

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 20 2001

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 Marion Hall

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Corner of Main and First Street not for publication

city or town Baileyville vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Nemaha code 131 zip code 66538

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.)

Richard D. Kerber _____
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society
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:
- 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): _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
4/25/01

Marion Hall
Name of Property

Nemaha County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rectangle, Gambrel Roof

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Wood: Weatherboard, Shingle

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

Marion Hall
Name of Property

Nemaha County, Kansas
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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1895 - 1951

Significant Dates

1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brown, Nate-Builder

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

Marion Hall
Name of Property

Nemaha County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less Than One Acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 741800 4413930
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing

4

(See continuation sheet)

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Darlann Swayze Rial

organization Consultant

date July 2000

street & number 906 North 8th

telephone 785-336-0053

city or town Seneca

state KS

zip code 66538

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 Gary Satter, Glacial Hills Resource Conservation & Development Region Inc.

street & number 318 Broadway

telephone 785-945-6292

city or town Valley Falls

state KS

zip code 66088

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Marion Hall (c.1895) is located on State Highway 36 in the town of Baileyville, Nemaha County, Kansas (population), at Main and First Street, (see Marion Township Plat, 1902), on Lot 7, Block 20. The hall is wooden building, with a foundation of stones. The building measures sixty feet from north to south and thirty-one feet from west to east with side walls measuring 13 feet from roof to foundation. The building is a frame rectangle sheathed in German lap siding. The gambrel roof is wood shake and the original has been replaced with like wood shake. Side wall fenestration is of paired, four pane, double hung windows with plain surroundings. The primary facade is three bay with the center bay being pavilion which extends into a hip roofed tower. The tower is shingled with the cut wood fan extending on both sides. The double entrance door on the front is a southern alcove entrance which measures eight and one half feet wide, four feet deep. Windows on either side of the doorway pavilion have colored glass pane transoms. Repair to the bell tower restored minor damage caused by fire ignited by lightning on October 15, 1980.

The upper section of both southern windows (front), on either side of the entrance, has six inch pieces of stained glass. Some of the broken pieces have been replaced with clear glass for protection of the site.

The foundation on the back (north side) of the building began to buckle in the 1980s and was restored in 1995 with proceeds from selling blanket throws woven with the images of sixteen historic Nemaha County structures. The east side has a single door with concrete steps leading up to the door. Both the east and west sides of the building has four pane, double hung windows that measure twelve feet high. The back (north side) of the building has no door or windows. The building has attic space, but there is no basement.

Interior walls are thirteen feet from floor to ceiling. The walls and ceiling are of well preserved, decorative pressed metal. The lower three feet of the interior walls has maple wainscoting. The maple hardwood floor is intact and lines marking the original basketball court remain visible through layers of dust. The four foot by fourteen foot stage originally stood across the northern end of the hall, but has been disassembled. The lumber is now stored within the current building. Tall narrow brick chimneys are on each side of the stage space, but were discontinued when gas heaters were installed.

When the new Baileyville school house was built in 1950s, the town hall was not in great demand for community use and by 1988, the Board Trustees of the Marion Township of Nemaha County sold the hall in June 14 to Charles and Annette Koch. After interest grew in celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the one remaining town hall in northeast Kansas, Mr. and Mrs. Koch agreed to donate the building for historical restoration. In 1995, Mr. Koch deeded the building to the Glacial Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council which is a non-profit organization that coordinates technical and financial assistance to six northeast Kansas counties.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Glacial Hills RC&D began fundraising efforts to fund restoration of the site into a conservation, topographical learning center-museum and tourist information center. In 1995 Marion Hall was inspected by engineers and found to be structurally sound. That determination made restoration an achievable goal. As a part of the master restoration plan, Baileyville High School students and neighborhood youth have volunteered many hours to prime the exterior of the building for painting. Two more coats of exterior paint and cleaning of the maple hardwood floors are currently being undertaken by the 2000 Glacial Hills RC&D restoration projects. The decorative tin tiles are in good condition and will be touched up and painted.

Since Baileyville is at the west edge of the Glacial Hills Region, Marian Hall has the potential to become a learning and study center for the Glacial Hills Region. Displays can include the soils and the structure of the area along with the types of vegetation, water sources, wildlife and other aspects of nature of the area. Displays would include three dimensional examples of the structure of the Glacial Hills region. A resource library might also be part of the learning center which would be available to students of the area as well as tourists who might be passing through. It would also serve as a tourist information center for the entire Glacial Hills Region because of its very desirable location on Highway 36.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Marion Hall (c. 1895) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its historical association as one of the last remaining township halls, representing the religious and social contributions of the last one hundred years and under criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of late nineteenth century construction and community planning and development distinction.

Monroe Bailey, father of ex-Governor Willis J. Bailey, left his prosperous farm in Mount Carroll, Illinois and followed his son to northeast Kansas in October of 1879. Monroe Bailey developed a farm and became a prosperous and influential citizen stockman. Mr. Bailey laid out the town that was to be named for his family in the westernmost part of Nemaha County, seven miles west of Seneca. The town prospered and became a convenient shipping point when the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad put in a siding. Baileyville increased in numbers, citizenship and substantiality. A post office, store, hay sheds and blacksmith soon followed. Willis J. Bailey contracted with Nate Brown, Axtell carpenter to build a new bank building with new vault, including a fire and burglar proofed safe in November of 1894. Soon Mr. Bailey contracted the Mr. Brown to build a drug store and a doctor's office.

The outlying farm lands settled in the rolling hills of the area soon flourished and the villagers and country people began to gather for social and religious and cultural activities. Willis Bailey paid the carpenter to build a community hall for the entertainment, social and business gatherings. The new hall was completed, painted inside and out and ready for occupancy on January 17, 1896. The Seneca Courier-Democrat newspaper announced in that week's edition that "it is an edifice which we are proud of". The interior clearly shows why early residents took such pride in their town hall. The ceiling is covered with decorative tin, which also lies the walls down to the wainscoting which covers the lower few feet. Mr. Bailey deeded the community hall to the Trustees of Marion Township in January 27, 1896 and it became "Marion Hall". The Baileyville Dramatic Company gave plays at the new hall to raise funds for "buying seats". The Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists started old fashioned ice cream and basket socials to raise funds for chairs. Musicals, dramas and basket socials were scheduled to fund the furnishing of the new township hall.

The Presbyterians held services in Marion Hall until they rebuilt their church after cyclone damage in May of 1896. The Democrats and Republicans held their ratification meetings in Marion Hall. It was the site for many social functions, including weddings parties, dinners, dances, plays and meetings. On October 23, 1896, W.S. Glass of Marysville spoke at Marion Hall in favor of Free Silver. His speech was noted in the weekly paper as easily heard by all those who packed into the hall. Within weeks a grand ball, a series of lectures on the Bible, ice cream and strawberry socials and various musicals and plays were filling the new Hall. It was a polling place during elections. By June of 1898, W. J. Bailey was the Republican nominee for Congressman-at-large and returned to Baileyville by train and was led to the Marion Hall by townspeople for a speech of welcome. By November of 1898, the citizens of Marion township and neighbors of Hon. W. J. Bailey "tendered that gentleman a reception at Baileyville's Marion Hall. It was a magnificent testimony of friends to a fellow citizen and neighbor." In the early 1900s, Governor W.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

J. Bailey returned often to Marion Township Hall to share his vision for the state of Kansas.

By the turn of the century, Nemaha Valley was changing with the rest of the country. The original Swiss and Swedish landowners were going further west. And in response to a call for help from the Belgians, the area was preparing a company if needed in the possible event of war in Europe. The valley had sent all her able-bodied men to the Civil War. A complete company had been sent to the Spanish-American War, but now the valley was filling with German Catholics, and the rumors of war hit home.

The first Catholic Mass in Baileyville was in Marion Hall on March 10, 1912. Masses continued there while the parish was organized and a church and school building was erected. On February 20, 1921, an envelope collection was announced for the purchase of two lots which the Presbyterians were offering for sale. Some townsmen who were not so kindly disposed towards the Catholics, did not wish the lots to go to the Catholic congregation and wanted to make the lots into the town dump. Fortunately judgment of the better minds prevailed. This purchase completed the parish block of 14 lots. Play practice was announced. Each year from the fall of 1920, one or two plays were presented by the young people of the parish. These plays were supported by the generous patronage of the community.

Until 1925 they were staged in Marion Hall, the pastor himself building and painting the scenery. When in the fall of 1925, the temporary church in the school building was vacated for the basement of the church, it was converted into a parish hall with full equipment. Marion Hall served as a great asset to the parish. Most of the social gatherings were held there; lectures, card parties, picnic, dinners, social plays and dances. The dances were held under the auspices of the socialites of the community and under supervision of the churches.

Marion Hall continued to serve as the high school gym where basketball practice and games took place until the 1950s. The court was less than regulation size, and spectators, in the single row of folding chairs around it, were likely to wind up with a basketball or player in their laps. Once a player was injured when his hand and arm went through the windowpane only a couple of feet from the court. Strips of vertical boards were then put over the windows to protect the athletes. Additional seating was managed by placing chairs on the stage next to the potbelly stove, the only source of heat for the building.

The building's architectural significance is defined primarily through its facade. The multi-textured, wooden shingled facade incorporates a tower entry. In the small town of Baileyville, Marion Hall stands as a visible landmark that is seen easily from the highway. The gambrel roof that covers the building adds distinctive lines to both side elevations. The facade is comprised of a curved parapet that masks the double slope roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Books:

Annals of Kansas, 1886-1925, Published by the Kansas State Historical Society, Nyle H. Miller, Secretary, Topeka, Kansas, Volume One (1954), Volume Two (1956).

Connelley, William; A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans, Lewis Publishing Company, NY, 1918, 1372-1374 p.

Richmond, Robert W., Kansas, A Land of Contrasts, Forum Press, Inc., Wheeling, Ill., Volume III, 208 p.

Tennal, Ralph, History of Nemaha Valley, Kansas, Standard Publishing, Lawrence, Kansas, 1916, 138,165-167, 267, 291 p.

Zornow, William Frank, Kansas: A History of the Jayhawk State, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK, 1957, 204, 209, 210, 211 p.

Articles:

Philbrick, Michael, *Seneca - 125 years Ago*, Seneca Souvenir Pamphlet, Nemaha County Historical Museum, 1995.

Stumpf, LeNore, "Baileyville Restores Century-Old Town Hall", in Kanhistique, January, 1996, p. 11, 12.

Documents:

Ray Ingalls Collection, Nemaha County Historical Museum

Nemaha County Register of Deeds, State of Kansas, General Warranty Deed, Box 98, Pg. 232, Willis J. Bailey to Marion Township, Filed January 27, 1896.

Nemaha County Register of Deeds, State of Kansas, Quit Claim Deed, Book 338, Page 2, Marion Township to Charles W. Koch and Annette J. Koch, Lot 7, in Block 20, in town of Baileyville, Nemaha County, State of Kansas, Filed July 6, 1988.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 2, 1

Nemaha County Register of Deeds, State of Kansas, Warranty Deed, Box 372, Page 122, Charles W. Koch and Annette J. Koch, to Glacial Hills Resource Conservation & Development Region, Inc., a Kansas Not For Profit Corporation, Filed March 26, 1996, Register of Deeds, Nemaha County, State of Kansas.

Manuscripts:

Blaufuss, Father Antony J., "History of Sacred Heart Parish", 1932, as amended by Archdiocese of Leavenworth, Kansas.

Newspapers:

Axtell Standard, 1898, Axtell City Hall records.

Eastern Kansas Register, March 10, 1912, "Your Scrapbook of Kansas Catholic History", Sacred Heart Parish, Baileyville, Kansas.

Seneca Courier-Democrat, 1895-1898, weekly articles on Baileyville activities.

The Courier-Tribune, Anniversary Edition, 1938.

The Seneca Tribune, 1896-1903, weekly, articles on Baileyville activities.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on Lot 7, Block 20 in the Town of Baileyville, Kansas in Nemaha County. The property is bounded to the south by Main Street, to the east by First Street and the north and west by adjacent property lines.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination contains all property historically associated with the township hall.