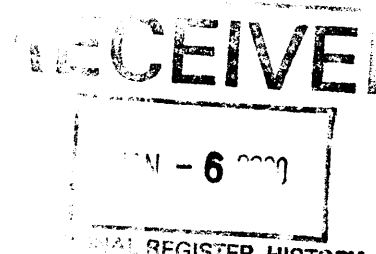


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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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" where 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 Vinland Grange Hall

other names/site number 045-0000-0265

2. Location

street & number Corner of Oak and Main Street  not for publication

city or town Vinland  vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Douglas code 045 zip code 66006

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.)  
*Dickson A. Beall* D-SHPO December 20, 1999  
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:)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper *Dickson A. Beall* Date of Action 2-10-00

Vinland Grange Hall  
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as 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	
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.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting Hall

Commerce/Trade: Business

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting Hall

Recreation and Culture: Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Gable Front

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Stone: Limestone

Stucco

roof Metal: Tin

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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The Vinland Grange Hall #163 (c. 1884) is located in the village of Vinland, Douglas County, Kansas (pop. 40) , at the intersection of Oak and Main Street (see 1902 Plat), on Lot 27. It is a two-story front gable stone building, stuccoed, with stone lintels and sills. The building measures twenty-nine feet from north to south and forty-five feet from west to east, and has a western facade orientation. The double entrance door on the front (west side) has a concrete porch with a shed roof of corrugated sheets similar to the roof. On the back (east side) a single flight of outside concrete steps leads up to the second floor. Like other grange halls of its period, it was designed as a large upstairs meeting hall over a downstairs business space, usually a farm cooperative store. The building has no attic, nor is there a basement. The ground floor is concrete and the second floor is wood. This building has been in constant use since 1884 by the Grange, several businesses, and various community organizations, and still has a high degree of structural integrity. After discontinuing its use in 1985, the Vinland Grange #163 deeded the building to the Santa Fe Trail Historical Society, which has been restoring the second story while letting the Kansas Grassroots Art Association use the ground floor as a museum.

The building's exterior walls are composed of two-foot thick native limestone, mortared with twenty loads of sand hauled from the Kansas river in Lawrence in 1884. In 1901 the stone walls were covered with a grid-embossed stucco to resemble oblong blocks. This has begun to crack and fall away around the base of the north and south walls and in one or two other spots higher up. The north and south sides each have three five-foot high windows at second floor level. On the ground level the north side has a single door at the rear (east) corner. The south elevation has a window in that same lower eastern corner and a tall narrow brick chimney in the center of the wall. It also has a temporary boarded-up opening at eye-level at the front (west) corner as if a pass-through had been cut in at a later time (after the 50-year historical significance period). It does not serve history or the original design and should be closed, reconstructing the exterior stucco and oblong grid marks.

The west facade's simple but elegantly clean design starts with the double entrance door topped by Queen Anne lights. The facade is fenestrated by a pair of generous four-paned windows. Three five-foot windows fenestrate the second story gable, emphasizing the important functions of the community hall above. A concrete porch and shed-type metal roof was added in c. 1919.

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The east end of the building seems to be the rear or back side, except that everyone who uses the Grange Hall on the second floor must go up the outside stairs at the east end. Originally these stairs were made of wood, but were replaced with concrete stairs (c.1926). The ground level entrance to the stairs is on the north edge of the east side and is close to Oak Street for convenience. In the early days when horses, wagons, and buggies were the way farmers and citizens of the village moved, and the Grange Hall was the center of most community activities, this "back" side of the building was actually the most used one. On the wide concrete steps and the landing at the top, people would socialize both coming and going to the many events. There is a brick chimney also on the east side, used for a wood-burning stove to heat the large hall until a gas stove replaced it in the 1950s.

The interior of the ground floor now is one large room with a bare concrete floor on which the Kansas Grassroots Art Association displays its art works clustered in groups of objects produced by each artist. This room measures twenty-four feet from north to south and forty foot west to east. Two concrete pillars down the long axis of the room support the second story floor. The walls are plastered and painted but both the plaster and the paint have deteriorated over time. The ten foot ceiling is of pressed metal design. This ground floor space has been modified only slightly over the years to accommodate a cooperative farm store, a bank, a cream testing station, a barber shop, and lastly, a site for fundraising dinners to support the Vinland Fair.

The second floor community hall is one large room except for the four-foot deep stage at the west end which is separated from the room by a draped proscenium and side flats. The drop curtain is a painted cloth rolled around a 5" diameter wooden roller twelve foot long, which is rolled up and down by ropes and pulleys, revealing colorful advertisements of local companies existing in the early 1900's. The entrance to the hall at the eastern end is flanked by low partitions providing a two-foot wide storage space on either side for Grange ceremonial materials, folding chairs, and equipment for serving food. The walls are plastered over the limestone rock walls and painted blue. A local restorer is attempting to restore both plaster and paint as near the original as possible. The ceiling is one by four tongue and groove pine, rising from the thirteen foot side walls to the seventeen foot high ridge in the center. The floor is one by six tongue and groove pine, and is being refinished by the restorer. A roof of corrugated metal sheeting has been restored also.

Vinland Grange Hall  
Name of Property

Douglas 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

Social History

**Period of Significance**

1884 - 1950

**Significant Dates**

1884, 1917

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Unknown

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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The Vinland Grange Hall (c. 1884) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its historical association with the grange movement in Vinland and under criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of a late nineteenth century, limestone grange hall with Greek Revival antecedents. The Vinland Grange was chartered in 1873 and the second hall, the subject of this nomination, was constructed in 1884. Like other grange halls of the period, it was custom designed with the hall on the second floor and businesses on the first floor. The grange movement played a central role in the lives of thousands of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Americans, including Kansans. The Vinland chapter of the grange was one of the oldest in Kansas and served the southern Douglas community for over one hundred years. The grange hall was deeded to the Santa Fe Trail Historical Society in 1985 and is the home of the Kansas Grassroots Art Association Museum.

In 1866, O.H. Kelley, from the newly created Department of Agriculture in Washington, surveyed farm conditions in the South following the Civil War. Droughts and pests caused bad years for farmers. Corn and wheat sold at ruinous prices. Deeply affected by what he saw, he felt that a farmers' organization should be started to help heal the scars of war and improve the economic and social position of farmers. Working with others, Kelley conceived of a farm and rural life fraternal organization, resigned his position, and in 1868 began the Grange.

By 1872 over a thousand Granges in more than half the states were organized. Twenty-eight charter members met in Vinland to establish the 163rd Grange in Kansas on May 24, 1873. The first grange hall was a wooden building that stood on land given by William E. Barnes (Lot 9). John Walton, W.L. Tuttle, and Isaac Hemphill signed the charter and Joseph Iliff was made manager of the Grange's first enterprise, a farm cooperative store. A state Grange was organized in July of that year with representatives from 9 county groups of local Granges. The primary purposes for these Granges was stated to be: feed, seed, and machinery at reasonable prices, but the social and educational needs of farmers were also stressed.

A grasshopper invasion hit Kansas in 1874 and 35 suffering counties received financial help from the National Grange, which coordinated the sharing of funds received from donor Granges in ten states (\$12,115.00). Vinland suffered from the grasshopper invasion, too, but received state aid in the form of grain.

The first Vinland Grange Fair was held in 1874 at the Vinland Grade School 3/4 mile north of Vinland. In 1876 the Vinland Grange held another fair and in 1880 entered an exhibit in the

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Bismarck Fair in Lawrence which took second place. It also won second place in the Topeka Fair that year and gave half of the \$500 prize to the Coal Creek Library.

In 1884, the Vinland Grange decided to build a more adequate hall on Lot 27. A mason by the name of Bradley directed the members in using limestone from a local quarry, and they hauled the sand for mortar from the river in Lawrence. The result of their labors was a handsome two-story stone Grange building with a lower floor for an expanded farm cooperative store and a second floor hall fitted out for the Grange's fraternal meetings and other community affairs. A stage with proscenium and curtains provided a grand place for plays, readings, educational lectures, and formal ceremonies of the Grange, the Knights of Pythias, the Methodist, Church of Christ, and Presbyterian churches, and the schools.

The grange hall is a two-story front gable stone building, stuccoed, with stone lintels and sills. The double entrance door on the front (west side) has a concrete porch with a shed roof of corrugated sheets similar to the roof. On the back (east side) a single flight of outside concrete steps leads up to the second floor. Like other grange halls of its period, it was designed as a large upstairs meeting hall over a downstairs business space, usually a farm cooperative store.

The prominently placed building faces west, with a gable front. Although it is a vernacular interpretation, and very much diluted, the roots of the building's appearance are found in the Greek Revival tradition. The temple facade is not decorated in any way, its character derived from the large windows that fenestrate both the first and second stories. The stone walls were covered with stucco and rusticated at the turn of the century.

The farm cooperative store established on the first floor of the new building in the mid-1880s was based on rules formulated by the National Grange, which had studied the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society (organized in 1844 as England's first consumer cooperative.) The Vinland Grange's store followed the pattern of assembling farmers' orders and placing them with dealers who shipped carloads of seed and supplies directly to farmers. The railroad spur from Lawrence to Vinland helped make these shipments possible. Groceries, clothing, boots, hardware and agriculture implements were also ordered in quantities when possible to secure price concessions passed on to Grange members.

The secret Grange handshake was all the identification a member needed to get the discount. By helping farmers to survive economically when prices for farm produce and the costs of shipping

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were out of their hands, the Vinland Grange contributed not only to its members' welfare, but also to the creation and growth of a new type of cooperative purchasing and marketing in American agricultural development. This was part of the economic reform that early leaders of the National Grange thought was necessary to protect the farmer's rights in an era of "monopoly capitalism" where it was felt that merchants, manufacturers, and railroad owners were combining to exclude competition and demand an unfair share of the farmers' output.

The Vinland Grange's farm cooperative store faded as the national leadership of the Grange became conservative, overcoming the radical bent of O.H.. Kelley, and all but abandoned its aggressive promotion of cooperative buying, selling, and processing as a way to fight "monopoly capitalism." By the late 1880s the Grange began to focus more on its goals of education and social interaction at Grange meetings that would prepare farmers to trust one another and understand that the answers to their mutual problems would come from concerted action on other fronts. The cooperative farm store on the ground floor of the Grange gave way to bank in 1917 and after 1926, a cream station where the output of local dairy farmers was tested before moving it on to the local cheese factory and city milk distributors.

When the local cheese factory closed, the cream station gave way to the Farmers' State Bank, chartered March 3, 1917, ushering in an era of Grange members working together with merchants, banks, manufacturers, railroads and other parts of the expanding agricultural economy. Nationally, the Grange movement lost members as some farmers then turned to other organizations (the Greenback Party, the Farmers' Alliance) to champion their "rights". In 1926 the Vinland bank merged with the Peoples' State Bank of Baldwin and the Grange Hall's ground floor fell vacant. An enterprising barber put in a partition and briefly used part of it for his hair-cutting emporium. But the first floor (and sometimes the second floor) continued to be used whenever a community need arose.

When fire burned down the Vinland high school and later a Methodist church, the Grange Hall was used as a temporary site until the destroyed buildings were rebuilt. When a new church (Church of Christ) began, it met at the Grange until money was raised and the church was completed. More recently, another church built an addition while moving its Sunday school to the Grange temporarily. Despite the varied uses of the ground floor, the second story was in continual use from its beginning in 1884 until the Grange disbanded in 1985. It served as a voting place for the Vinland precinct and for many community affairs (such as sausage and pancake feeds to raise money for the Grange Fair and the 4-H) but its main use was for the Grange itself. Assembling twice a month (second Thursday and fourth Saturday of the month) in



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formal Grange meetings, its fraternal ritual affirmed farming life, and the Vinland farming community enjoyed its social and educational programs that brought them together in the midst of the struggle to survive as an agricultural community.

Speakers and debates about older, well-tested ways of doing things, newer methods and technology of farm machinery, animal husbandry, seeds and crops, canning and home food production--all these made attendance at each meeting valuable to the improvement of their life. The picnics, suppers, and dances fused strong social bonds of mutual trust and concern. The months of planning, funding and carrying out of the annual Vinland Grange fair, which was reorganized in 1907, united them in giving recognition and importance to excellence in livestock (beef and dairy cattle, sheep and swine) and produce (eggs, fruit, corn, small grain, hay and garden vegetables), canning and baking, sewing and hobbies, flowers, and the 4-H and Junior Department.

Participating at the Grange hall with their men, Vinland women always played important roles, just as they did in their homes where mutual hard work and social enjoyment were part of rural family life. Grange ritual did not separate men from women as in other fraternal organizations, and many Vinland women helped organize and sustain Grange 163 in its new hall, and especially on the second floor itself. Their contributions to programs and activities of the women's committees focused on domestic crafts, child rearing, and the moral betterment of the community.

Vinland native Bertha Weiler joined the grange in 1915 with her sisters and sixty other area youth. During her lifetime as a Grange member, Weiler held many ritual positions as well as serving in the offices of Chaplain, Secretary, Treasurer, Steward, and Lecturer in charge of programs. After 1919, when men removed themselves from the National Home Economics Committee, women expanded their local committees beyond scientific homemaking to include everything they thought women ought to do for the Order. Vinland women contributed to the success of so many Grange events, such as the fair and other community service activities, that they began to help the state Grange gain national attention. In the 1931 national contest to encourage home beautification and community service projects, the Kansas State Grange received national recognition.

By 1950, in keeping with its own long tradition of inspiring youth and adult farmers and homemakers through fairs and contests, the Vinland Grange entered the Kansas State Grange community service contest, winning first place, and then won sixth place in the national contest.

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The prize money went to more buildings for the Grange Fair. Again in 1952, the Vinland Grange entered the state and national community service contests, and an official team of five judges came from the National Grange to verify its work. The report shows that out of 140 Grange members, 61% or 86 members contributed a total of 3,617 hours to complete 23 projects. The list of projects indicates the widening range of community betterment activities and services and the reaching out to their members in hospitals and nearby communities as they began to age and retire from active farm life.

The community service projects included: Erecting stop signs at road intersections, sponsoring a community fair, sponsoring a community Halloween party, sponsoring continuation of community planning council, provide a home nursing course for community, sponsor community Christmas program, provide Ground Hog supper for fund raising, soil conservation demonstrations, supply chairs for community gatherings, beautification of farmsteads, provide programs for veterans at hospital, collect items for Topeka State Hospital, sponsor watershed association meeting, cancer fund drive, provide calf for community calf club, digging graves, sponsor community church services, collecting donations for needy, provide hospital bed for community use, sponsor meeting for rat control, sponsor 4-H Fair and Achievement Day.

By involving a wider range of leaders in these and other projects, the Grange impacted a greater geographic area, including much of southern Douglas County. A rural mail route, a rural telephone system, and a water district were examples of earlier ideas discussed in the Grange and then "seeded" into the wider community with much nurturing until they became a reality.

Unable to recruit younger members as lifestyles changed and the economy of the area shifted, the Vinland Grange's many functions were absorbed by expanding government services (county agriculture agents and home extension units) and the wider community (the Vinland Grange's and the Baldwin Garden Club's joint efforts at beautification became the Community Planning Council of south Douglas County in the 1950's, and the 'Grange Fair' was incorporated as "the Vinland Fair" in 1976). Although still meeting in the Grange Hall occasionally for planning and social affairs, these wider groups had fewer and fewer Grange members, until finally only 15 very old members remained. No longer able to get up to the second floor hall by the long flight of stairs, they began to meet in the Methodist Church until the Grange finally disbanded and deeded the Grange building to the Santa Fe Trail Historical Society of Baldwin in 1985. Oakes Temple, 90, the last Grange Master, echoed not only the surviving members but the wider south Douglas County community when he said, "It's important to us that the building stays here, intact, for future generations to see what those who have gone before have done for us."

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography

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Robinson, O.L. The Grange, 1867-1967: First Century of Service and Evolution Washington, D.C.: The National Grange, 1996, 118 p.

Vine, Robert H. The American West: An Interpretive History Boston: Little Brown and Co., 1973, 371 p.

The Grange in Kansas 1872-1973 , Topeka: Patrons of Husbandry, 1973, 141 p.

Woods, Thomas A. Knights of the Plow Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1991, 210 p.

#### Articles:

Parrish, Fred L. "Kansas Agriculture Before 1900", in Kansas: The First Century , Ed. by John D. Bright, New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1956, v.1, p. 401-427.

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#### Documents:

Owsley, Carol Lee The History of Early Agricultural Societies in Kansas M.S. Thesis, Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science, 1947, typed, 71 p.

Summary Report, "Vinland Grange No. 163: 1952 Community Service Report" Grange

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Master H.N. Hoskinson, Secretary Dorothy Leary, Recorder Edwin C. Sample, typed,  
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“Proceedings: One Hundred First Annual Session Kansas State Grange”, Topeka,  
Kansas, October 13-17, 1972, 100 p.

“The Grange Blue Book” Washington, D.C.: The National Grange, 15 p.

### Manuscripts:

Hemphill, Anne E., “Vinland, Douglas County, Kansas, Time Line” mimeographed, 4 p.

Hemphill, Anne E., “History of Vinland Area and Methodist Episcopal Church of  
Vinland, Kansas” A Santa Fe Trail Historical Society Publication, Vol. 4, No. 1,  
1982, mimeographed, 127 p.

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Meetings on 2nd Thursday and 4th Saturday of each month. Wm. Roe, Master;  
S.R. Elwell, Secretary.”

*Baldwin Ledger*, 1952, weekly, articles on Grange activities during January, February,  
and March.

*Lawrence Journal-World*, November 28, 1980, The Area Report, “75 Years of  
Dedication to the Grange.”

*Lawrence Journal-World*, August 18, 1985, page 2c, “Recalling Grand Old Days at the  
Vinland Grange.”

*Tele-News*, weekly, November 28, 1980, “Bertha Weiler Honored for 75 Years in  
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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on Lot 27 in the Town of Vinland, Kansas in Douglas County. The property is bounded to the west by Main Street, to the north by Oak Street and to the east and south by adjacent property lines.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination contains all property historically associated with the grange.