelve feet high. The floor is concrete, poured in sections. This is the original floor and it has some cracks which have been repaired. Electrical wiring has been installed and new light fixtures are hanging from the original chains. There are two iron rails that were installed in 1912 to divide the north end of the hall into two sections. The various officials of the organizations would sit behind the rails during the meetings. The building is furnished with several pieces of furniture which date back from the beginning. Church pew model benches constructed of heavy oak with square nails, a large table made by Lafe Roberts in 1912 and a tool chest which belonged to John L. Davis, the date of 1888 carved in the lid.

IMPROVEMENTS-1989

Rest room facilities are now located in the southeast corner of the building. Attractive wrought iron gates have been installed on both doors. A display case holding several old memoirs from those who served the area at Grange Hall. The November 7, 1989 school election was held there with a good number voting, as well as several people who came to see the Old Grange Hall once again.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1912-1940

Significant Dates

1912

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Grange Hall in Somerset Township meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a locally significant building associated with the social and political needs of a rural township in Jackson County, Illinois from 1912 to 1940, the arbitrary fifty-year cut-off date for properties of standard importance.

HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

Grange Hall is located four miles North of Murphysboro, Illinois and six miles south of Vergennes, Illinois. This is a farming area with no sizable communities; not even a crossroads development. To a remarkable degree the Grange Hall in Somerset Township reflects the rural life in southern Illinois. Since 1912, it has been a center for many local activities such as Grange, Farm Bureau and township meetings. It has also been a meeting place for township caucuses, election of township officials such as township supervisor, trustees, constables, town clerk, Justice of Peace, road commissioner and election judges. Other community activities held at Grange Hall were school plays, Masonic Lodge meetings, medicine shows, 4-H Club activities, box suppers, summer bible school, ice cream socials, ball games and family reunions. The building is the only public meeting structure in the entire township.

The original Grange Hall was built in 1876 after Ruben R. Rees, Henry C. Bowlby, and William W. Davis as trustees of Somerset Grange #1553 obtained a warranty deed to one acre of land in Somerset Township. The first building was a two story frame building. The ground floor was used by the Lutherans, Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists on a rotating basis for Sunday religious services. The second floor of the building was used for Grange meetings. In this building W. D. Crews, a school teacher and farmer organized the first Farmers Social and Economic Union in 1900.¹ This organization, which eventually joined with other groups to become nationwide, was formed to protect the interests of farmers against financial trusts. The idea was to fight the trusts by organizing farmers into cooperatives for marketing their crops and buying collectively. Such activities had been carried on for years

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at the Grange Hall which had its own railroad station and scales for shipping farm products. The frame building burned in 1909.

In 1912 contractor W. A. Pitman completed the present building. It is a one story soft red brick building with a hip roof of slate and concrete foundation. One native remembers that it was "just always there from the early 1900 and used for many community purposes."

The Illinois Central Railroad ran along one side of the property and at one time there were scales for farmers to weigh grain and livestock before shipping to market. There was also a local waiting station for passengers. Local farmers could flag the train for shipping milk, cream, and veal calves to market in St. Louis or could use the railroad for local passenger service.

Grange Hall was a meeting place for farmers of the Grange organization and the Farm Bureau to discuss new and improved techniques and methods of farming, to see demonstrations of new farming equipment, and to discuss the problems that farmers encountered in marketing their products for the best possible prices. The board would often propose legislation to the state government for farming and educational needs for the community. Until 1914, the popular newspaper of the Farmers Union, Union Farmer, was produced and edited by W. D. Crews in Somerset Township.

Since its construction the Grange Hall was used for township meetings that were open to the public where topics of local government were decided such as tax levies for schools, road and bridge construction and repair, disposition of the poor and funeral expenses, and labor for various projects.² Grange Hall also served as an induction center in 1918 for men who were drafted into the service during World War I.

Grange Hall also served as a social center for the entire area. Its history is filled with interesting social events that were typical of the entire country. Parties, ice cream socials, family reunions, women's meetings, medicine shows, and plays, to name a few, were popular around the nation. Every person who once lived in Somerset Township area more than likely has vivid memories of important events in their life which took place at Grange Hall. The following are some of those memories:

Mrs. Helen McDowell who taught school near Grange Hall from 1926 to 1935 often directed school plays at Grange Hall and would charge ten cents for admission to help buy special school supplies for her students. Another resident of the 1930's recalls that bleachers were built on the property for ball games, political speakers and medicine shows (which traveled from place to place during this era). Clifford Sievel remembers the 4-H Clubs that were

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organized at Grange Hall from 1934 to 1977 by Miss Mildred Benz with leaders Marie Sill and Harold Connor. The 4-H Beaucoup Bumble Bee and Grange Hall Lassies participated in projects of agriculture, domestic projects and prize winning animals. Evert Glick taught agricultural improvement classes at Grange Hall from 1934-38. These classes promoted more productive agricultural methods and soil conservation. A student from Davis School, Ruth Ann Richards, recalls the box suppers held at Grange Hall. These box suppers provided a social time as well as raising funds for some worthy cause in the community. Ruth Connor remembers many of the ice cream socials and family reunions held in this building.

During these years the Grange Hall was the center of community life and service to the people in this rural area of Southern Illinois. This building served as a forum where opinions were expressed, emotions revealed and addressed, pleasure and social expression obtained, instruction received and many decisions were made to preserve and mold the way of life for generations. Grange Hall provided a place where people worked together for support, fellowship and to satisfy cultural, social and educational needs. The people of Somerset Township were in tune with the National Movements of the time. All that was accomplished by a group of people that were sincere in their beliefs and desires to see that the agricultural, political and social needs of the community were met for the best interest as individuals as well as the group.

RESTORATION

In 1988, Grange Hall was completely restored. Exterior brick walls were tuckpointed, concrete floors repaired and painted and windows reglazed and painted. New electrical wiring, fixtures and new restrooms were installed. Gravel was spread over the parking lot and a treatment for termite control and the building was completed.

Grange Hall is listed in the 1974 Illinois Historic Survey. It was awarded the Certificate of Achievement by Governor Thompson in 1989.

Grange Hall is still used for Township activities and as a polling place for elections.

ENDNOTES

1. Conrad, David, unpublished article, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, 1989
2. Somerset Township Book of Minutes, 1908-1949.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. John W. Allen, Legends & Lore of Southern Illinois, S.I.U. 1963.
2. 1876 Geographical Sketches, Jackson County Historical Society.
3. Somerset Township Town Clerk's Minutes, 1872-1949.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property One acre.

UTM References

A

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2	9	5	6	3	0
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4	1	8	8	1	1	5
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the property follows a line fifty feet to the west of the building, one hundred and thirty-four feet from the east of the building. The boundary line is eighty-four feet from the building on the south and on the north of the building.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary line is one square acre or 208 feet on all four sides of plot. This is the lot historically associated with Grange Hall since 1876.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachelle L. Dunivan, Bookkeeper-Secretary, Somerset Township
organization Somerset Township, Jackson County date January, 1990
street & number R. R. #5, Box 63 telephone 618-684-3608
city or town Murphysboro state Illinois zip code 62966

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

WEEKLY LIST OF LISTED PROPERTIES
4/30/90 THROUGH 5/04/90

MAY 11 1990

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Certification Date, Reference Number, NHL status

GEORGIA

Floyd County
Chubb Methodist Episcopal Church
Chubbtown Rd.
Cave Spring vicinity 5/04/90 90000728

IDaho

Latah County
Freeze Community Church
1 mi. W of US 95
Potlatch 5/03/90 90000679

Valley County

Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association (SITPA) Buildings
1001 State St.
McCall 5/02/90 90000680
Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association (SITPA) Buildings
SR 55
Smiths Ferry 5/02/90 90000681

ILLINOIS

Jackson County
Grange Hall
SR 127/13 S of Beaumont Cr.
Murphysboro vicinity 5/04/90 90000722

MARYLAND

Baltimore Independent City
Mount Washington Hill
1330--1340 Smith Avenue
Baltimore (Independent City) 5/04/90 90000727

Queen Anne's County

Lexon
Corsica Neck Rd. SW of Earle Cove
Centreville vicinity 5/04/90 90000726

MONTANA

Missoula County

Apartment Building at 116 Spruce Street
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
116 W. Spruce St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000644
Atlantic Hotel
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
519 W. Higgins Ave.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000652
Brunswick Hotel
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
223 Railroad St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000645
Garden City Drug
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
118 W. Higgins Ave.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000660
Gleim Building
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
265 W. Front St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000653
Hammond Arcade
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
101 S. Higgins Ave.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000646
Hellgate Lodge 383 BPDE
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
120 W. Pattee St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000661
Independent Telephone Company Building
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
207 E. Main St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000648
Labor Temple
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
208 E. Main St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000650
Lucy Building
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
330 W. Higgins Ave.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000656
Marsh and Powell Funeral Home
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
224 W. Spruce St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000655
Masonic Lodge
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
120--136 E. Broadway Ave.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000649

MONTANA

Missoula County
Missoula Laundry Company
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
111 E. Spruce St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000651
Missoula Mercantile
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
114 W. Higgins Ave.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000647
Model Laundry and Apartments
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
131 W. Alder St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000657
Montgomery Ward
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
201 W. Higgins Ave.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000659
Zip Auto
Historic Resources in Missoula, 1864-1940, NPS
251 W. Main St.
Missoula 4/30/90 90000658

NEBRASKA

Wheeler County
R. T. Ranch Headquarters
Star Rt. 1
Bartlett vicinity 5/02/90 90000565

NEVADA

Churchill County
Dats Park Grammar School
167 E. Park St.
Fallon 5/02/90 90000715

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh County
Burmside Plantation
Schoenersville Rd., 2 mi. SE of jct. with Easton Ave.
Bethlehem 5/02/90 90000705

TEXAS

Wood County
Red Moody Site
Address Restricted
Hainesville vicinity 5/04/90 90000724

WASHINGTON

Adams County
Ritzville Historic District
Roughly bounded by Broadway, Division St., Railroad Ave., and Washington St.
Ritzville 5/02/90 90000676
Snohomish County
Everett City Hall
3002 Wetmore Ave.
Everett 5/02/90 90000674
Everett Fire Station No. 2
2801 Oakes Ave.
Everett 5/02/90 90000673

WISCONSIN

Brown County
Wisconsin State Reformatory
SE corner of Riverside Dr. and SR 172
Rilouez 5/03/90 90000641
Burnett County
Sandrock Cliffs
Address Restricted
Grantsburg vicinity 5/01/90 90000632

Wisconsin

Milwaukee County
Garden Homes Historic District
Roughly bounded by W. Ruby and W. Teutonia Aves., N. 24th Pl.
W. Atkinson Ave. and W. 27th St.
Milwaukee 5/04/90 90000669

Washington County

St. Augustine Catholic Church and Cemetery
Co. Hwy. Y 3 mi. S of jct. of Co. Hwy. Y and SR 33
Trenton 5/03/90 90000638

Multiple Resource Areas are identified by MRA
Multiple Property Submissions are identified by MPS
Thematic Resources are identified by TR
NHL designates a National Historic Landmark