

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

SENT TO D.C.

4-9-2002

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 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 The music pavilion

other names/site number Central Park Bandstand (Preferred)

2. Location

street & number 1208 5th Street not for publication

city or town Orion vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Henry code 073 zip code 61273

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.)

William Clark 4-5-02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State of 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 official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Central Park Bandstand
Name of Property

Henry, IL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check all that 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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Music Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/ Music Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and early 20th century movements

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Central Park Bandstand
Name of Property

Henry, IL
County and 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.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1913-1952

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ericson, J. C.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Central Park Bandstand
Name of Property

Henry, IL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
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2	1	7	1	6	5
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4	5	8	3	3	2	8
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

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 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 Lori A. Sampson

organization Main Street Orion date 01/17/02

street & number 1305 3rd St., P.O. Box 719 telephone 309-526-8524/8139

city or town Orion state IL zip code 61273

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 Village of Orion Lori A. Sampson, Village Clerk

street & number 1202 4th St., P.O. Box 69 telephone 309-526-8139

city or town Orion state IL zip code 61273

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 average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

Central Park Bandstand Orion, IL

Description

The Central Park Bandstand is located in the south quadrant of Central Park, facing north. Central Park is part of the Original Town. The structure is shaped like a $\frac{1}{2}$ dodecagon and has a $\frac{1}{2}$ hipped roof with a low-pitched front gabled parapet. The underside of the gable is slightly arched with a decorative element resembling a keystone at the arch's apex. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has exposed rafter tails. There are four capped pillars at the front of the structure. The exterior walls are board and batten and the foundation is concrete piers. The structure has Craftsman influences (exposed rafter tails) with a touch of whimsy that makes the bandstand resemble a playhouse or castle.

The bandstand is supported by eight concrete piers, two under the front two capped pillars and six under the back and around the sides of the structure. The south rear elevation is $\frac{1}{2}$ of a dodecagon shape and the supporting structure is a post and purlin system, where 4" x 6" posts are placed on each pier with horizontal purlins attached to facilitate exterior siding and interior paneling. The exterior siding is board and batten with 12" boards and 2" battens. These battens have a different profile in comparison to most battens, which are usually square in cross-section.

There are five louvered window openings in the structure, one in each section.

All but the center window opening have been boarded up on the interior of the structure. The louvers are still visible from the exterior.

Two board and batten doors are cut in the rear elevation of the bandstand to gain access underneath.

Four capped pillars are supporting the gabled parapet of the roof and the ceiling. The ceiling has running boards on each section. The pillars are made of 2" x 4" construction with random horizontal and diagonal crib bracing on the interior. They are mostly covered in horizontal German siding with mitered outside corners. German siding has overlapping boards with tongue-and-groove or rabbeted edges and a concave curve on the top portion of each board. The upper portion of each pillar is covered with board and tightly-spaced batten, topped with a steeply pitched cap. The front two pillars were later partially covered with a custom made

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL

Description (continued)

German siding made to simulate the original siding. The outside corners of those pillars, however, are covered with 1" x 4" Ponderosa pine in lieu of mitered corners. The pillars also have light sockets evenly spaced down the front and a portion of the exterior-facing side.

The parapet is clad with board with tightly-spaced batten to match the top of the pillars. There are light sockets stretching across and following the arched line of the parapet. The back of the arched gable facade is now covered with white vinyl siding. The original covering was roof flashing. The front skirt, under the stage overhang, is board and batten construction.

The parapet is supported by the pillar system. The half-hipped portion of the roof is supported by the post and purlin system. The original roof was wood shake shingles on 1" x 12" sheathing, spaced approximately one inch apart. Asphalt shingles were later applied over the wood shakes, and both layers were later removed. New sheathing was applied over the old sheathing and new asphalt shingles were applied. There are exposed rafter tails around the exterior of the structure and around each pillar cap.

There are five steps leading to the stage on both the east and west side of the bandstand. The steps are located between the two pillars on each side. The original steps were removed and replaced with treated lumber.

The stage floor is 2 3/4" tongue and groove fir flooring. The band platform is two-tiered and follows the shape of the back of the structure, beginning at the rear pillar on the east side and extending to the rear pillar on the west side. It is constructed of the same tongue and groove material. Outlets have been placed in the tiered platform but were not an original part of the bandstand. It is not known when these outlets were installed.

The interior walls and ceiling are 3/8" x 3" bead board. The underside of the parapet transitions into a vaulted ceiling. There are many light sockets evenly spaced, covering the ceiling. On the interior of the southeast pillar is an electrical panel box covered by the interior wall wainscot siding.

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

Central Park Bandstand Orion, IL

Description (continued)

The bandstand was originally painted white and remains that color today, except for the floor and stage platform, which are painted gray. The total number of light sockets in the structure is 237. Most of them do not function today.

A piano with a box-type cover originally sat to the rear of the bandstand on the raised platform. The cover was removed in the 1980's as a piano had not been housed there for quite some time.

The bandstand faces north to the audience seating area, which is poured concrete that extends to the center of the park. The seating area is rectangular. The bandstand and the seating area together measure 54 feet by 120 feet.

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

**Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL**

Statement of Significance

The Central Park Bandstand is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with Orion's entertainment and recreation history. The period of significance is from 1913, when the bandstand was erected, until 1952, the fifty-year cutoff for listing in the National Register. While the structure is technically a bandshell, since it has an enclosed side, Orion residents have referred to it either as a bandstand or a bandshell.

The band movement was one of the most widespread and all-embracing cultural movements to appear in pre-World War II America. Bandstands themselves were everywhere in the United States. Most towns possessed a bandstand and they served as symbols of local identity, civic pride and cultural commitment.

From the Civil War through World War I, bandstands were America's great social condensers. Music had the power to bridge social and cultural barriers. The bandstand itself was everywhere considered neutral territory, and the audience assembled there was drawn from the entire community. Through bandstands, the alienated individual was at least briefly reintegrated with society, which explains why mental institutions had bandstands at their center. Americans everywhere enjoyed relaxing in the grass in the park with the local band seated on a picturesque bandstand, preparing to strike up an air - this was the quintessence of summer bliss in the United States for three generations. Thousands and thousands of bandstands were erected in America's towns and cities. Only a few remain today.¹

Bands were the most popular musical organizations of the day. They performed virtually everywhere. By the end of the 19th century, open-air concerts in the community bandstand had become so integrated into American life that people often arranged their weekly routines around performances. The band movement was one of the most widespread and all-embracing cultural movements to appear in pre-World War II America.²

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

**Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL**

Statement of Significance (continued)

Instrument makers perfected innovations in metal-working technology that enabled brass instruments to play melodies. The technical innovations transformed the sound of band music. Public response to these developments was phenomenal. Not only were they loud and durable and thus unequaled for outdoor performances, they could also render any music from the simplest song to the grandest operatic excerpt. By far the most common and cherished of the avocational bands were the town bands organized throughout the country by music-loving citizens. Villages with only a few hundred inhabitants could boast a band of 10 or 12 pieces. That they received a pittance for their performances in no way alters the fact that they devoted substantial amounts of time, energy and personal income to their hobby.³

Bandstands served many functions. Some were intended for parade viewing stands as well as holding concerts. Stands were sited casually, either along a main street or in a central square. Due to their simplicity, these basic stands were inexpensive.⁴ With the simple designs of many American bandstands, some of these plain structures could have been built in a few days by amateur carpenters.⁵

Initially, bandstands were conceived purely as functional pieces of civic architecture. They were placed at whatever point convenience might dictate, usually on some main axis in the public square. A fresh current in landscape architecture, however, caused Americans to view bandstands and similar structures as vital links between people and nature. The new thought required the bandstand to fit picturesquely into the landscape.⁶ Music emanating from the bandstand was thought to be something that could free people from the urban environment.

By World War I the entire range of urban ideals that had inspired the construction of thousands of bandstands nationwide was under attack from every side. The automobile now enabled Americans to motor through the countryside rather than congregate with neighbors around the bandstand. Recordings and the radio made national bands accessible to everyone. The old-time local band concert now seemed "hopelessly tame".⁷

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

**Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL**

Statement of Significance (continued)

Franklin Roosevelt's Work Projects Administration (WPA) was responsible for a burst of bandstand construction, building simple but effective bandstands in 1936. These structures did not owe their existence to local initiative, and became the object of controversy. The lack of initiative in these cases is not surprising, for by now the brass-band movement and the urban sociability that underlay it were moribund in most American cities and towns. Bandstands fell into a state of decay during the next two generations, until Americans looked with fresh eyes at what they had been so blithely destroying under the banner of "renewal." In dozens of towns this led to the restoration of crumbling bandstands, and even to the erection of totally new structures for music designed in the old spirit.⁸

History of Orion

The Village of Orion was originally incorporated as Deanington, Illinois in 1853 by Charles W. Dean, a carpenter from Rock Island. The community consisted of a dry goods store, a school, a post office, a hotel and a blacksmith shop. Methodist church services were held in the schoolhouse.

In 1867 three churches were constructed: Methodist, Baptist and United Brethren. A Lutheran church would follow three years later. Late in October, 1870 the first passenger rail services were in operation. The \$50,000 in railroad bonds was to prove a tax burden for the community, but it is estimated that the price of land jumped from \$20 to \$40 more per acre. By 1873 things were booming and the name of the town was changed to the Village of Orion.

The coming of the railroad brought to a halt the development of a business district east of Central Park. Stores east of the park discontinued, or moved with the trend. In several instances the buildings, themselves, were moved. Population in the village continued to

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

**Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL**

Statement of Significance (continued)

increase, along with small business development. The State Bank of Orion was organized on May 20, 1890. Two months prior to that The Farmer's Bank of Orion was organized.

Like most towns, Orion had its share of fires in the last quarter of the century. One of the first serious fires to strike the business district was in 1879 when a fire wiped out several small buildings. In 1888 the entire Crampton Block burned to the ground. In 1890 fire destroyed the mill, and the following year the Rock Island Station and coal and lumber sheds burned. This episode of fires aroused the village fathers to action. A fire engine was purchased in 1892.

The year 1896 brought the telephone to Orion. By the end of 1899 there were sixty miles of wire and 140 telephones between Orion and the next exchange.

At the turn of the century the village population was 584, 40 less than in 1890. This loss was said to have been caused by families moving from the village and being replaced by a retired farmer and his wife. Also, many times one new home replaced two old homes.

The train was the vital link between Orion and the outside world. Orion had a growing telephone exchange and the town was considered to have made good progress in 1900, partly due to the installation of an electric light plant.

Automobiles were being purchased by the year 1906, and concrete sidewalks were being considered to replace the old wooden sidewalks. Orion suffered a severe loss in 1908, when the electric light plant was razed by fire. The Citizen's Electric Light Association was organized and within a few months the lights were again operating. In 1910 the population of Orion had risen to 655.

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

**Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL**

Statement of Significance (cont'd)

In 1913 a movement started to replace the present music pavilion with a new, modern stand. The movement succeeded in collecting a sum large enough to erect a splendid stand of modern design. Around that same time period, the village began oiling streets. In 1921 the first Orion Community High School building was built. In 1927 the Orion Opera House was sold to the banks that held its mortgage. The coming of the automobile, better roads, and radio had contributed to making the venture a failure. The Opera House was no longer the social center, as it had been in the early history of the town. The facility was later purchased by the village and used to show motion pictures and hold school dances, before eventually being torn down by its last owner, Sherrard Power System.

With the emerging new mobility of residents, towns of many sizes simultaneously sought to attract people from nearby and more distant places and to provide to residents local entertainment so they would be less inclined to travel to other towns for entertainment, i.e., various stay-at-home campaigns. These efforts reflected towns' desires to retain and strengthen their identities as unique places in which good activities are occurring.

Due to devastating fires that seemed to occur with frequency, and the shortage of water from private wells and cisterns, the village voted to contract for the drilling of a well for a village-wide water system in 1927. Water mains were installed to carry water to each household.

The Depression began to show its effect when The Farmers State Bank of Orion failed to open its doors on May 16, 1930. However, in July of that same year the road from Coal Valley to Orion (Rt 150) was improved with the pouring of cement. Census figures put the population at 620. A new library was constructed in 1932 when labor and material costs were low, and the entire building cost much less than originally estimated. Since the coming of the concrete highway caused passenger traffic to fall heavily, the last passenger train on the C. R. I. & P. passed through Orion on January 28, 1933.

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

**Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL**

Statement of Significance (continued)

One firm was experiencing an increase in business. Since the temporary suspension of banks, many of which were still closed, the merchants and people of the Tri-Cities were doing their business at the State Bank of Orion. Having such a sound financial institution was a great asset to the community.

In 1939 the village suffered the burning of the Orion High School. Neighboring schools offered the use of their facilities while a new school was built. It was requested by the school district that J. C. Ericson, an Orion contractor, be in charge of inspecting the new construction. Mr. Ericson was also the builder of the Central Park Bandstand. The new school was completed in January, 1940. The census for 1940 showed a population of 714, which represented an increase of 94 over the 1930 figures.

In 1942 the news was concentrated around the war effort. Men were registering for the selective service, Federal War Daylight Savings Time was in effect, blackout rehearsals were being held and gas rationing cards were issued.

In 1947 the voters approved the establishment of the Orion Fire District. Firefighting would no longer be under the control of the village board. The fire district would also include areas outside the village limits. The first annual Midwest Corn Show debuted after much discussion and planning. It was estimated that 20,000 people attended during the two-day event. There were band concerts, vaudeville, corn auctions, dancing, and a tractor was awarded at the grand drawing. Also, in 1947 the village passed an ordinance setting out their first zoning regulations.

By 1950 Orion was experiencing the greatest building boom so far in its history. Sixteen new structures were built that year and the Lutheran church was erecting a \$50,000 addition. The census showed the population of Orion to be 859.

New fire equipment was being purchased in 1951 and mercury-vapor lights were installed in the business district. It was determined this lighting was a marked

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

**Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL**

Statement of Significance (continued)

improvement over the old ornamental-type lighting. In this year the Opera House met its demise as an entertainment center in the village. The arrival of television was the final straw. With deep regret, the board offered the Opera House for sale to the highest bidder. Sherrard Power System purchased the building for a price of \$8,500 and planned to remodel the structure for use as a warehouse-garage.

The sixth annual Midwest Corn Show continued its tradition in 1952 and was held in late September. Thousands of visitors attended and there were 200 entries in the corn contest. Five bands marched and played in the parade. In November of 1952, it was decided to hold a seventh Midwest Corn Show the following year, along with a centennial celebration for the village.⁹

The ten years between 1950 and 1960 brought population growth in the village with an increase of 440 residents. The next ten-year period showed the village's greatest growth with an increase of 532 residents. Growth continued through 1980 to a high of 2,013 and has since steadily declined to its current population of 1,713.

History of the Central Park Bandstand

The Central Park Bandstand is locally significant under Criterion A for its role as an entertainment and recreation facility in Orion. It is a locally significant structure associated with recreation and entertainment history during the early to mid-20th century.

In the July 11, 1912 issue of *The Orion Times*, editor F. S. Fullerton called for the development of a band in Orion. The town had an orchestra but wanted a band to play when the orchestra wasn't available. Mr. Fullerton wondered what a town was without a band. He felt if the "boys would only take hold of the matter" a band could be organized. The editor was of the opinion if a band was formed it would cheer up and help the town, and added that the "summer is long and we are all waiting for the music".¹⁰ Unfortunately, no mention of a band appears after that issue. Concert programs, which

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

**Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL**

Statement of Significance (continued)

always made front-page news in *The Orion Times*, only listed the Orion Musical Club, which consisted of the Orion Symphony Orchestra and vocal groups.

Musical numbers were listed in the program, however there is no documentation naming the members of the orchestra or the male quartet or ladies quartet. Local vocal soloists were named, along with the selection of music for the evening.

The Opera House was another source for entertainment. It was the venue for some musical entertainment, but it was also used as a meeting place and for theatrical plays. In later years it was used for school dances. Though it is not written in any documents, it is perceived the Opera House was not comfortable in the summer months and people probably preferred to sit in the open-air atmosphere of the park to listen to concerts.

By 1913 open-air park concerts were being held and were proving to be highly pleasing to residents in Orion and those in surrounding communities. People traveled from Bishop Hill, Sherrard, Geneseo, Woodhull and Rock Island to enjoy the entertainment. This was made possible due to the increasing popularity of the automobile. Inclement weather could affect the size of the crowd, as road conditions were still somewhat primitive. It was not until 1930 that the main highway from Coal Valley to Orion was improved with concrete.

Since the concerts were such a success, it was proposed by the musical club to erect a new bandstand in the park. The old stand, the origination date of which is unknown, stood directly in the center of the park and was open on all sides. It had become too small to accommodate the orchestra and was in poor condition. To raise funds for a new bandstand the musical club asked for donations from the citizens of the community and from those attending the concerts. They also sold refreshments during the concerts and used that money for the construction of a new stand. The concerts in the park had become the social center of the town with free concerts being held almost every Thursday, Friday and Sunday evening.

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

**Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL**

Statement of Significance (continued)

On July 17, 1913, it was determined by the musical club that enough funds had been raised to plan for construction of the proposed bandstand. A local contractor, J. C. Ericson, designed and built the structure. There is not much written about Mr. Ericson, though he is known by Miss Mary Ann Long, longtime resident of Orion, to have built several "square" houses in the village and the surrounding farm community.

The new Orion bandstand followed a recent trend by designing the structure with a closed backside. Three-dimensional stands had fallen out of favor. Those facing one direction were able to project the sound of the music forward. The editor of *The Orion Times* disagreed with the majority regarding the placement of the structure in the park. The spot selected was with the stand on the south side of the park with its front facing the center of the square. The problem, according to the editor, was that it was placed only 60 feet from the center, not allowing enough space for seating.¹¹ Apparently, his opinion was not held in high regard, as the bandstand was constructed 60 feet from the edge of the circle in the middle of the square.

In the space of less than three weeks the new bandstand was built and its dedication was set for Thursday evening, August 7, 1913. The crowd was anticipated to be one of the largest in the town's history. Judge L. E. Telleen of Cambridge was selected to deliver an address, and musical talent, Mrs. William Westerlund and her daughter, Miss Lillian, traveled from Chicago to sing and play violin. The Streed Family Entertainers and the Orion Musical Club also performed. The front page of that week's local paper proudly announced the concert program, listing six musical performances and the address, followed by an intermission and five more musical numbers.

Since the bandstand was built in the park, it became the property of the village. Concerts continued to be held in the park, although by 1915 they were only held once per week. Motion pictures were now being shown in the bandstand during intermission of the concerts. In 1922 evening church services were held each Sunday from early June through mid-September. Park concerts were front-page news until 1925 when no further mention of them can be found in the local paper. It may be that the Orion Country Club

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

Central Park Bandstand
Orion, IL

Statement of Significance (continued)

musical performances scheduled for Thursday evenings helped bring a halt to the park concerts. The Orion Country Club also offered such activities as swimming, boating, fishing and golf.

Although occasional church services and Memorial Day services continued to be held in the bandstand, the much anticipated concrete highway made other entertainment readily accessible to residents of Orion. It was easier for those from other communities to get to Orion, but it was also easier for Orion citizens to travel outside the village for their entertainment needs.

In 1947 the first Midwest Corn Show was held in the park and the bandstand was used for several attractions, including band concerts. This show went on for several years and has been superseded by the Orion Fall Festival, which continues its tradition to-date as an annual Labor Day weekend event. The bandstand receives most of its use during this weekend as a stage platform for a pie auction, live music and a theatrical play.

The bandstand, when constructed, had no name applied to it other than the "music pavilion". Today, when referring to the pavilion, it is more commonly thought to be the picnic shelter. The park was called the public square until the 1970's when schoolchildren were asked to suggest a name, and they chose "Central Park". Therefore, the Central Park Bandstand is now the preferred name for the structure.

The Central Park Bandstand has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register as a major source of entertainment and recreation in the early history of Orion.

¹ S. Frederick Starr, *The Oberlin Book of Bandstands, Bandstands & American Urbanism*, (The Preservation Press 1987), pg. 10

² Margaret Hindle Hazen, *The Oberlin Book of Bandstands, The Band Movement*, (The Preservation Press 1987), pg. 30

³ Starr, *op. cit.* pg. 31-32

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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CENTRAL PARK BANDSTAND

⁴ Ibid, pg. 12

⁵ Ibid, pg. 11

⁶ Ibid, pg. 14

⁷ Ibid, pg. 26

⁸ Ibid, pg. 27

⁹ Wilbur Anderson and Kenneth Norcross, *A History of Western Township, Including A History of Orion*, pgs. 26-99

¹⁰ F. S. Fullerton, Editor, *The Orion Times*, A Band is Wanted, July 11, 1912

¹¹ F. S. Fullerton, Editor, *The Orion Times*, Park Music Stand Now An Assured Success, July 17, 1913

Major Bibliographical References

Anderson, Wilbur and Norcross, Kenneth, *A History of Western Township, Including A History of Orion*, Orion Post 143 Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1953.

Hazen, Magaret Hindle. "The Band Movement." In *The Oberlin Book of Bandstands*, edited by Frederick S. Starr. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1987.

Long, Mary Ann. Resident, Orion, Illinois. Telephone Interview, January, 2002.

The Orion Times. Selected issues, 1912-1915.

Starr, Frederick S. "Bandstands and American Urbanism." In *The Oberlin Book of Bandstands*, edited by Frederick S. Starr. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1987.

Verbal Boundary Description

The designated area is 54' in width and 120' in depth, beginning 168' from the southwest corner of Block 7 of the Original Town, proceeding easterly.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property contains the bandstand and seating area in Central Park, a part of the Original Town.



