

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For NPS use only
received **MAY 14 1986**
date entered **JUN 13 1986**

1. Name

historic Booth Post No. 130-Grand Army of the Republic Hall

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number S. Main Street between 1st and 2nd Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Grand Meadow N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 22 county Mower code 099

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mower County

street & number Mower County Courthouse

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 55912

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Mower County Court House

street & number N/A

city, town Austin state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society-Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(slightly)		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Booth Post No. 130 G.A.R. Hall is a simple frame building with a facing east on S. Main Street in Grand Meadow. It is just south of the railroad tracks separating the downtown commercial area to the north from a residential area to the south.

The building has a front-facing gable and a projecting gabled front portico. It is faced in 4" wide clapboards, has a very steeply pitched roof, and no basement, but a new concrete block foundation. The over-all effect is simple and functional. Details are few, but include a sill course under the windows, below which is vertical wood sheathing. With the tall roof, the overall effect is reminiscent of the Carpenter Gothic style. The projecting portico has diamond-patterned shingles in the gable and Eastlake style porch columns. The portico has been weather-proofed by enclosing the area around the outer front door. This first door is a modern storm door with glass in the upper portion. The door inside the portico leading to the hall is original. Windows on the front facade are placed in cant corners at the edges of the building. These corners are decorated with scroll-sawn brackets. A band of diamond-patterned shingles forms the frieze.

Integrity of the building is excellent. The roof, originally wood-shingled, is now asphalt shingles. Windows are one-over-one and boarded up with wooden shutters. The interior is intact as built with wood lath and plaster under wallpaper. Walls have wide baseboards and a molded chair rail. The floor is maple. A new sheet rock ceiling was installed at the same time the concrete block foundation and leaking roof shingles were refurbished in 1976 by the Mower County Historical Society to stabilize the building.

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 checked="" 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 1891 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The G.A.R. Booth Post #130 Hall is significant on architectural grounds as an excellent intact example of a small pattern-book hall. Similar pattern-book structures, popular in the 19th century and inexpensive to build, were altered or razed, and this hall is an excellent surviving example of its kind. It is reminiscent of the Carpenter Gothic style in a small commercial building. Secondly, it is one of the last two remaining G.A.R. Halls in Minnesota. As such, it represents a fraternal group which organized itself around camaraderie in the Civil War and social service thereafter.

The Booth Post #130 was organized in Grand Meadow in 1885 and named after one of the soldiers of Hamilton, Fillmore County, who died in the Civil War. In 1889, the mothers, wives, and daughters of soldiers organized a Woman's Relief Corps, Booth Corps #62. Their main aim was to aid the suffering and needy. The hall was built after subscriptions yielded \$523 in 1891 and the Women's Relief Corps donated another \$115. The women received the deed to the hall in 1914. They marched in blue uniforms at Memorial Day parades, decorated cemeteries, sewed for the Soldiers Home, and had parties for the veterans at the State Hospital. The building was occupied in the fall of that year.

At the first meeting in the hall, it was unanimously voted that the building never be used for another purpose as long as the post survived. This pledge was kept and the hall was operated until 1961 by the Women's Relief Corps, after all the members of the Booth Post died. It is the only hall in the state to have been used for its original purpose so long. The building stood empty after the last few ageing members of the women's corps disbanded in 1961. In 1975, the Girl Scouts took charge and turned the building into a local museum as a Bicentennial project. The building is now managed by the Mower County Historical Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet # 1

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Grand Meadow, Minn. 1965

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 534420 4838890
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 29, Block 11, Original Village of Grand Meadow

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Norene A. Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc. date May 6, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55410

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 Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/8/86

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

for Allvrest Byer
Keeper of the National Register

date 6-13-86

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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

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Booth Post No. 130, Grand Army of the Republic Hall

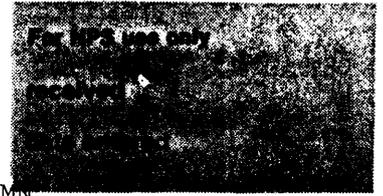
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date entered

Continuation sheet Resource Count Item number 8 Page 1

Booth Post No. 130, Grand Army of the Republic Hall nomination
contains 1 contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Booth Post No. 130, Grand Army of the Republic Hall, Grand Meadow, MN

Continuation sheet

Major Biblio. References

Item number

#9

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Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn, ed. The History of Mower County. (Chicago: H. C. Cooper & So., 1911). pp. 368-370.

G.A.R. Hall file, Mower County Historical Society, Austin, Minnesota.

"6 Women Cling to GAR Hall at Grand Meadow." Austin Daily Herald (Vol.86 #141) 1961, p. 1.

St. Paul Pioneer Press, February 13, 1960.

Torgenson, Harriett, compiler. "Of Days That Used to Be." July, 1976, p. 75.