

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 27 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Hazel Green Town Hall

other names/site number Hazel Green Opera House

2. Location

street & number 2130 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hazel Green N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Grant code 043 zip code 53811

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

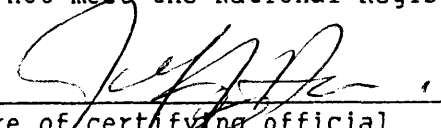
Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

X  _____ Date 11/21/88
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

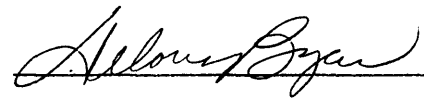
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the
National Register

1 entered in the National Register.  _____ Date 1/26/89
___ 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 Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall
RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater
RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

<u>other: Boom Town</u>	foundation	<u>STONE</u>
	walls	<u>WOOD</u>
	roof	<u>ASPHALT</u>
	other	<u>WOOD</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Description

This exceptionally intact one-and-a-half-story-tall example of the Boom Town vernacular form is located in the Village of Hazel Green and was built as the Town Hall for the Town of Hazel Green between the months of June and October of 1891. The new hall was built for the sum of \$1540.00 by William A. Hocking, a local carpentry contractor who may also have been responsible for the design. The simplicity of the finished building reflects both the limited means of the Town and the somewhat unsophisticated abilities of the contractor. Never-the-less, client and contractor collaborated to create a building of considerable charm which quickly became an important focal point for the community because it contained the only secular auditorium space in the Town. This resulted in the Hall becoming the scene of much of the social life of the surrounding area until the 1920s. The Hall is rectangular in plan and is 30 feet wide and 60 feet long and the principal facade faces southwest. A balloon frame supports the clapboard-covered exterior walls which rise up to the asphalt shingle-covered gable roof. The southwest-facing gable end of the roof is hidden by a vertical extension of the first floor of that facade which gives the building its characteristic false-front or Boom Town form. Twin entrance openings on this facade open into a twelve-foot-deep by thirty-foot-wide space of which two-thirds originally served as the office of the town clerk. The remaining one-third served as the entrance vestibule to the forty-foot-long auditorium space behind which makes up the middle portion of the Hall and whose backstage area makes up the remainder. Ornamental trim inside and out is of wood and the tall two-over-two double-hung windows all have wood sash and casings. When built in 1891, the Hall was located on the northern edge of the two-block-long commercial district of the Village of Hazel Green and was surrounded by a mixture of commercial and residential buildings. Today the setting of the Hall is almost identical and only the modern residing of many of the nearby houses on Main Street and the loss of numerous shade trees have altered the setting. Almost no changes were made to either the interior or exterior of the Hall until the 1960s when the interior was totally hidden behind plastic panelled walls and a dropped ceiling. These changes were reversed between 1987 and 1988 when the Hall received a total restoration following its purchase from the Town by the present owners. This has resulted in the fortunate preservation of a building whose remarkably intact appearance can serve as a textbook illustration of the Boom Town form as applied to a small town meeting hall.

The Town Hall occupies a parcel of land which forms the southeasterly corner of the intersection created by the juncture of the northwest-southeast running North Main Street and the northeast-southwest running 21st Street. This location was a prominent one in 1891 when Main Street was the major thoroughfare of the village and 21st Street was known as Mineral Street. The land had been purchased by the Town in 1867 and the one-story-tall gable-roofed building which was already located on the

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site at that time was retained for use as the first Town Hall of the Town. When the new Town Hall was built in 1891 the old building was moved a block away to the corner of 21st and Church Streets and was recycled as the nucleus of the residence now known as Ca.1730 21st Street. Today this building is almost completely hidden from view by later additions and by modern residing. The integrity of the setting of the Hall is primarily due to the stability of the population of Hazel Green throughout this century and to the decision to reroute north-south traffic on State Highway 80 from its original Main Street path to a new one block to the west.

Although the Town had a rectangular corner lot at its disposal, budget limitations precluded a design having more than one principal facade. Consequently, the Hall was orientated towards the southwest, making the North Main Street facade the principal one. The choice of the Boom Town form for the design of the Hall may have been largely a matter of economy but it was also a form which was well-suited to the shape of the lot. The Hall is freestanding in design and rectangular in plan and has a thirty foot frontage on North Main Street and a sixty foot frontage on 21st Street. The four walls which form the exterior of the Hall rest on roughly fashioned cut stone foundation walls which enclose a crawlspace. The exterior walls are supported by a balloon frame made of milled boards and the outer surfaces are sided in the original clapboard. The clapboard-covered surfaces of the walls are enframed by cornerboards at each end and by a simple fascia board located below the side and the rear eaves. A corresponding board just above the foundation acts as a watertable and completes the frame.

The side and rear walls rise up to the simple asphalt shingle-covered gable roof which shelters the building. This roof has a ridgeline which runs southwest-northeast and the roof slopes face northwest and southeast. Originally each slope of the roof was pierced by two thin red brick chimneys which served four woodburning stoves inside which struggled to heat the interior of the Hall in the colder months. Three of these chimneys survive but the fourth, located to the rear of the northwest-facing slope, was removed at a later date.

The sixty-foot-long northwest (21st Street) and southeast-facing side elevations of the Hall are both five bays long and one-story-tall and were originally identical with one another. Each bay on both elevations originally contained a single tall rectilinear-shaped two-over-two-light double-hung window framed by a simple flat wooden casing having a plain pediment-shaped crown topped by a simple decorative drip molding. The only alteration to the exterior of either elevation has been the replacement of the window in the second bay from the rear on the 21st Street elevation by a later, less tall secondary exit door. Otherwise, all the windows on the southeast-facing elevation are original while those on the northwest-facing elevation are exact reproductions which were fabricated when the originals proved too deteriorated to repair.

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Just one opening appears in the otherwise featureless northeast-facing or rear elevation of the Hall. This opening is placed in the center of the elevation and originally consisted of a pair of four-panel entrance doors surmounted by a rectilinear transom and was used to provide access to the backstage area of the auditorium space inside. These three elements are framed by the same simple flat wooden casing which is used to frame the rest of the windows and doors on the other elevations of the Hall which was described earlier. This opening was altered in the 1950s. The double doors were replaced by a single six-panel door and the remainder of the door opening was filled with clapboard. In addition the transom was also filled with clapboard and the original flight of wooden stairs leading up to the doors was replaced with modern materials. It is the intention of the current owners to restore the original features of this opening in the near future. Otherwise, the remainder of this elevation including the gable end above which terminates it is sided in the original clapboard and is sheltered by the shallow overhanging eaves of the roof.

The southwest-facing North Main Street facade is the principal elevation of the Hall and contains the main entrances to the building. Consequently, this elevation is more elaborately treated than the others. The two-story-tall appearance of this facade is a conscious attempt to mask the actual one-and-a-half-story-tall height of the Hall by extending the upper portion of the facade vertically in order to hide the gable end of the roof. The resulting Boom Town facade is rectangular in shape, is three bays wide, and is symmetrical in composition. The first floor contains two pairs of four-panel entry doors. Each pair is surmounted by a two-light transom and is enframed by the same simple flat wooden casing terminated by a simple triangular-shaped crown and crown molding which enframes the doors on the rear elevation. The pair of doors in the left-hand opening are original to the building and were used by the current owners as models from which to reproduce the right-hand doors which had been replaced by a single six-panel door in the early 1950s at the same time as the opening on the rear was altered. The front doors flank a single window opening which contains a tall two-over-two-light double-hung window which is identical in design to those found on the side elevations. This window replicates one which originally occupied this space which was also removed when the doors were altered. Using old photos of the Hall as a guide, the current owners replaced this window when they renewed the windows on the northwest-facing facade.

The three-bay-wide second floor of this facade contains two windows, both of which are identical in design and size to the other windows on the Hall. These windows are placed in the two end bays of this floor and light the balcony of the auditorium inside. Because of the slope of the roof which is hidden behind the false-front part of this facade, it was necessary to place these windows closer together than normal. As a result, the windows do not line up precisely on center with the doors below. Another clue to the hidden gable end of the roof is the circular ventilator in the middle of the uppermost part of the middle bay. This ventilator is filled with

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wooden louvers and has a simple wooden casing enframing it. Placed just below the ventilator and between the second floor windows is a modern rectilinear signboard which now reads "OLD TOWN HALL and OPERA HOUSE" and which covers the smaller original signboard beneath it which contained the words "TOWN HALL".

A wide fascia board enframes the upper portion of the clapboard siding of the main facade in a manner identical to that of the other elevations. A tall bracketed wooden cornice is placed above the fascia and completes the facade. The front-facing surface of the cornice is covered in thin vertical wooden boards similar to the wainscoting used in the interior while the rear surface is sided in clapboard. Five elaborate panelled wooden brackets are placed at regular intervals along the length of the cornice. The three center ones are positioned over the centers of the bays and the two end ones are placed on the cornerboards which enframe the cornice. The end brackets also have identical brackets placed at right angles to them which are located on the edges of the cornice. All the brackets uphold a sheet metal-covered cornice return which crowns the cornice.

The interior of the Hall is remarkably intact and represents the fortunate survival of a modest example of late nineteenth century theater design. All the interior walls including the inner partition walls are covered with vertical one-and-five-eighth-inch-wide tongue-and-groove wooden boards of the type commonly used for wainscoting. The entire ceiling of the Hall is also covered with the same material giving the interior a highly unified and distinctly "period" appearance. Originally these surfaces were varnished. Later, all of the interior was painted except for the backstage area which still retains its original varnish. Also original is the wood flooring and almost all of the original wooden decoration used in the interior. This includes the door and window casings which are of the simplest design as well as more elaborate elements described below. What little decoration is not original has been exactly reproduced using original elements as guides.

The division of the interior space of the Hall reflects the different purposes the Hall was designed to accommodate. The two entrance door openings on the North Main Street facade lead into a twelve-foot-deep by thirty-foot-wide, one-story-tall space. A single partition wall divides this space into two unequal-sized twelve-foot-deep rooms. The smaller left-hand room measures nine feet by twelve feet and was originally used as the entrance vestibule for the auditorium space inside. Double doors on the rear wall of this room open into the auditorium and the room is lit by a single window on the northwest-facing exterior wall and by the transom over the exterior doors. Doors and window are both enframed by the same simple flat wooden casing and the walls and ceiling are all covered in wainscoting. Only the usage of the room changed when the current owners installed ice cream and beverage dispensing machinery in this space. Otherwise, the interior is in entirely original condition.

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The larger right-hand room measures nineteen feet by twelve feet and was originally used as the office of the Town Clerk. A single door on the rear wall of this room opens into the auditorium and the room is lit by a single window on the southeast-facing exterior wall and by the transom over the exterior doors. Originally, a low balustrade divided this room in two and admittance to the left-hand space was through a swinging gate made up out of a portion of the balustrade. This balustrade was identical in design to the stair railing which leads up to the balcony above and used the same simple top rail, turned balusters and decorated newel posts. This, along with modern wall-hung cabinets which were a later addition to the room, was removed in 1988 and was replaced with a partition wall which divides the original space into two almost equal-sized twelve foot deep rooms. A second wall further subdivides the new room in two and the resulting spaces are used as rest rooms and contain the first plumbing ever installed in the Hall. Both sides of the new walls are covered in the same wainscoting found on the original walls and the ceiling of the room and the two doors set into the new wall and their casings are identical in design with the original doors in the room.

The area above these two rooms is occupied by the balcony of the auditorium. This space is open to the ceiling of the Hall and is lit by the two second floor windows placed on the main facade. The balcony is reached by ascending a single straight flight of stairs attached to the rear wall of the Town Clerk's office and located immediately to the right as one passes into the auditorium from the original entrance vestibule. The railing system of the stairs consists of a simple top rail, turned balusters, and a large, elaborate newel post and is identical in design with the original railing in the Clerk's office. A number of these balusters were missing when the current owners bought the Hall and were replaced with exact reproductions. The landing at the top of the stairs is actually a small balcony which is supported below by two massive, elaborately panelled and incised brackets which flank the door opening leading into the auditorium from the old office space. Originally the balustrades of both this and the main balcony were identical to the open railing system of the stairs. These balustrades were then replaced with the solid, closed rail ones covered in vertical wainscoting that are still in place today. Both balustrades also have a wide band of projecting molding below them which appear to be supported by small scrollsaw-cut brackets placed at regular intervals below. Three full-width stepped risers occupy most of the floor area of the balcony and were originally occupied by the chairs of the auditorium patrons. In the late 1910s a portion of the middle of the first riser was removed and the space occupied by a large, early motion picture projector whose excess heat was ventilated out through a pipe in the ceiling. The restoration of the Hall also revealed that trash left by balcony patrons after performances was disposed of by being shoved down a chute in the floor which led to the crawl space underneath the Hall.

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The auditorium occupies the middle space of the Hall and is thirty feet wide by thirty-five feet long. This space is open to the ceiling which is flat and has wide canted coves along the length of the sides. The coves are supported by eight massive scoll-sawn wooden brackets placed at regular intervals along the length of each side. Each bracket has a small downward-hanging pendill-like ornament made of walnut affixed to it. The structural integrity of the room is further strengthened by three full-width iron tie rods which span the upper portion of the auditorium space and which are part of the original equipment of the Hall. The focal point of the auditorium is the raised stage at the rear which is framed by a splayed baskethandle-shaped proscenium arch set into a floor-to-ceiling partition wall. This wall divides the auditorium space from the backstage area and is covered in vertical wainscoting. The most prominent feature of the stage is the hand-painted canvas drop curtain with its decorative border and panoramic view of Venice, Italy. This curtain was hand-painted by the current owners and is an exact replica of the original curtain which was found in the balcony of the Hall but which is now too fragile to use. The drop curtain is now framed by new red velvet side curtains and valances.

The public originally entered the auditorium through the already mentioned doors which open into it from the original entrance vestibule and from the old office. Two other doors were added later including a secondary exit door which replaced the second window from the rear on the 21st Street elevation and another door which was cut into the partition wall to the left of the stage and which leads backstage. The two windows located on the second floor of the main facade which light the balcony area and the three windows on each of the two side walls of the room originally provided the daytime illumination for the room. The remodeling which created the secondary exit door mentioned above later removed one of these windows but all the rest are still in place. Nighttime illumination was originally provided by hanging kerosene ceiling lights hung from the tie rods and from wall brackets. Later these lamps were electrified but by the time the current owners purchased the building all the original fixtures had been removed and the room was lit by ceiling units placed in the false drop ceiling which had been installed in the 1960s. The current fixtures are reproductions of historically appropriate examples. Heat for this space was initially provided by four wood burning stoves located in the corners of the room and vented to the outside by brick chimneys located in each corner. Later the original stoves were replaced with similar oil-burning heaters fed from a tank located backstage. Today, a wood burning stove similar to the ones originally used has been placed to the right of the stage but heat is provided by a modern furnace located backstage where the old oil tank used to be and an air-conditioning system has been installed. The Hall was also insulated during the recent restoration and the windows covered with thermopane storm windows.

The remainder of the interior space consists of the thirty-foot-wide by twelve-foot-deep space across the rear which acts as the backstage of the auditorium. This space is also open to the ceiling of the Hall and is separated from the larger space

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of the auditorium by a simple floor-to-ceiling partition wall. This space is the only part of the Hall whose wainscoted walls and ceiling retain their original varnished finish. The only illumination is by the single windows on both of the side walls. Originally, the only entrance to the backstage area was through the double doors in the rear of this space or through the stage opening itself. The later addition of a door to the left of the stage and steps leading up to it provided a more graceful means of access to and from the auditorium. What little stage machinery was once present was later removed and the space was used for storage and as an exercise area for local Boy Scout troops. Among the things stored in this space were a large number of the bow-backed chairs which provided the original seating in the auditorium and which the owners are having refinished.

The exterior of the Hall remained in virtually unaltered condition until the early 1950s when the secondary exit door was added to the 21st Street elevation and the front and rear doors were modified. The interior was barely touched during this period either except for being painted and electrified and having its heating units upgraded. The only important changes to the interior happened in the 1960s when all the interior walls, doors, and ceilings in the front rooms and all the walls of the auditorium--including the stage opening--were covered over with plastic panelling. In addition, the stairway up to the balcony was also enclosed and covered with plastic panelling and a modern dropped ceiling was installed in the auditorium just above the window heads. So completely was the interior hidden that when the present owners first saw it they did not realize that anything of the historic interior remained until they chanced to go up to the balcony and were able to look out over the dropped ceiling and see the original wall surfaces and the portion of the proscenium arch which rose above the new ceiling. Removing these later additions revealed that the original interior underneath was almost completely intact.

Today the interior and exterior of the Hall is almost exactly as it was in 1891. The present owners are currently using the Hall as a combination antique shop and ice cream parlor and are working on plans to revive the auditorium space as a theater.

The property is not known to have any archaeological significance or potential which would predate the earliest building on the site which was built some time prior to 1867. The Hall was included in both the Windshield Survey undertaken by the State Historic Preservation Office in 1976 and in the 1983 Intensive Survey which included Hazel Green and which recommended this building as an individual site which was potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

 Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

 1891
 1891-1924
 1891-1924

Significant Dates

 1891¹

Cultural Affiliation

 N/A

Significant Person

 N/A

Architect/Builder

 Hocking, William A.²

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Significance

The Hazel Green Town Hall is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its significance under National Register criteria A and C. More specifically it is being nominated because of its associations with the areas of Politics/Government, Entertainment/Recreation, and Architecture; each of which is also a theme which is identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). Research initially centered on the Local Government and the Vernacular Forms study units of the CRMP.³ The results of this research shows that the Hall is locally significant under National Register (NR) criterion A as a highly intact late nineteenth century example of the town hall resource type. The Local Government study unit of the CRMP lists town halls as one of the resource types associated with this unit and states that they (town halls) can be found statewide with temporal boundaries extending from 1840 to the present. The introduction to the Government theme in the CRMP also states that the thematic survey of town halls over 50 years old is a priority. The Hall is of local significance under NR criterion C as a fine and unusually intact example of the Boom Town vernacular form. While the Boom Town subsection of the Vernacular Forms study unit of the CRMP has not yet been published, the text of the other subsections in this unit makes it clear that "The most significant ... examples will be those with the highest integrity, retaining original or later period ... fronts, and interior elements".⁴ It is reasonable to assume that the forthcoming subsection of the CRMP dealing with

¹Minutes of the Town Board of Hazel Green. Vol. 1, October 17, 1891.

²Ibid.

³The Performing Arts and Motion Pictures study unit is still being written at this time.

⁴Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). CRMP, Vol. 2, 3-10, (Architecture).

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this form will reiterate the importance of integrity in evaluating individual examples just as it has in the subsections dealing with the other vernacular forms. The Hazel Green Town Hall was built in 1891 and is an excellent local example of the Boom Town vernacular form and is the only example which has survived intact in the village of Hazel Green. The Hall is also illustrative of the more complex functions public buildings built in this period were being asked to fulfill even in the smaller communities. Most of the interior of the Hall consists of a small, remarkably intact theater which acted as the municipal auditorium under the name of "The Hazel Green Opera House". The wide variety of public activities held in this theater were at least as important to the community as the more purely governmental ones typically associated with such a building and explain why the Hall has long been considered a local landmark and why the older residents of Hazel Green still feel a special fondness for this building. In addition, the exceptional state of preservation of this small late nineteenth century theater contributes to our knowledge of such resources in this portion of the state at a time when other area communities are considering the potential benefits of restoring their own comparable structures.

Politics/Government

Grant County is situated in the heart of that region in the southwest corner of the state which is associated with the early nineteenth century lead mining activity that first drew settlers to this region.⁵ Because of the early date of settlement, the history of the early governmental organization of the region is complex. Beginning in 1818 that part of the region which would become Grant County was located in the southwestern portion of newly-created Crawford County and was part of the Michigan Territory. Just over a decade later--in 1829--that part of Crawford County located south of the Wisconsin River was subdivided from the northern portion and renamed Iowa County, an act which reflected the population growth in the region which had resulted from lead mining activities.⁶ In 1836, the year Wisconsin became a territory, Iowa County was itself subdivided and the western half was renamed Grant County and assumed its present-day boundaries.

The creation of Grant County was orderly in comparison to the creation of the town government system. The County Government and Local Government study units of the CRMP provide a good overview of this system and of the events leading up to its creation. Essentially, there were two competing systems for organizing local government in the counties of the Wisconsin Territory before 1848; the "county-town" system and the "commissioner" system. The latter of these is the one used in Grant County and other southwestern counties during the territorial period in Wisconsin. It was not until 1848 when the new state constitution stipulated that a uniform town system had

⁵The Lead and Zinc Mining study unit of the CRMP deals extensively with this theme.

⁶Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). CRMP, Vol.1, 6-2 (Government).

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to be implemented, that the southwestern counties of the state, including Grant County, were officially subdivided into towns. The outcome of this competition was important because the county was then the dominant political unit in the life of the average citizen and was a favorite vehicle for political patronage. Consequently, the question of which system was to be used to organize the political framework of the counties was one of considerable importance to the citizens of that day.

The sixteen (now 32) original towns in Grant County created by the new State Board of County Commissioners in 1849 varied considerably in population. This situation existed in part because the Board decided that the town boundaries in Grant and other counties would be conterminous with the 36-section townships created by the federal land survey. While the vast majority of towns created by this mechanistic system were predominantly rural, the system typically created a few towns in each county which were much more urban in character because they bordered on or contained all or parts of existing local population centers. For example, the original area of Grant County which became the Town of Lancaster (now the Towns of North and South Lancaster) contained the county seat of the city of Lancaster. In contrast, most of the other towns in the county, such as the adjacent Town of Harrison, contained only the most vestigial settlements and were overwhelmingly rural in character. Between these two extremes was a third, semi-rural type of town such as the Town of Hazel Green whose boundaries had been drawn around one or more already existing small settlements (such as the Village of Hazel Green) and which thus contained elements of both rural and urban towns.

The differences in population and resources between rural, semi-rural, and urban towns had a direct bearing on the buildings which were and are associated with town government in Grant County, especially the buildings known as town halls. The CRMP lists the town hall as the one resource type specifically identified with the town unit of government. Other resource types such as garages may also have been utilized in carrying out town functions but it is those buildings utilized as town halls which became the visible symbol of the town unit, especially in rural towns. The impetus which led to the creation of town halls was partially the result of the state-mandated duties that every town originally had to fulfill. Among these duties was the holding of an annual public meeting. The location of the first town meeting held in each Grant County town had to be set by the State Board of County Commissioners since the towns initially had no property of their own nor was there any other building with governmental associations at the town level. These meetings were held in a wide variety of places including hotels, schools, and private houses; anywhere that was large enough to hold the combined townspeople.⁷ Subsequent meetings continued to be held in this informal manner until individual towns began making more formal arrangements for the exercise of their governmental roles.

⁷History of Grant County, Wisconsin. Western Historical Co., Chicago, Il., 1881,
P. 508-509.

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The principal determinant which caused a town to acquire a building for its own use seems most often to have been the length of time it took a town to gain the population necessary to create a consistently strong demand for town services. Those towns with large populations acquired buildings for town use sooner than those with fewer numbers. This seems to have been especially true for buildings built specifically for town use. Many rural towns in Grant County took years to achieve a population density of sufficient size to create a strong demand for town services. To execute their earliest duties these towns usually had to rent or lease space in already existing buildings until such time as conditions allowed them to purchase or build buildings of their own. As a consequence, buildings which served as rural town halls were (and are) frequently recycled schools, residences, or store buildings and have histories associated with a variety of usages besides that of town government. Also, because of this pattern of rental/purchase, some rural towns may contain several buildings having town government associations although none may be of special significance insofar as these associations are concerned.⁸

If rural towns frequently had to wait for years to build a town hall, urban towns usually had the necessary resources and population to allow them to either rent, purchase or build all or part of a building early in the towns' development. Thus, the earliest buildings built specifically for town governments were most often found in or near the major population centers of a county. The importance of these early town halls as the first buildings which specifically served the needs of town governments is obvious and it is reasonable to assume that extant examples would be of significance locally. However, the early dates of construction of these buildings and their small size, coupled with their urban location, made them targets of both obsolescence and urban growth. As a result, the first generation of urban town halls was soon superseded by a second generation of buildings and since the earliest halls were quite small they seldom survived unaltered when they survived at all. As of this date no examples of these buildings are known to survive in Grant County. However, a rare survivor is located in the Village of Benton in adjacent Lafayette County. This is the first town hall of the Town of Benton and was built in 1847 (LT 12-11).⁹

The growth of the urban centers which had provided the impetus for urban town development in the early period was accompanied by the rise of competing and ultimately more successful governmental units such as municipalities and counties. Consequently, towns in urban locations soon began to lose much of their importance

⁸The histories of the following rural towns in Grant County contained in the book *Grant County History: 1900-1976* are representative of these trends: Town of Ellenboro, Town of Harrison, Town of Jamestown, Town of Waterloo.

⁹Rausch, Joan et al. An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Mining Communities in portions of Lafayette and Grant Counties, Wisconsin. SWRPC. 1983, P. 7.

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as governmental units and the second generation of urban town halls soon became outmoded and the governmental functions they housed largely passed on to other units of government. The buildings themselves are often no longer extant or have been considerably modified either by the town itself, if the building is still owned by the town, or by a subsequent purchaser. The intensive survey of the mining communities in the southern portions of Lafayette and Grant Counties done in 1983 deals extensively with communities of the type just described including relevant smaller communities such as Hazel Green. Except for the already mentioned town hall in the Village of Benton, no mention is made of buildings associated with town governments in these communities except for the misdated town hall in Hazel Green which is the subject of this nomination. Thus, it seems likely that such buildings either have not survived or do not retain sufficient architectural integrity or importance to warrant being surveyed.

Examples of semi-rural towns are fairly numerous in Grant County and include the towns of Smelser, Cassville, Boscobel, Fennimore, and Hazel Green as well as several others. The process of creating town halls in these towns had features in common with both rural and urban towns. The early settlement of the county due to mining activity meant that a number of small settlements already existed there prior to statehood and the subsequent creation of towns. Because of the small size of these early settlements, early need for town services was limited and the first buildings used for town purposes were usually identical to those first used in rural towns and were typically rented rather than owned. The growth of these small settlements, however, allowed semi-rural towns to purchase buildings for town use more quickly than could rural towns.

The history of the Town of Hazel Green and of the town buildings associated with it is typical of the experience of most such semi-rural towns in Grant County. Like the other fifteen original towns in the county, the Town of Hazel Green was founded in 1849. The new boundaries enclosed a small settlement, now the Village of Hazel Green, which was first established ca.1825 and was originally named Hard Scrabble. In 1838, this settlement was given the name Hazel Green and a post office. Hazel Green was platted in 1843 and by 1850 had a population of close to 600. The first Hazel Green town meeting was also held in 1850 at the Empire House hotel in Hazel Green. The Empire House [2110 North Main Street (GT 3-21)] was built in 1845 and is still extant and is located at the opposite end of the block from the Hazel Green Town Hall. The settlement remained under the jurisdiction of the town board of the Town of Hazel Green until 1867 when it was officially incorporated as a village. At the same time, the town board of the Town of Hazel Green purchased a corner lot on the aptly named Main Street of the village from William and Sophia Snowenberg for the sum of \$500.00 on April 9, 1897.¹⁰ This site also included an

¹⁰Registrar of Deeds, Grant County Courthouse, Lancaster, Wisconsin. Vol. 60, P.232

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existing building, located on the same site as the present-day Hazel Green Town Hall, which the town utilized as a town hall and which was the first town hall actually owned by the Town. By 1877, the town board was contemplating building a new hall for the sum of \$1500 with the cost to be apportioned equally between the Town and the Village.¹¹ Possibly because of the heavy demands on area resources occasioned by the devastating tornado which destroyed much of the Village in 1876, this expansion plan was never carried out, but the plan was carried on the town books until 1891. During this period, area population declined and town board records show that the Town frequently rented space in the Village to conduct public meetings and various town functions which could not be held in the town hall. In 1890 and 1891, for instance, town board records show them renting Crawfords Hall (extant), an early village commercial building which had been built in 1854 [2035 Main Street (GT 19-10)], to allow for the use of the new "Australian" (or secret) method of election. Shortly thereafter, the town board revived its plans to build a new town hall. In May of 1891, they put out a request for bids, finally accepting the low bid of \$1540.00 made by local carpenter contractor William A. Hocking on June 15. Construction occurred between June and October and the board officially accepted the new hall on October 17, 1891.¹² The construction of the Town Hall resulted in the removal of the earlier building which had served the same purpose and which had occupied this site since well before 1867. This building was moved to a site a block away and was recycled as the nucleus of a residence which is still extant today at Ca.1730 21st Street. The new Town Hall is the subject of this nomination and was designed as a multi-purpose structure serving the civic and the social needs of both the Town and the Village of Hazel Green. Inside the Hall was an office for the town clerk and an auditorium space which promptly became known as the Hazel Green Opera House and which was used for Town functions and was also rented out to both local and outside groups for the entertainment of the community. This dual usage lasted until the 1950s even though the Village built a municipal building containing an auditorium for its own use in 1924 located two blocks away at 1610 Fairplay Street (GT 20-5). In 1987 the Town sold the Hall to the present owners. Currently the Town maintains an office in the Village of Hazel Green municipal building and has a separate garage on the northern outskirts of the Village.

Because town halls are typically the most visible structures associated with town government and are usually the most impressive in terms of architecture, they constitute the most important resource type associated with the theme of town government. Consequently, intact examples have a high priority within this theme. As already noted, however, the earliest town halls are likely to have been built for other purposes than serving town governments in rural and semi-rural towns. Consequently, town halls built specifically as such have a separate, although not

¹¹Minutes of the Town Board of Hazel Green. April 3, 1877.

¹²Ibid. October 17, 1891.

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necessarily greater significance. The Town and the Village of Hazel Green are extremely unusual in that all the buildings associated with the Town and Village units of government of both are still extant and most survive in a relatively intact state of preservation as well. This circumstance is all the more unusual given the early dates of origin of both the Town and the Village. An informal survey of Grant County town halls undertaken for this nomination showed that intact buildings built by towns in the nineteenth century specifically for town use are very uncommon and are seldom intact if they exist. The results of the 1983 Intensive Survey in this regard have already been mentioned. In addition, the semi-rural Towns of Boscobel and Cassville have both demolished their historic town halls and now utilize space in the municipal buildings of their villages instead.¹³ The semi-rural Town of Fennimore also demolished an earlier town hall built as recently as 1945 and has constructed a modern building for its use located in the village of Fennimore and the semi-rural Town of Smelser's town hall is now located in the hamlet of Georgetown and is a much-altered former residence. The Hazel Green Town Hall is by far the most intact nineteenth century town hall identified so far in the county which was originally built to serve this purpose. Consequently, its survival is a matter of importance in an age when older buildings associated with town governments are increasingly threatened by obsolescence and by the complexities of modern life which cause town governments to build newer and more relevant buildings for their use.

The Hazel Green Town Hall is locally significant as the primary physical resource representing the important contributions of the town government system to the broader social history of the Town of Hazel Green. The Hazel Green Town Hall is the most visible symbol of the democratic ideal at the local level of government.

The period of significance for this theme extends from 1891, the date of construction of the Hall, through the year 1924 when the Village of Hazel Green built its own larger municipal building. From that date the importance of the Town Hall steadily diminished even as the influence of the Town itself diminished and that of the Village increased.

II. RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

The auditorium inside the Hazel Green Town Hall known as the Hazel Green Opera House was of equal, and possibly greater, importance to the community of Hazel Green than was the Town Hall itself. For more than thirty years many of the most important public events in the area took place in this room, events which became a part of the early memories of many of the older town residents of present-day Hazel Green. Consequently, the survival and recent restoration of this space has been an event of some importance to the community.

¹³Grant County History, 1900-1976. Lancaster, 1976. P. 228-230.

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The small size of Hazel Green and the adjacent settlements prevented anyone from starting a newspaper in the area until 1894 when Hazel Green's neighbor to the north, Cuba City, started the Cuba City News. As a result we do not know what the local demand was that led to the creation of the theater space. The minutes of the Hazel Green town board make no specific mention of the auditorium space within the Town Hall before the Hall was built. Still, it is evident that this space was intended as an integral part of the building from the onset and that its inclusion in the design came about at the specific request of the board. It is also apparent from the resulting design that the auditorium was intended to be more than simply a place where the civic functions of the town could be exercised. The inclusion of a raised stage framed by a proscenium arch at the rear of the auditorium space and the inclusion of a backstage area indicates that it was intended that the Hall be able to function as a regular theater as well as a meeting hall. Never-the-less, the minutes of the town board always refer to this space as "the Hall" even though it became locally known as the "Hazel Green Opera House" soon after it was built. It seems likely that the citizens of the area began to use the names "Town Hall" and "Opera House" interchangeably at an early date depending on the kind of function that was being attended and since the community was so small the danger of misinterpretation never arose.

The Village of Hazel Green lies on the main road between Platteville to the north and Galena, Illinois eight miles to the south. Between 1867 and 1891 the population of Hazel Green fluctuated from an early high of 800 to a low of about 400 in cycles that had much to do with the local mining activity. By the 1890s the population was again on the rise but Hazel Green was still very much a small town with little chance of attracting the kind of capital needed to build a commercial theater for public entertainment. As a consequence it appears that the town board became the vehicle the community used to satisfy its desire for such a place. At the same time, the town board took advantage of its own need for a more suitable place to hold its public functions such as elections and combined both the civic and the public needs of the community into one multi-purpose building. Using a public building for entertainment purposes was a solution which other, larger governmental units had resorted to as well. In the capital city of Madison, for instance, both the first Capitol building, built between 1838-1844 (non-extant), and the first city hall, built in 1858 (non-extant), contained auditorium spaces which were often used for public entertainment. This practice continued until Madison was able to build separate buildings specifically for this purpose.²⁴

One of the most significant features of the Hazel Green Town Hall is that so much is known about its original furnishings both because of surviving records and, more importantly, because many of the original furnishings themselves have survived. The furnishings provided for the new town Hall were minimal but were adequate for the

²⁴Mollenhoff, David V., Madison: A History of the Formative Years. Dubuque, Iowa, 1982, Pgs. 31, 77.

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needs of the town. The room was lit by kerosene lamps placed in wall brackets between the windows and hung from the three tie rods which spanned the hall. Seating was provided by seven dozen simple bow-back chairs which were purchased from the Dubuque, Iowa firm of Cox and Pearce at \$4.75 per dozen, and by 10-8 foot and 2-6 and 1/2 foot recitation seats purchased from L.P. Riefstock for \$0.85 per foot.¹⁵ The hall was heated by four wood burning stoves in the colder months and was cooled by opening the windows which were equipped with painted wooden blinds inside. The pride of the Hall was the hand-painted drop curtain which was used to fill the stage opening when the stage was not in use and was which was originally framed by velvet side curtains and a velvet valance. This handsome work consisted of a fine scenographic view of Venice, Italy framed by a wide decorative border and was painted by a so-far unknown artist. This curtain is not mentioned in surviving township records so its history cannot currently be traced. However, the curtain was found wrapped around its original hollow wooden roller when the present owners purchased the Hall and when the curtain was removed from the roller as an aid to restoration the name "W.H. Edwards, Hazel Green, Wisconsin" was found painted on the roller.¹⁶ The new owners also found many of the original chairs in the hall along with evidence that they were originally ganged together with boards for ease in setting up. Early photos show that there was a piano in the hall, an item which the present owners have reproduced with a comparable model. The original arrangement of the backstage area is not known although older residents believe that scenery was moved into the stage area on flats.

The new hall was an immediate success and was put to use by a wide variety of local and outside groups. The annual report of the Town Board for 1893 contains a list of the income derived from the rental of the Hall and indicates the diversity of uses to which the Hall was put. These renters include: the Kickapoo Patent Medicine Company; the Band (presumably the local band); The Methodist Episcopal Church; the Weaver Bros.; the S.N.E. Club; the Shaker Medicine Company; the Primitive Methodist Church; and numerous unidentified users. Subsequent annual reports show the same pattern of serious and not so serious users and give an idea of the range of social activities available to the residents of Hazel Green in the days before the railroad came and residents could travel to the closest "big city" which was Galena. Possession of a local theater was an event of importance to Hazel Green in a day when all public entertainment was "live". Since the sixteen mile round trip to Galena was a considerable undertaking in 1893 when the only public transportation was by a horse-drawn conveyance of some kind, residents were not likely to undertake such a journey without good reason. Consequently, having a theater of their own provided the residents of Hazel Green with a valuable cultural and social resource and provided residents with an opportunity to see and enjoy activities which would otherwise have been unavailable. In a related way the possession of a theater drew forms of entertainment to Hazel Green who would not otherwise have come. Traveling groups

¹⁵Minutes of the Town Board of Hazel Green. May 17, 1892.

¹⁶It is known that a T.H. Edwards lived in Hazel Green at the time and was a wagon maker who went to Madison around 1895 so perhaps Edwards built the roller.

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could now conduct their performance regardless of the weather in a setting which was able to hold enough patrons so as to hold out the promise of a profit.

The use of the Hall as a place of public entertainment was a major part of its local significance. Another significant use was the housing of more purely municipal events for which a public space was needed. A good example is the annual Hazel Green High School commencement activities. Previous to 1891 this event was held in various locations such as Crawfords Hall because the High School did not then contain an auditorium. In 1892 the commencement was moved to the "Opera House" where it continued to be held until 1924 when the activity was shifted to the auditorium in the new Village Municipal Building. A more unusual use of the auditorium space was acting as the town jail. The Town's occasional need of a space to serve as a temporary lodging for the more hotheaded of its citizens resulted in the purchase of a collapsible steel cage-like affair similar to the ones used in circuses. This framework was erected in the center of the auditorium as need dictated and was presumably taken down when public performances were to take place.¹⁷

Even as late as 1914, the major entertainment activities held in the Opera House were live theatrical performances put on by traveling companies. A typical example was the four-day-long series of performances advertised in the Cuba City News Herald of April 10, 1914 featuring the Brooks Stock Company, starring Miss Maude Tomlinson, "In a Repertoire of the Best Plays with Special Scenery" and including "Up-to-Date Vaudeville Features between Acts". The price of admission was \$0.25 and \$0.35 depending on seat location in the Hall. Usage of the Hall changed, however, as the other forms of entertainment were developed in the larger society outside the Village and alternative methods of transportation emerged. The first automobile owned by a resident made its appearance in 1909 and in 1910 the railroad finally came to Hazel Green when the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad ran a spur track into the Village. This allowed members of the community to travel outside the town boundaries with relative ease for the first time and provided them with alternatives to the Opera House as a place of entertainment. Even so, the Village remained loyal to the Opera House. By 1917 the Hall was featuring a weekly program of motion pictures, a practice begun when local resident D. York and later William R. Champion leased the Hall for that purpose. Champion provided a pianist (and occasionally a drummer) to accompany the films which he showed three nights a week. Still, exposure to alternatives housed in more modern and more comfortable places meant that the Village was ready for a change when it built its new Municipal Building in 1924. This new structure contained a modern, centrally heated auditorium and quickly became the preferred place for public functions and entertainment and has remained so to the present day. After 1924 the usage of the Opera House for public functions declined markedly which explains the choice of this date as the end date of the period of significance for this theme. The Hall continued to be used as a place for public entertainment after this date, however, and hosted local theater group performances,

¹⁷This portable jail is still extant in the village although it is no longer in use.

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dances, band concerts, and lectures as well as civic functions such as elections. In the 1960s the interior of the hall was remodeled and the stage opening was hidden by plastic paneling, limiting the space to strictly utilitarian uses such as town board meetings and acting as a distribution center for surplus cheese. The complete restoration of this space by the current owners and their plans to revitalize the theater promises to begin a new era for the Hall and to return it to its original use.

The Hazel Green Opera House was not an isolated phenomenon in the area. The same problem of providing public entertainment in an acceptable setting was shared by all communities to one degree or another and solutions took two forms: multi-purpose buildings built as a public service by the community; and multi-purpose buildings built as profit-making enterprises by private interests. The already mentioned 1983 Intensive Survey which covers a portion of both Grant and neighboring Lafayette Counties found at least one example of such buildings in every community it surveyed except for the tiny settlements of Lead Mine and New Diggings. An informal windshield survey undertaken for this nomination also found examples in the nearby cities of Belmont and Lancaster. Examples of publicly built multi-purpose buildings include: the Hazel Green Town Hall and the Village of Hazel Green Municipal Building; the Village of Benton Municipal Building [Ca.50 Main Street (LT 10-26), built in 1915]; the Village of Cuba City Auditorium Building [109 North Main Street (GT 23-4), built in 1915]; the first Platteville City Hall built in 1883 and demolished in 1926, and the Platteville Civic Memorial Hall [75 North Bonson Street (GT 1-26), built in 1929]. Examples of privately built multi-purpose buildings include: the Driver Opera House in Darlington [238 Main Street (LT 5-17), built in 1883]; the Copeland Opera House in Shullsburg [144-148 West Water Street (LT 8-8), built in 1882]; Reed's Opera House in Lancaster [227 West Maple Street]; and the Belmont Opera House located at the corner of Commerce Street and Mound Avenue in that city.¹⁸

What distinguishes the Hazel Green Town Hall from the others in this group is its almost totally intact condition and its vernacular form of design and small size. Without exception all the other buildings listed above are buildings of substance in their respective communities. Each is built of brick or stone and was almost certainly designed by an architect. The privately built examples of this type of resource invariably placed the public hall on the second floor and utilized the first floor for commercial space and publicly built examples often followed the same pattern. This resulted in buildings which were costly for their day and visually impressive and may help account for the unusually high rate of survival of buildings of this type. The interiors, however, have not fared so well. Most of the privately built examples have been altered and the halls are now typically used for storage while publicly built examples have generally retained their usage but not their appearance.

¹⁸Rausch, Joan et al. An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Mining Communities in Portions of Lafayette and Grant Counties, Wisconsin. SWRPC, 1983.

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The Opera House is locally significant as one of the primary locations for the cultural, social, and entertainment functions of the Hazel Green community. The building represents an unusual combination of governmental and entertainment usages in a single, multi-purpose space and is a fine example of a rather simple, vernacular theatrical space. As a result, the Hazel Green Opera House is of considerable significance locally because of its highly intact exterior and interior and because it represents the aspirations of a town which could afford only the minimum but which never-the-less found a way to provide its citizens with amenities more typical of larger and more prosperous cities.

III. ARCHITECTURE

The Hazel Green Town Hall is an excellent example of the Boom Town vernacular form; a form whose importance in Wisconsin architectural history is finally being recognized. The Hall was built in 1891 by William A. Hocking, a local carpentry contractor whose low bid of \$1540.00 won out over two other competitors. Nothing else is currently known about Hocking other than that he was experienced enough at his trade to finish the Hall on time and within the amount of the bid. It is also not certain if Hocking designed the Hall himself or used already prepared plans and modified them to suit. Whatever the source, the overall design of the Hall was certainly well within the capabilities of a small-town carpenter of that day and the decorative brackets inside and out which are the Hall's only ornamental features of any complexity could have been made either by Hocking himself or been ordered precut from many area lumberyards. Why the Hall was designed using the Boom Town form rather than one of the other similar vernacular forms of the day such as the gable-front form is conjectural although it is possible that no other competing vernacular form was as successful as the Boom Town form in providing a building of urban appearance at so little cost.

Although the subsection of the Vernacular Forms study unit of the CRMP dealing with the Boom Town form has not yet been published, there are sufficient sources available which deal with the forms' stylistic aspects to permit conclusions to be drawn about its most important features. One of the most accessible of these sources is the book American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940 written by Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings in 1985. Their listing of the typical characteristics of the form (which they call the "false-front" form) describes a building which is typically one-to two-stories in height; has a wood frame clad most typically in clapboard; and has a principal facade which is either two-or three-bays-wide. The most characteristic feature of the form is the vertical extension of the front wall above the roof to "Create the illusion that the building is larger and taller than it really is."¹⁸ This extension (or false-front) "Does not conform to the roof shape" and "The false portion extends the facade vertically and horizontally so that the roof over the main body--most often a

¹⁸Gottfried, Herbert and Jennings, Jan. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. New York, 1985. P.156.

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gable or flat roof--remains hidden from view. ... On one-story buildings the false portion does not extend much beyond the apex of the gable; the extra section of wall provides ornamentation, with an elaborate cornice built on the front or functions as a signboard. In most cases the false front has been integrated into the facade so that cornerboards, columns, or pilasters are carried up the front ... ¹⁹
The authors also note that the decorative cornice usually features brackets and is often made of wood with sheet metal trim and that the windows on the main facade usually have a symmetrical fenestration pattern and are either 1/1 or 2/2 light.

The above description, although intended as a general one by the authors, matches the appearance of the Hazel Green Town Hall in every particular, even down to the brackets and the sheet metal on the cornice. Thus, the Hall appears to be a virtual textbook example of the Boom Town form.

The spatial limits of the Boom Town (false-front) form are also broadly delineated by Gottfried and Jennings who note that although the form is popularly associated with the western states, it is in fact found "In upstate New York as well as in Iowa, Texas, Colorado, and Wyoming."²⁰ Presently, the lack of consolidated information regarding this form prevents generalizing on the frequency of its occurrence in Wisconsin even though windshield surveys undertaken by the State Historic Preservation Division have found numerous examples in every section of the state. Never-the-less, a windshield survey of the village of Hazel Green undertaken for this nomination found only one other example of the form in the village of Hazel Green located at Ca.2030 North Main Street on the corner of North Main and Fairplay Streets. At one time this building was used as a store. Recently, however, the building was turned into a tavern and the side walls were resided in aluminum and the principal facade was modernized and the false-front portion removed, revealing the gable end behind. The resulting change is so dramatic that the original appearance was only discovered by accident when early photos of the village were being examined.

Unfortunately, more and more Boom Town form buildings are being altered or demolished. The factors of low cost and ease of construction which originally made Boom Town form buildings so ubiquitous are now contributing to their demise since the relatively inexpensive construction typical of such buildings is increasingly expensive to maintain and current owners often find that the urban business district sites many of these buildings occupy are more valuable than the buildings themselves. As a result, intact examples of Boom Town form buildings are becoming less and less common, especially in smaller communities where such buildings are too seldom accorded much importance and are frequently remodeled to present a more modern appearance.

¹⁹Ibid, P.244.

²⁰Ibid.

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The Hazel Green Town Hall is architecturally significant as an intact example of the ubiquitous vernacular Boomtown building form which was often the earliest manifestation of the aspirations of a developing community. The Hazel Green Town Hall reflects the desire of the local community to create a substantial and impressive public image for its civic functions.

The significance of the Hazel Green Town Hall is considerably enhanced by its virtually original condition. The few alterations which were made to the interior and the exterior have been completely reversed by the present owners and the Hall now presents an appearance as close to the one it had when new as modern occupancy codes will allow. This exacting restoration has preserved a valuable example of the Boom Town vernacular form, a form which was once a common sight in most state business districts and is now increasingly threatened by obsolescence.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

X See continuation sheet

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
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than 1.00 acre

UTM References

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property consists of a rectangular city lot known as Lot 3, Block 4 of the original plat of the Village of Hazel Green, Wisconsin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the property are those which have been historically associated with the Town Halls owned by the Township of Hazel Green since the Town's purchase of the site in 1867.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy F. Heggland/ Consultant

The Redruth Company

organization P.O. Box 575 Hazel Green, WI date July 14, 1988

street & number 212 Highland Avenue telephone (608)238-3010

city or town Madison state Wisconsin zip code 53705

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