United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

| 1. Nam | ie | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| historic | Crescent Grange H | <i>No.</i> Ia11 <i>≱</i> 512 | | |
| and/or common | Crescent Grange H | | | |
| 2. Loca | | | | |
| | of max | tent bake | | |
| street & number | Type Lake Road Martin Lake U | C . | | not for publication |
| city, town | Linwood Township | vicinity of | congressional district | 8th |
| state | Minnesota code | 22 county | Anoka | code 003 |
| 3. Clas | sification | | | |
| Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object | Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered | Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no | Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military | museum park private residence religious scientific transportation x other: meeting hal |
| name | er of Proper Crescent Grange #5 | | rrott | |
| street & number | Route 1 | 12 C/O HIMITE BA | | |
| city, town | Stacy | vicinity of | state 1 | Minnesota |
| | ation of Lega | | on | W |
| | | a County Courthous | | |
| city, town | Anoka | | state M | linnesota |
| 6. Repr | esentation i | n Existing | Surveys | |
| | e Survey of Historic | | perty been determined ele | gible? yes no |
| date 1978, 19 | 979 | | federal X_ state | county local |
| depository for su | rvey records Minnesota | Historical Society | 240 Summit Avenu | ue-Hill House |
| city town St. | Paul | | stata 1 | Minnesota |

7. Description

| Condition deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed | Check one X unaltered altered | Check one X original site moved date |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Crescent Grange Hall #512, constructed in 1881-82, is located in a heavily wooded, rural setting in northeastern Anoka County. This long, narrow, non-agricultural, non-residential structure is a unique element on rural Anoka County's landscape.

The one story 46 by 20 feet structure is constructed of pine that was cut nearby and sawn into lumber at a sawmill at Typo Lake. This gable roofed structure is sheathed in clapboard siding. The original simple design of the Crescent Grange Hall was embellished in 1916 by W.W. Wittig, a Granger who constructed alcoves on each of the hall's longitudinal facades. The alcove on the rear facade contains decorative stained glass. The alcove on the front facade serves as the hall's main entry.

The interior of the hall contains a meeting room, auditorium, and kitchen. Since its construction, interior remodeling has been limited to the lowering of ceilings, and panelling and painting of the meeting room.

The Crescent Grange Hall, in an excellent state of preservation, continues to be used for monthly Grange meetings.

8. Significance

| 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 _X_ 1800-1899 | Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — X agriculture — architecture — art — commerce — communications | community planni | ing landscape architectur law literature military music ment philosophy politics/government | science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater |
|--|---|-------------------|---|--|
| Specific dates | 1881-82 | Builder/Architect | Members of Grange #512 | |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Crescent Grange Hall #512, whose organization was formed in 1874, is historically significant as an early hall built by a subordinate Grange in Minnesota. The Granger movement in Minnesota, with roots dating to the formation of an agricultural society in 1852, was a significant force in Minnesota's history from its formal organization in 1867 throughout the Great Depression. Oliver H. Kelley, whose farm is located approximately ten miles north of Anoka, and six other farmers founded the National Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry, as a secret order of farmers. Early in its history, the Minnesota State Grange (a federation of the National Grange) worked for legislation to benefit Minnesota farmers. A series of acts, known as Granger acts, were passed into law in the 1870s. Blegen points out that "... it was Granger legislation that established the principle that railroads and other corporations clothed with public interest are properly subject to public regulation. In 1876 the Supreme Court validated this principle in its decision in Munn v. Illinois, and other Granger cases, one of them a Minnesota dispute (Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company v. Blake). A constitutional way was opened for more carefully devised regulations than those provided in early laws."

Although the Minnesota State Grange was involved in political issues affecting agriculture, it was not a political party, but an organization to promote education in agriculture and to provide social and cultural opportunities for farmers and their wives, through club meetings. Grange meetings provided a forum for the discussion of a wide range of issues, including information about agriculture, crops, machinery, new devices, and new methods. In addition, the Grange benefitted its members by cooperatively buying and selling such agricultural machinery, implements, and household goods as threshing machines, brooms, groceries, and cattle for breeding stock.

From 1874 until 1882, members of Crescent Grange #512 met in churches and homes. In 1881 the Grange planned for the construction of a hall on land donated by Granger J.G. Green. The logs for the construction of the hall were logged and sawn by members of the Grange. The construction of the hall, begun in the spring of 1881, was completed for a dedicatory service on July 4, 1882.

Crescent Grange #512, whose membership has increased in the recent past, continues to maintain the hall in an excellent state of preservation and uses it for monthly meetings.

 $^{
m l}$ Blegen, Theodore C., Minnesota: A History of the State, page 292.

PLEASE NOTE: The manuscript for this nomination was prepared before the one paragraph limit for significance statements was stipulated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

| Section number Page | |
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| ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | Keeper Helous Jun |

JUN 1 7 1988

Date

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

Nina M. Archabal

State Historic Preservation Officer

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

| | Note: These changes apply to Crescent Grange Hall No. 512 in Anoka County, Minnesota. |
|----------------------------|---|
| REFERENCE NUMBER: 79001190 | |
| STATE: MINNESOTA | |
| COUNTY: Anoka | |
| RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): | |
| CITY: | |
| VICINITY OF: East Bethel | |
| ADDRESS: | |
| CERTIFICATION DATE: | |
| REMOVED DATE: | |
| COMMENTS: | |