

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Pine Grove Community Club

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Paris vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county Edgar code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	

4. Owner of Property

name Pine Grove Community Club

street & number Route #6

city, town Paris vicinity of state Illinois 61944

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Edgar County Court House

street & number Public Square

city, town Paris state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey:Edgar County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date November, 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation

city, town Springfield state Illinois

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date

11/1

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pine Grove Community Club includes two buildings in a rural crossroads setting: a one-room brick school house and a former church building.

The school is a one-story brick rectangle measuring approximately 30' x 24'. The steep pitch gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A simple wooden cornice terminates in gable end cornice returns.

Three windows (4/4 double hung sash) are located on the east and west facades. Two doors are on the main (north) facade; one door has been temporarily boarded up. On the south facade, one of the original two windows has been converted to a door to meet school safety codes. The exterior wood trim and windows have been painted yellow.

Interior features include plaster walls, wood floor, and five slate blackboards. Four florescent ceiling lights were installed in the 1930's, and an acoustical tile ceiling was installed in 1948. To give the interior a school room appearance, a teacher's desk, 20 student's desks, and a coal burning stove were added. These items are not, however, original to this building.

Two privies are located on the southeast corner of the school yard, and a well is located in the northwest corner.

The former church building is L shaped in plan. The main meeting room is 26' x 40', the kitchen ell is 20' x 20'. A 10' x 10' vestibule is located in the former bell tower (The steeple of the bell tower was removed in the 1930's.) Exterior wood clapboards are painted white. Windows are narrow clear glass 4/4 double hung sash. The steep pitch intersecting gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

The interior consists of two rooms, the main meeting room and a kitchen. The kitchen is separated from the meeting room by three doors that slide up. Detailing in both rooms include plaster walls painted white, wood floors, and simple wooden window trim. A raised stage with a hand painted theatre curtain (c. 1935) is on the east wall of the meeting room; a coal burning stove is on the west wall. The ceiling here has been lowered by the installation of new hung acoustical tile ceiling. Ceiling height in the kitchen is the original 14'.

The 1 3/4 acre grounds were landscaped in recent years with the assistance of a University of Illinois landscape specialist to complement existing century-old trees. The effect is that of a pleasant oasis amid the cultivated fields.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1927 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Pine Grove Community Club is significant as a well preserved example of the agricultural extension service's contribution to the Country Life movement (60:4, criteria A).

In the early twentieth century dissatisfaction with conditions in rural America and faith that the area was worthy and capable of reform produced the Country Life movement. One school of thought held the yeoman myth that farmers were the best in society because they were energetic, intelligent, and law-abiding. These romantics lamented a possible loss of national vigor from a diminished rural sector. Less sentimental people feared a loss of profit from the sale of fewer goods and services to a declining farm community. Declining economic and social life in rural America resulted in declining rural population by 1900, reasoned many relatively young, middle class, well-educated, and mostly urban Americans with rural, midwestern, and Protestant backgrounds.

They occasionally formed organizations or participated in agencies that proposed and implemented remedies for the perceived decline of rural life. Reformers included the land grant colleges and state and federal agricultural agencies, associations for rural education and religion, advocates of the "social gospel", and business men. For the most part, however, these reformers of the Country Life movement remained an amorphous collection of individuals and organizations each pursuing remedies according to a different diagnosis of the rural problem.

Theodore Roosevelt's appointment of the Commission on Country Life (1908) was an important step for the Country Life movement. The Commission was charged with identifying the problems of rural America and recommending solutions. The most effective commissioners were its chairman, Liberty Hyde Bailey, dean of the College of Agriculture, Cornell University, and Kenyon L. Butterfield, president of the Massachusetts State College of Agriculture and a rural sociologist. Not surprisingly, the Commission recommended (January, 1909) reforms for university extension programs for the benefit of the rural community would benefit: (1) rural education through a national extension service by the agricultural colleges; (2) a national inventory according to scientific principles of rural life; and (3) creation of a national agency for rural improvement.

Country Life partisans referred to the Commission's report as the official national appraisal despite the fact that Congress did not print it and presidential interest lagged until Woodrow Wilson's administration. In the second year of Wilson's term, Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act (1914) to permit counties to establish an advisor associated with land grant colleges to disseminate their remedies for the rural problem.

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Illinois already had Country Life partisans and a developing infrastructure for county extension advisors. The base was laid in the Federal Hatch Act (1887) which helped fund the start of the University of Illinois agricultural experiment station and it expanded under the guidance of Eugene V. Davenport, dean of the College of Agriculture. The Extension service offered specialized courses at the University and in cooperating counties by various activities including demonstrations, lectures, fair exhibits, farmers' institutes, and special lecture railway trains.

In June, 1912, DeKalb and Kankakee counties organized the state's first two county farm bureaus by which at least 300 prospective members selected a farm adviser (from applicants approved by the College of Agriculture), paid part of the advisor's salary, and provided office, auto, and clerical help (Moore 1970:195-204). The developing national network of county agents adopted the name Farm Bureau after it was used, possibly for the first time, by the agency in Tazewell County, Illinois (Lindstrom 1933:141). R.E. Hieronymus was appointed (1914) to the College of Agriculture to guide county agents in community development programs to develop the county organization and its leaders. (Lindstrom 1965:2)

Rural sociology at the University of Illinois developed from this community development strategy of the county agent tactic in the 1920s. Thus, the University deviated from the general shift in agricultural extension work during the decade from a heretofore balanced strategy for improved rural life quality and increased profit (Bowers 1974:90-91). H.W. Mumford, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the extension service, called conferences of every Illinois county in 1928 to 1929 to expand the community development strategy. To implement the strategy, David E. Lindstrom was appointed (September, 1929) to the staff of the College of Agriculture. (Lindstrom 1965:1) Lindstrom launched the campaign (August, 1930) by sending a questionnaire through the extension network to have its members

state their opinions on the desirable nature of farm-family organization and to give detailed information concerning the rural organizations of which they, individually, were then members (Lindstrom 1933:127).

Data from 433 people in 306 localities in 60 counties was received and with similar surveys by rural sociologists in other states offered one of the lasting accomplishments of the Country Life movement (Lindstrom 1933:127; Bowers 1974:87)

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Lindstrom described the structure of a successful local organization based on the survey and recognized that local demand was an essential component of successful local organization. Edgar County was one of those in which Lindstrom established community clubs in 1935 with E.H. Regnier "to provide education, recreation and inspiration" (Regnier, 9 July 1983). "Through the years from 1930 through World War II, such activity was intensified to emphasize neighborhood as well as community meetings" and a series of small organizations developed, including Pine Grove (Lindstrom 1965:2).

Pine Grove's community origins are rather obscure. There is no mention of Pine Grove in any Edgar County history but it is asserted by an active club member that Pine Grove began in the 1860s as a rural residential community dependent on nearby Paris (6 miles southeast) for services. One of the club's two buildings, the school, was built on land provided for public primary education by the Land Ordinance of 1785. The school also served as a church for community residents until 1891 when the other club building was constructed for a Methodist congregation. Pine Grove's heyday spanned the next thirty years until the automobile and good roads enabled the residents to direct their interest outside Pine Grove. As the community languished, community preservation became the self-conscious purpose of only a few stalwart residents. The Pine Grove Community Club began meeting in the schoolhouse in the 1930s. Similar groups organized in Asher, Fort Sumter, Grandview, North Arm, Oliver, Scotland, and Stewart (Kimble, 28 April 1983). When the Methodist Conference closed the church in 1935 because it was calculated that declining attendance no longer justified a separate church, the Community Club purchased (\$125) the church and its contents for a permanent meeting place. Club membership peaked at 40 at that time. By 1967 it had lapsed to 25-30. [Paris] Daily Beacon-News, 3 Aug. 1967) The decline is part of the general trend among community clubs since World War II (Lindstrom 1965:2).

Yet, the Pine Grove "community club" persists through the efforts of its officers. Edgar County's other "community clubs" survive in Asher and North Ann but the subject of this nomination has the best preserved buildings (Kimble, 28 April 1983)

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1974 The Country Life Movement in America, 1900-1920. Kennicott Press,
Port Washington, New York.

Kimble, Walter H.
28 April 1983, interview.

9 July 1983, personal communication to Keith A. Sculle.

Lindstrom, David E.
1965 Rural Sociology Extension, Teaching, and Research at the
University of Illinois, 1929-1964: A Brief Historical Review.
University of Illinois College of Agriculture, Department of
Agricultural Economics, Urbana, mimeographed.

1933 Local Group Organization Among Illinois Farm People.
University of Illinois, Agricultural Experiment Station,
Bulletin 392.

Moore, Richard Gordon
1970 Fields of Rich Toil: The Development of the University of Illinois
College of Agriculture. University of Illinois Press, Urbana.

Moss, Sarah
(Pine Grove resident, b. 1867). 1967 interview by Walter Kimble.

[Paris] Daily Beacon-News
3 August 1967

Regnier, E. H.
9 July 1983, personal communication to Keith A. Sculle.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 2

Quadrangle name PARIS NORTH

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A 11.6 43719.40 43933.40
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

One and three-fourths acres out of the northwest corner of northwest one-fourth of the northwest one-fourth of Section 11, T14N, R12W of 2nd Principal Meridian, Edgar Co., Ill., at secondary road intersection N600-

W200.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Keith A. Sculle and Michael Ward

organization Illinois Department of Conservation

date September 1983

street & number 405 East Washington

telephone 217/782-9633

city or town Springfield

state Illinois 62706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title [Signature]

date 12/30/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration