56-2443

NPS Form 10-900

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

OMB No. 10024-0018



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name South Greenville Grange No. 225 other names/site number

2. Location

street & number		W6920 Coun	ty Hig	hway BB			N/A	not for p	ublication
city or	town	Greenville					N/A	vicinity	
state	Wisconsin	code	WI	county	Outagamie	code	087	zip code	54914

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \underline{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 \underline{X} meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ Statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Teuburne. una

Signature of certifying official/Title

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin State or 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

3/26/2018

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

South Greenville Grange No. 225	Outagamie	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	
I. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that the property is: Entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. See continuation sheet.		
See continuation sheet		
Register.	011	1
other, (explain:)	Reeper Charley	5/11/18 Date of Action
5. Classification		
Ownership of Property Category of Property	Number of Resources with	
(check as many boxes as (Check only one box) as apply)	(Do not include previously in the count)	listed resources
X private X building(s)		contributing
public-local district		ildings
public-State structure		tes
public-Federal site	st	ructures
object Name of related multiple property listing:	1 0 Number of contributing re	ojects Total esources
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

South Greenville Grange No. 225

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- Property is associated with events that have <u>X</u>A made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Property is associated with the lives _ B of persons significant in our past.
- Property embodies the distinctive characteristics _ C 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.
- removed from its original location. В
- a birthplace or grave. _C
- D a cemetery.
- a reconstructed building, object, or Е structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- less than 50 years of age or achieved _ G significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1928 to 1967

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

County and State

Outagamie

Name of Property

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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 #

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.88 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16T	377692.25	4900113.73	3				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	_	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				4				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	_	Zone	Easting	Northing	
					See Con	ntinuation S	heet	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

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

11. Form Prepared By								
name/title	Patricia Lacey							
organization	-			date	10-3-2016			
street & number	W5055 US HWY 10			telephone	715-743-4799			
city or town	Neillsville	state	WI	zip code	54456			

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency

Outagamie

County and State

- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
 - Other
 - Name of repository:

Wisconsin

South Greenville Grange No. 225	Outagamie	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

MapsA USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner									
Complete this item	Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)								
name/title organization street & number city or town	South Greenville Grange No. 225 Contact – Jean Goffard N853 Julius Road Appleton	state	WI	date telephone zip code	10-3-2016 920-757-6234 54914				

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 <u>et seq</u>.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Start description on line below Introduction

The South Greenville Grange No. 225, was built in 1928 and is located at W6920 County Road BB (also known as Winnebago Drive) in Greenville Township in south central Outagamie County. Early settlers were drawn to the Greenville area by the availability of fertile farm lands. Currently, the Greenville Grange is located amid working farms which are located to the south and east of the building, and large twenty-first century homes which are located to the west and north. The Greenville area has become a bedroom community for the City of Appleton, which is located less than ten miles away.

When the building was originally constructed, it was oriented to face State Highway 45. Due to a dangerous S-curve in State Highway 45 that was located directly in front of the Greenville Grange building, the road was relocated behind the building. This roadway modification left the Greenville Grange oriented on an angle (southeast to northwest) and no longer facing a road. A gravel driveway enters the property from the south after exiting County Road BB. Recently, State Highway 45 has been reassigned to a road ten miles to the west. The road located behind the Greenville Grange is now known as State Highway 76 (also known as Municipal Drive). Remnants of a circular concrete side walk remain in front of the building.

The rapid formation of local Granges was in response to the larger national Granger Movement that swept the country in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century. Beginning as a benevolent movement, which was formed to unite the nation through its farmers after the Civil War, the National Grange organization quickly became a farm lobby opposed to the railroad and elevator monopolies. The Greenville Grange had been an active Grange in all respects and responsibilities for fifty-five years before beginning the construction of their new \$20,000 two-story brick meeting hall, the subject building.

The Greenville Grange building stands alone on the parcel and is vernacular in design. The character and beauty of the building is determined by the use of patterned brick, a shaped parapet, large rectangular windows arranged in groups and a Neo-Classical Revival southeast entry surround. The National Grange produced booklets such as *Grange Hall Suggestions*, which was a source of building plans for Grange buildings.¹ An illustration from this book closely resembles the floor plan utilized in the Greenville Grange (note illustration). Purpose-built Grange Halls tended to have consistent formal characteristics that0 included: a two-story elongated rectangular plan, a ticket window, kitchen and dining facility on one floor, and an auditorium and stage on the other floor.² This building has all of

¹ Grange Hall Suggestions, produced by the National Grange, 1928

² Holly Ann Taylor, Grange Halls in Washington State: A Critical Investigation of a Vernacular Building Type, (Thesis

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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South Groonwillo Gronge No. 225

those features.

The Greenville Grange was designed as a meeting hall and facility that supported a variety of public events which enriched the lives of the surrounding rural area residents. Grange halls were often constructed on donated land, with materials and labor donated by the Grange members. Contrary to other fraternal organizations, the Greenville Grange opened both their first and second floors for community use.

The name of the building is interchangeably referred to as the South Greenville Grange No. 225 and the Greenville Grange. For clarity and consistency, the nomination text will refer to the building as the Greenville Grange.

Exterior

The Greenville Grange building is rectangular in plan and two-stories in height. The building's expanse measures 92' in length by 42' in width. The building supports a gable roof, which is visible on ³/₄ of the long sides. The gable roof disappears behind the parapet wall of the main, southeast facing, façade which also wraps to each side for a length of about twenty feet. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The building does not have a basement; its foundation consists of footings and a concrete floor. The building is entirely clad in a smooth surfaced, light-brown/light-orange brick which is laid in a common pattern of seven rows of brick to one header row. Decorative elements are created by laying the brick in various directions, as well as the addition of limestone detailing. The wood windows are original. Because there are no other buildings in the vicinity of the Grange, all four facades are visible.

Primary (Southeast) Façade

The southeast-facing primary entry façade is symmetrically designed and three bays wide. The first floor is composed of a central entry which is flanked on either side by a single double-hung window. At the level of the door and first floor window lintels, a stringcourse of brick composed of a repeated pattern of three upright soldier bricks, followed by three horizontal bricks in a stacked bond, continues around the building. Each window has a limestone sill.

The building is entered on the southeast elevation through a pair of five-paneled doors. Resting above the paired entry doors is a narrow seven-light transom. A classically-inspired door surround is composed of Tuscan engaged columns, an undecorated entablature and dentils under a shallow pent roof. The brick wall of the main body of the building is visible between the molding surround of the

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South Greenville Grange No. 225

double doors and the engaged columns.

The second floor has a pair of double-hung windows centered above the main entry in the center bay. In each of the outer bays there is a double-hung window, stacked above the window at the first floor. Above the lintels is a row of soldier bricks. Each window has a limestone sill. There is a dated corner stone at the southeast corner of the building.

Another stringcourse of brick is located at the height of the ceiling of the second floor, across the width of the building then wraps around each side for approximately twenty feet. The stringcourse is composed of a raised row of header bricks, an upright row of soldier bricks which are flush with the main wall and another row of raised header bricks.

This primary façade terminates at a parapet wall. The center (or peak) of the parapet wall is flat. The side walls step down and gently slope downward toward the side walls. The parapet wall wraps around the corner to each side and continues approximately twenty feet.

Centered upon the parapet wall (within the southeast facing gable end of the roof) is a three-part, arched window. Each window of the three window unit is divided into nine lights, and there is an arched brick lintel above. A stringcourse comprised of an upright row of soldier bricks continues across the width of the main façade and intersects the top arched row of soldier bricks over the window. This stringcourse wraps to both sides and is the top row of brick on the southeast and northwest facing side-walls of the parapet.

To the southwest and northeast of the three-part window and at the same height, there is a diamond shaped motif, which is created with bricks of a contrasting color. Further to the southwest and northeast of the diamond shaped motif is an upright limestone rectangle that is inset into the wall. Continuing further to the southwest and northeast of the inset limestone rectangle are three horizontally orientated limestone rectangles which are laid flush to the wall. The limestone rectangles are stacked one over another with three rows of bricks in between each limestone rectangle. The entire parapet is topped with a limestone cap.

Side (Southwest) Façade

The southwest-facing side of the building exhibits the two-story gabled roofed main body and the twostory entry hall portion that wraps to the sides. The first floor fenestration of the two-story gabled roof portion consists of three groups of windows, each group having two for a total of six, double-hung windows. A rear door is located in the northwest corner. The stringcourse as described on the main entry façade travels the length of the building at the top of the windows and door of the first floor.

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South Communilla Common No. 225

On the second floor, three groups of three windows (for a total of nine double-hung windows) are stacked above the first floor windows. When comparing the rows of windows on the first floor to the second floor, it is apparent that, on the first floor, the middle window position of each window group is blank. A single window is located above the door. Above each window lintel is a row of soldier bricks and all windows have a limestone sill. The edge of the eave of the roof has a covered rain gutter.

The two-story entry hall portion on this side has one double-hung window on the first floor, topped by the stringcourse described on the main façade; a similar window is stacked directly above at the second floor. Above the window lintel is a brick soldier course. A stringcourse as described on the main entry façade travels the width of the two-story entry hall portion at the top of the second floor. A contrasting colored brick diamond motif is centered on the face of the parapet. A horizontal grouping of three rectangular limestone blocks, as described on the main façade, are at the southeast and southwest portion of the parapet wall.

Rear (Northwest) Façade

The rear, northwest-facing, facade is treated in a utilitarian fashion. The first floor has a grouping of three double-hung windows centered on the wall. The first floor stringcourse travels the width of the rear elevation at the top of these windows. An additional double-hung window is located near the southwest edge of the first floor. This window provides light to the rear stairway. One double-hung window is on the second floor stacked directly above the lower double-hung window; this window also lights the rear stairway. Both windows have brick headers. The brick of the rear of the building rises into the peak of the gable end without any additional decoration. The rest of the wall is blank.

Side (Northeast) Façade

The northeast-facing side of the building exhibits the two-story gable roofed main body of the building and the two-story entry hall portion that wraps to each side. The first floor fenestration of the twostory gabled roof portion is irregular. There are six double-hung windows which are randomly placed. The stringcourse as described on the main entry façade travels the length of the building at the top of the windows.

On the second floor the fenestration pattern matches the southwest side: three groups of three windows in each group and a header row of soldier bricks. A fire escape door and a single double-hung window are on the west portion of the second floor. An upright row of soldier bricks appear above the fire escape door and the single double-hung window. All of the windows of the northwest elevation have a limestone sill. The edge of the eave of the roof has a covered rain gutter.

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The two-story entry hall portion of the northwest facing elevation has a pair of double-hung windows centered on the second floor. An upright row of soldier bricks are at the top of the paired windows. A stringcourse as described on the main entry facade travels the width of the two-story entry hall portion at the top of the second floor.

A contrasting colored brick diamond motif is centered on the face of the parapet. A horizontal grouping of three rectangular limestone blocks, as described on the main entry façade, is at both the northeast and northwest portion of the parapet wall.

Interior

First Floor

The main entry to the building is located on the southeast facing elevation. Two five-panel doors with a seven light transom provide entry into a vestibule which has a ticket window located on the northeast wall of the vestibule. Two five-panel doors topped with a seven light transom is located on the northwest wall of the vestibule and provides entry into the formal entry hall. The main staircase, which accesses the second floor, is located in the northeast corner of the formal entry hall. The balustrade is comprised of simple rectangular balusters and a square newel post.

Directly ahead of the formal entry hall doors are two five-paneled doors with a seven light transom which provide entry into the large dining room. Five iron posts support an iron beam which travels the length of the dining room ceiling from the southeast to the northwest. Several small rooms (including the women's bathroom) are located along the northwest wall of the dining room. The men's bathroom is also on the northwest wall and adjacent to the stairs. The bathrooms are original.

A large kitchen is located in the northwest corner of the first floor. A rear entry and rear stairway to the second floor is located in the southeast corner of the first floor. The kitchen has a large passthrough opening along the southeast wall. The opening has a wood counter supported by five wood brackets. The walls are plaster and the floor is polished concrete. All of the doorways on the first floor have five-panel doors. The windows and doors have simple wood surrounds. All of the wood work retains its original finish.

Originally, the area to the southeast of the formal entry hall and at the very east end of the dining room housed the Greenville Grange Cooperative. Here members could purchase farm supplies during regularly scheduled meetings.

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Second Floor

The second floor has a large auditorium with a stage on the northwest wall. A dressing room is located northwest of the stage and a rear stairway is located southwest of the stage. A group of six folding doors are at the southeast end of the auditorium; each door has six panels. These doors were used to close off the Juvenile Grange room from the auditorium. They could be opened to provide additional space for a large event hosted in the auditorium. The formal second floor stairway is located in the northeast corner of the building.

The second floor is covered in hardwood that is touted by the Greenville Grange as "a highly respectable dance floor." The walls are of plaster. All of the doorways on the second floor (with the exception of the panel of folding doors) have five-panel doors. The windows and doors have simple wood surrounds. All of the doors are original and wood work retains its original finish.

Alterations

Little, if any, alteration has been made to the building. Due to the brick masonry construction, alterations to the exterior would have been difficult. The interior remains entirely intact and is a time capsule of the Greenville Grange's history.

Integrity

The building retains a high degree of integrity as can be seen in comparing the historic photos to the current photos of the building. The building has been unchanged from its historic period, retaining its interior plan, circulation, interior features and materials, and exterior materials and design.

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Introduction

The South Greenville Grange No. 225 is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Social History, at the local level of significance, significant for its history as a Grange hall, specifically the local subsidiary of the national farmers' organization, the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. The South Greenville Grange played an important role in the community and continues as the oldest surviving, functioning Grange organization in the state of Wisconsin. The Greenville Grange is a local landmark that conveys the community's historical cultural identity.

Certainly, its intended purpose was to serve the Greenville Grange organization. However, this building also served the social and entertainment needs of the entire Greenville area. The Greenville Grangers hosted community dinners, dances, and performances. In addition, other community entities were able to host their meetings and functions within the Greenville Grange facility.

Summary of Significance

Oliver Hudson Kelley along with six other men founded the Patrons of Husbandry in 1867. Their goal was to unite the farmers from both the north and the south after the Civil War. The founders created a fraternal secret society patterned on the Masonic Order. The objective of the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was to educate the American farmer in sound farm practices as well as provide a place for socialization. What began as an educational and social organization quickly became a farm lobby.

The Grange Movement came at a pivotal time in American agrarian history. The American farmer was being squeezed by the price fixing of the railroads and the elevator monopolies. The fight against the monopolistic grain storage and transportation companies consumed the decade following the Civil War. Within eight years, the National Grange grew to 20,000 individual chapters with a membership of 800,000 farmers. The Grange used their collective power to promote legislation that would rein in the monopolies. That control was achieved in court rulings of Munn v Illinois and, Illinois v Wabash. Eventually, the United States government passed the Interstate Commerce Act in 1887 and made the Commissioner of Agriculture a Presidential cabinet appointment.

Following these early achievements, the Grange became what Oliver Hudson Kelley originally envisioned; a social and educational network. The Greenville Grange opened their facility for fellowship and as a vehicle for community service. The Greenville Grange continues to be a focal point for the entire community.

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Period of Significance

The period of significance extends from 1928 to 1967. The Greenville Grange, is now and, has been in continuous use as a functioning Grange and a social gathering place for the Greenville area since its construction; therefore, the National Register fifty year rule has been applied for the end date for the period of significance.

History of Outagamie County

Outagamie County was formed with land set apart from Brown County on February 17, 1851. The village of Appleton was selected as the county seat. The topography of the county consists of rolling uplands and gently sloping valleys. At the time of county formation, Outagamie County was heavily timbered with maple, elm, ash, and hickory. The county is well watered with the Fox River on the southeast, the Wolf River on the west and Duck Creek on the northeast. The Fox River would play an important role in the development of Appleton as an important manufacturing center.³

Settlers began to arrive in Greenville Township in 1847 and 1848. They were taking advantage of the United States Land Ordinance of 1785 which structured the size and cost of lands held by the Federal Government. Seth J. Perry was the first to arrive and purchase land. Alexander McKenzie and his sons John and Matthew arrived in April of 1848. McKenzie was looking for suitable lands to purchase as farms for his sons. Edmund Hafner purchased the entire acreage of Section 13 in June of 1848 on which he located his large family. As the years progressed, settlers and their families continued to arrive in Greenville Township purchasing land on which to establish a farm.⁴

The Appleton Crescent wrote in July of 1854:

"The town of Greenville is receiving a large and valuable accession to its population from the central and eastern states. Greenville contains some of the finest lands and some of the best improvements in the county. In June, 1854, considerable excitement was caused by the announcement that gold had been discovered along the river. An examination proved that the alleged gold was a large mass of copper which contained a small percentage of silver. This was the second discovery of large masses of native copper in this locality. Since last spring (1854) about 3,900 acres have been sold in this town to settlers. It is the most beautiful section of the county."⁵

³ A. T. Andreas, *History of Northern Wisconsin*, (Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1881), pages 667-668

⁴ Thomas H. Ryan, *History of Outagamie County Wisconsin*, (Goodspeed Historical Association, Chicago, 1911), pages 1296-1302

⁵ Appleton Crescent, July 1854

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

In November of 1855 the average price of land in the town of Greenville was twelve dollars per acre. At first wheat was the primary crop grown in the county. Louis Perrot changed that when he arrived from New York in 1855. He brought his dairying skills with him from New York and his farm was operated as a dairy. Perrot was the first to manufacture cheese in Outagamie County with milk from his own herd. He facilitated the transition in Outagamie County from wheat farming to dairying when he demonstrated that cheese could free their farms of debt. Louis Perrot established the Greenville Cheese Factory in Section 17 of Greenville Township.⁶ "Louis Perrot of Greenville has made more money out of cheese manufacturing than from double the amount of capital and labor invested in other farming operation."⁷ Dairy farming was not an easy endeavor as enough food (corn, hay and oats) needed to be produced in the summer months to tide the herd and continue milk production during the harsh Wisconsin winters, was substantial.

In 1863, farmers in Outagamie County began to organize farmers clubs in part for socialization and in part for the purpose of improving farming methods. One of the first in the town of Greenville was organized by A. P. Lewis and Louis Perrot. On January 28, 1860 the Outagamie County Agricultural Society was formed. They hosted the first county fair the same year. The Granger Movement reached the town of Greenville in 1873.⁸

The Granger Movement

George Washington and Benjamin Franklin founded the first farmer's organization in the United States in 1785. It was known as the "Philadelphia Society of Promoting Agriculture. Washington was passionate about organizing farmers in America realizing the importance of their role in providing food for a growing nation. In his last message to Congress, Washington advocated agricultural fairs, a National Agricultural Society and governmental support for rural progress. Although the process of organization was slow, by 1860 1,300 agricultural societies had formed throughout the country. Most of these were county organizations which sponsored annual county fairs. In 1862, the United States Agricultural Bureau was formed as an independent governmental department headed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Civil War devastated farming throughout the country, but especially in the south. Many farmers were not farming, but were engaged in fighting a war. Those left at home lacked the farming skills to properly care for the land. Much of the land sat fallow, unattended, with no one to plant or harvest.

⁶ Thomas H. Ryan, *History of Outagamie County Wisconsin*, (Goodspeed Historical Association, Chicago, 1911), pages 1296-1302

⁷ Appleton Crescent, December 11, 1869.

⁸ Thomas Henry Ryan, *History of Outagamie County Wisconsin*, (Goodspeed Historical Association, Chicago, 1911), pages 1296-1302

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

After the war, railroads were built on an enormous scale. Their rail lines began to crisscross the Mississippi Valley, extended across the Great Plains and finally they reached the west coast. This network of rail lines gave the various railroad companies tremendous power over what they shipped and at what price. The railroads had an arrogant and uncompromising attitude toward the individual shipper. The high prices that the farmer received for their products during the Civil War offset the high prices charged by the railroad and elevator companies. At the close of the Civil War, farm prices dropped severely, but the charges levied by the railroad and elevator companies remained at their inflated levels. From the perspective of the rural American farmer, the railroads had a strangle hold on the American economy and on agriculture.

Grain warehouses adopted the same oppositional stance as the railroads and strangled the farmer with unfair pricing. The high prices charged by the railroads and elevator companies for the shipment of farm products fueled the animosity of the American farmer. The idea of banding together for greater strength in order to fight the common grievance of the railroad and elevator monopolies motivated the Midwest farmer to become a member of the newly emerging Granger Movement.⁹

The American agriculturalist Oliver Hudson Kelley (b. 1/7/1826 - d. 1913) was born and educated in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1849, at the age of 23, Kelley booked passage on a steamboat for St. Paul Minnesota. Kelley purchased land and proved to be a skilled and progressive farmer. He gained notoriety for experimenting with new crops, for using an elaborate irrigation system to improve his crop yield and by using one of the first mechanical reapers in the state. Kelley published his ideas in articles in several national newspapers.¹⁰

At the close of the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson and the Commissioner of Agriculture Isaac Newton were concerned about agricultural conditions in the south. In a letter dated October 20, 1865, Isaac Newton summoned Oliver Hudson Kelley to Washington D. C. Kelley had clerked in the Department of Agriculture earlier in the year. Newton told Kelley he wished to give him an appointment as a representative of the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of touring the southern states to evaluate farming conditions. After the conclusion of the meeting, Kelley did not hear from Newton about the appointment. Fearing he was wavering on his decision, Kelley succeeded in obtaining an interview with President Johnson in January of 1866. President Johnson showed a keen interest in the project and proceeded to appoint Kelley to the post that very day.

⁹ Thomas Clark Atkeson, *Semi-Centennial History of the Patrons of Husbandry*, (Orange Judd Co., New York, 1916), pages 1-60

¹⁰ Oliver Hudson Kelley, <u>http://encyclopedia.com/topic/Oliver-Hudson-Kelley</u>, pages 1-2

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Oliver Hudson Kelley left for a three-month tour of the southern states of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee on January 13, 1866. Anticipating animosity as a northerner touring the old Confederate States, Kelley was surprised by the warm reception he received from his fellow Masons. It occurred to him that his membership in the National Order of Masons superseded the fact that he was an outsider.

He returned to Washington D. C. on April 21, 1866 and filed his report. Kelley concluded that the south was in ruin. He was shocked by their ignorance of sound agricultural practices and was equally concerned that the southern farmers were using such outdated farming methods. He also noted in his report that the farmers of the south were very bitter over the war.

For some time Oliver Hudson Kelley had been thinking about organizing a National Association of Farmers. He believed that all farmers could benefit from having a progressive organization where they could discuss their issues and farming practices and perhaps learn new techniques from each other. In his heart he thought it would be a fine way of bringing all farmers together in a common cause. He conceived a plan of uniting the farmers from both the north and the south within a fraternity devoted to their interests and affording them the opportunity of furthering those interests.

Kelley took time to visit his niece, Carrie A. Hall, in Boston. He expressed his thoughts to her about a farmer's organization. She was very enthusiastic and suggested that women should be given full membership. Her suggestion was incorporated in all of his future planning.

Kelley returned to Washington D. C. in November of 1866 having received an appointment to the Post Office Department. While employed there, Kelley met fellow Mason, W. M Ireland, with whom he shared his thoughts on his proposed agricultural fraternity. During the summer of that year, Kelley met William Saunders from the Department of Agriculture. Kelley brought both of these men together and the three men talked in great detail about the proposed association. Saunders was to address the United States Pomological Society in St. Louis and suggested presenting an outline of the proposed farmer's fraternity at the meeting. The proposed organization was very well received by the participants in the meeting and they all agreed that it was a great idea.

Several additional men were included in the lively discussions about how to structure this new organization. They were: John R. Thompson from the Treasury Department, Dr. John Trimble also from the Treasury Department, A. B. Grosh from the Department of Agriculture and Francis M. McDowell. A statement was drafted by Kelley, Ireland and Saunders, printed and then sent to farmers throughout the country. It read:

"A number of gentlemen engaged in agriculture and its kindred branches in different states are now perfecting a Ritual for an Order to be composed wholly of persons, male

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and female, directly interested in agricultural pursuits...its main object being to encourage and advance education in all branches of agriculture....it will do much toward elevating our occupation as well as establishing a unity of sentiment among farmers of the country....should such an organization meet your approval and you see fit to offer suggestions before it is introduced to the public, these will be duly considered."¹¹

Many titles were considered for the new organization before adopting the title "Patrons of Husbandry" (the science of raising crops or food animals).¹² Then discussions ensued as what to call the local entities. In England at the time, the word *grange* was used to describe a farm and its buildings.¹³ With this concept in mind, the group heartily approved of the name Grange to represent its local branches.

The first meeting at which formal business was transacted was held in the office of William Saunders on November 15, 1867. Official sanction was given to the name Patrons of Husbandry for the National Organization and Granges for the local branches. The second formal session was held on December 4, 1867 and was the official organizational day of the Patrons of Husbandry. William Saunders was elected Master, Anson Bartlett overseer, J.R. Thompson lecturer, William Muir steward, A. S. Mass assistant steward, W. M Ireland treasurer and Oliver Hudson Kelly secretary.¹⁴

The Patrons of Husbandry was created as a fraternal secret society patterned on the Masonic Order. It adopted many of the rituals, secrecy, oaths, levels of degrees, and regalia found in the Masonic Order. The adoption of these protocols for the new organization was seen as a means of elevating the position of farmers in the American economy.¹⁵

In 1868, Kelley resigned from the Post Office Department in order to devote all of his time to the new organization. With great enthusiasm Kelley set off across the country attempting to organize local Granges.¹⁶ Success was slowly achieved, with six Granges organized in Minnesota. Farmers were hesitant about joining due to the secrecy of the organization. As time passed, and the farmers began to understand the principal of the organization, enthusiasm began to grow.¹⁷ Then in August of 1868,

¹¹ Thomas Clark Atkeson, Semi-Centennial History of the Patrons of Husbandry, (Orange Judd Co., New York, 1916), pages 1-60

² Thomas Clark Atkeson, Semi-Centennial History of the Patrons of Husbandry, (Orange Judd Co., New York, 1916), pages 1-60 ¹³ *This is Your Grange,* Washington Grange, <u>www.wa-</u>

grange.com/downloads/Membership/This_is_your_grange_with_cover.pdf, pages 1-15 ¹⁴ Thomas Clark Atkeson, *Semi-Centennial History of the Patrons of Husbandry*, (Orange Judd Co., New York, 1916), pages 1-60 ¹⁵ National Grange History, Winona Minnesota Grange No. 271, <u>www.winonagrange271.org/gpage2,html</u>, pages 1-4

¹⁶ Thomas Clark Atkeson, Semi-Centennial History of the Patrons of Husbandry, (Orange Judd Co., New York, 1916), pages 1-60

James Dabnev McCabe, History of the Grange Movement or the Farmers War Against Monopolies, Reprint of the 1873

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five agricultural newspapers presented the Grange concept to its subscribers. By the end of 1869 there were thirty-seven Granges in Minnesota. One year later the Granges had expanded to nine states. Within three years, all but three states had organized Grange chapters and by mid-1870 the total number of Granges was estimated to be 20,000 with a membership of 800,000 farmers.

The farmer and his family were beginning to realize their importance and power as never before in the history of the country. In the beginning, the Granger Movement was popular more for the opportunity it presented to farmers to unite as a group against the railroads and elevators than for the social and educational opportunities. Politicians were noting the Patrons of Husbandry as a strong political force. Farm supply dealers also recognized that the new organization was an important purchasing block.

In early 1870, W. W. Corbett editor of the *Prairie Farmer* wrote a letter to Kelley discussing how the railroads and the elevators were fixing their prices. In addition, he also noted that the middle-men who were purchasing the farmer's products, were setting prices that they would pay, instead of the farmer setting the prices. Kelley agreed that he would add the fight against monopolies to the Grange program.¹⁸

The first state to pass laws to regulate the monies that the railroad and elevator companies could charge as "reasonable and uniform" was Illinois. Unfortunately, at first, these laws did not have any means of enforcement. In 1871, Illinois set maximum freight and passenger rates and established a board of commissioners to enforce the rates. The railroad refused to comply with the new regulation and took their grievance to the State Supreme Court and won. By 1873 a new Illinois law was drafted and this time it met the scrutiny of the State Supreme Court, much in part due to the farmers replacing judges at the ballot box. The focus of the Grange Movement became to nominate and elect officials and judges who shared their views of what was fair pricing and what should be legally be enforced.¹⁹

On January 8-11, 1873 a meeting was held in the home of Oliver Hudson Kelley. Twenty-three men and four women representing eleven states decided that in order to give the organization legal recognition a Charter needed to be obtained. A Constitution and By-laws was also adopted. The document stated that the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry was the governing body of the order known as the Patrons of Husbandry.²⁰

version (Augustus M. Kelley Publisher, New York, 1969), pages 389 -

¹⁸ Thomas Clark Atkeson, *Semi-Centennial History of the Patrons of Husbandry*, (Orange Judd Co., New York, 1916), pages 1-60

¹⁹ Granger Movement, <u>www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Grange_movement.aspx</u>, pages 1-3

²⁰ Thomas Clark Atkeson, *Semi-Centennial History of the Patrons of Husbandry*, (Orange Judd Co., New York, 1916), pages 1-60

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In 1877 a challenge arose to the Illinois Granger law (Munn v. Illinois) when the grain storage company Munn and Scott was found guilty of violating the maximum grain storage charge law. Following an appeal to the Illinois State Supreme Court that affirmed the law, Munn and Scott appealed to the United States Supreme Court. The high court ruled that because the company was a business that affected public interest, the State of Illinois could regulate it within their borders. The court went as far as to state that any company, including the railroad, could be regulated if it affected the public interest.²¹ Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa then also enacted laws to regulate the railroads and elevator companies.

Nine years later, in 1886, the St. Louis & Pacific Railway (Wabash) violated the Illinois rates. Illinois alleged that the railroad was charging a greater rate for a shipment that was eighty miles less than a shipment from another concern. Thus, the St. Louis & Pacific Railway should be liable for unjust discrimination. In the case known as Illinois v. Wabash, the United State Supreme Court overturned Munn v. Illinois, which had become the basis for Illinois (and all states) regulating transportation costs. The high court ruled that that states may not interfere or infringe with Congress's ability to exercise its authority over interstate commerce.

The following year the United States government passed the Interstate Commerce Act making the railroads the first industry subject to Federal regulation. The Interstate Commerce Act banned discrimination in rates between long and short hauls, required the railroads publish their rates and file them with the government and declared that all interstate rail rates must be reasonable and just.²²

Although the original objective of the Grange was primarily educational, the fight against monopolistic grain storage and transportation practices consumed the decade following the Civil War. During this period of time, Grangers also entered into local business activities. The Grangers formed cooperative elevators, creameries, general stores, warehouses and insurance companies. The Grangers purchased patents in order to produce farm machinery. Unfortunately, in several instances the manufacturing of agricultural equipment ended by exhausting the local organization's financial resources and contributed to the decline of the Grange Movement. By 1880, membership in the National Grange had dropped to less than 100,000 members.²³

Once the Commissioner of Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture became a cabinet position on February 9, 1889, the American farmer had a permanent voice in Washington. The early Grange Movement is credited with establishing, through their persistence, several elements of

²¹ Case Law Munn v Illinois, cases.law.com/munn-v-illinois, pages 1-4

²² Wabash, St. L. & P. Ry. Co. v State of Illinois, Supreme Court Case 118 U. S. 557 (7S. CT. 4. 30L. Ed. 244), https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/118/557

²³ Gilded Age of Politics 1877-1900, by Ethan Lewis, ethanlewis.org/history/downloads/guides/Ch20.pdf

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rural life which remain important to this day. Some of their accomplishments include; Cooperative Extension Service, rural free mail delivery and rural electrification.

The Grange saw a resurgence during the twentieth century and today in the twenty-first century there are 200,000 Grange members located in thirty-seven states. The popularity of this organization remains strong even though the percentage of Americans involved in farming has fallen from one-third of the population in the early 1900s to less than 2% of the population today.

The National and State Grange organizations still take an active role in effecting national legislation as it relates to the American farmer. In the late-twentieth and early-twenty-first centuries they have lobbied for: adopting a right-to-farm law, use of milk products in school lunch programs, increasing agricultural exports, requiring gasoline to contain 10% ethanol, prohibiting water being diverted from the Great Lakes, and severance for highway relocation.²⁴ Currently they are advocating for affordable high-speed broadband in rural areas, affordable healthcare, local water rights for the farmer, comparable quality of rural and urban schools, improvements to the Federal Crop Insurance program, improved expedience of rural mail delivery and increasing global trade through the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.²⁵ The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry remains the oldest surviving agricultural organization in the United States.²⁶

The local Granges have now become what Oliver Hudson Kelley had originally envisioned for his organization; a social and educational network. The National Grange remains as a family based organization which treats women as equal partners. They offer a Junior Membership for boys and girls from five to fourteen years of age. At the age of fourteen, they become a regular Subordinate Grange member who then begins his/her degree work.²⁷

Many of the local Granges support deaf and hearing loss awareness and dogs for the deaf. They sponsor local Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops and donate dictionaries to school children. They have become a wonderful interruption to the monotony of a farmer's life. The Grange has become the focal point for fellowship and community service.

²⁴ Wisconsin State Grange 1972-1992, Booklet by Ruby Walton, 1993, pages 1-31

²⁵ The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. Values and policy statements. <u>www.nationalgrange.org</u>

²⁶ Granger Movement American Farm Coalition, Encyclopedia Britannica, <u>https://www.britannica.com/event/Granger-movement</u>, pages 1-3

²⁷ W. L. Robinson, *First Century of Service and Evolution The Grange 1867-1967*, (National Grange, Washington D.C., 1967) page 69-70

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

The South Greenville Grange No. 225

The Wisconsin State Grange was organized on October 24, 1872 by National Deputy J. C. Abbott.²⁸ Local Granges were organized in every county in Wisconsin except Bayfield, Sawyer, Washburn, and Kewaunee counties.²⁹

On October 17, 1873, forty-two people attended the organizational meeting for the South Greenville Grange No. 225 in Congress Hall, a log cabin located three miles west of Appleton in the German settler's area on Spencer Road. State Deputy James Brainerd officially granted the charter for the South Greenville Grange No. 225 on October 27, 1873 which was signed by National Secretary Oliver Hudson Kelley.

John L. Pingel was elected the first Grand Master of the Greenville Grange.³⁰ Shortly after his election, a meeting hall was built on the 160 acre John L. Pingel farm which was located in the northwest quarter corner of Section 35 of Greenville Township.³¹ The first Grange hall built on the Pingel property was destroyed by fire in 1880.³² A second Grange hall was constructed in the same location only this time further away from Pingel's house and barns.³³

John Pingel (b. 9/17/1834, d. 2/28/1923) was born in Domsuhl Mecklenburg Schwerin Germany. His family immigrated to America in 1852 settling in New York. John made his way to Outagamie County, Wisconsin in 1860 purchasing eighty acres of land in Greenville Township. A few years later Pingel purchased another adjoining eighty acres of land. John Pingel and his wife Dora had two children; a daughter Darsetta and a son Lawrence.

Pingel served as chairman of the Greenville Town Board in 1861, 1878, 1879 and 1881. He served as Greenville town clerk in 1864, 1865 and 1875. Pingel also served as the Justice of the Peace for eight years. In 1882, John L. Pingel was elected to the position of Wisconsin State Senator where he served one term until 1883.

²⁸ South Greenville Grange No. 255 Wisconsin Historic Marker #215, located at junction of Winnebago Drive and County Trunk BB, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

²⁹ Laverne H. Marquart, *The Grange Wisconsin's Agricultural Heritage 1871-1971*, (Rural Life Publishing Co., Lake Mills, Wisconsin, 1972), page 108, map of the number of Granges that located in each county.

³⁰ View Magazine, August 26, 1973, "The South Greenville Grange 100th Anniversary" pages 5-6

³¹ 1873 Map of Outagamie County Wisconsin, produced by Harney, Stranahan and Dull

³² Patrons of Husbandry – South Greenville Grange No. 225: Record 1873-1973, Wisconsin Historical Society, digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi/f/findaid-idx?c=wiarchives, Biographical History

³³ View Magazine, August 26, 1973, "The South Greenville Grange 100th Anniversary", pages 5-6

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John Pingel sold forty acres of his farm in 1887 to Julius Schneider to go into the farm implement business with his brother-in-law B. C. Wolter. The farm implement business was located on College Avenue between Oneida and Morrison streets in Appleton, Wisconsin.³⁴ The Greenville Grange hall was located on the forty acre parcel purchased by Julius Schneider.³⁵ Here the Greenville Grange remained until 1894 when a fourth Greenville Grange was built on the 80 acre farm owned by Fredrick Pingel. This Greenville Grange hall was much larger than the previous halls. It was constructed with a stage and a 35-stall attached stable located in the southeast quarter of Section 34.³⁶

Fredrick Pingel (b. 5/4/1829, d. 1/28/1910) was born in Mecklenburg, Germany and immigrated to Tonawanda, New York where he married Dorothea Menning in 1853. Their children Fred (b.11/30/1854, d. 1946), Mary (b.1857, d. 1879), John (b. 10/7/1859, d. 1939) and Anna Pingel (b. 1/27/1862, d. 1934) were all born in Tonawanda, New York.³⁷ The family moved to Greenville Township in the early 1870s purchasing an 80 acre parcel of land in the southeast corner of Section 34 of Greenville Township.³⁸ There, Fred farmed until his death in 1910.

In 1896, the Greenville Grange had 116 members. They operated a cooperative store within the Grange hall where members could buy farm supplies during their regularly scheduled meetings. The Greenville Grange sponsored an annual children's day picnic in June which was open to the entire community.³⁹ By 1909, membership in the Greenville Grange had grown to 172. They were handling over \$2,000.00 worth of groceries and binder twine in their cooperative store.⁴⁰ Frederick Pingel passed away in January of 1910 and John L. Pingel purchased his property.⁴¹

George Schaefer gave a report on the Greenville Grange at the 41st Annual Session of the Wisconsin State Grange in December of 1912. In his report he stated that the Greenville Grange has been very careful to strictly adhere to the rules, rituals and by-laws of both the State and National Grange. Meetings have been held every other Saturday for the thirty-nine years of its organization. Membership maintains at a level between 175 and 200 people. He pointed out that the Greenville Grange has held a Children's Day picnic for the last twenty years. Thousands of people attend this event held for area children. They have presented a program, a basket dinner and are entertained by local bands. Schaefer noted that the Greenville Grange Children's Day picnic existed long before the

³⁴ Appleton Post-Crescent March 6, 1923, "John Pingel Dies at Portland, Ore.", J. E. Heg, *The Blue Book of the State of Wisconsin*, (The Milwaukee Litho & Engr Co., 1883), page 479

³⁵ 1889 Platbook of Outagamie County Wisconsin, produced by C. M. Foot & Co. Minneapolis, MN

³⁶ View Magazine, August 26, 1973, "The South Greenville Grange 100th Anniversary", pages 5-6

³⁷ Ancestry.com, Family Trees for both Dorothea Menning and Fred Pingel

³⁸ 1873 Map of Outagamie County, produced by Harney, Stranahan and Dull

³⁹ 25th Annual Session of the Wisconsin State Grange, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, December 8 – 10, 1896, Booklet

⁴⁰ 38th Annual Session of the Wisconsin State Grange, Winneconne, Wisconsin, December 14-16, 1909, Booklet

⁴¹ 1910 Plat Book of Outagamie County Wisconsin, produced by W. W. Hixson & Co., 1910

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National Grange set aside the second Saturday in June as Children' Day. The Greenville Grange also hosted a large Christmas party and eight dances each year.⁴²

In 1923, the South Greenville Grange No. 225 celebrated their fiftieth anniversary. During the celebration they reflected on their past accomplishments. In his speech to the four hundred attendees, R. J. Schaefer stated; "I hereby make the broad assertion that there is not a farmer in Wisconsin nor in the entire United States who had not received great benefit from the laws that were supported and forced through legislative bodies by the united action of the Grange."⁴³

The Greenville Juvenile Grange was organized in 1924 for both boys and girls from the age of five to fourteen. The Greenville Juvenile Grange met in a room in the southeast corner of the second floor. Once a juvenile member reaches the age of fourteen they become a regular Subordinate Grange member and can begin his/her degree work.

The Current Grange Hall Building

The increased use of the automobile in the early-twentieth century saw the need for Highway 45 to be widened and paved. The road upgrade passed through the Greenville Grange building forcing another Greenville Grange to be built, the subject building. Construction began on the current Greenville Grange in 1928 on land donated by Mrs. John Pingel. The portion of Pingel property dedicated to the Greenville Grange was at the very southeast corner of the Pingel property. This parcel is located in the southeast corner of Section 34, almost at the Winnebago County line.⁴⁴

A building committee was formed, overseen by Grange member George R. Schroeder. Albert Haase from Appleton was hired as the carpenter. Adam Limpert, also from Appleton, performed the masonry work. The Grange members began the excavation of the site on August 1, 1928. On September 8, 1928 the Grange members poured the 92'x 42'concrete foundation. The bricks that were used on the building's exterior were hauled from Waupaca, Wisconsin by Grange members using their farm trucks. The completion date was anticipated to be in November of 1928. The estimated cost of the building was \$20,000.⁴⁵

A corner stone ceremony was held for the Greenville Grange building on September 9, 1928. One hundred and ninety Grange members and a large band marched in a line from the farm of Walter Pingel to the site of the new Grange building. Within the crypt of the corner stone were placed the constitution and digest of the National Grange, a song book, the constitution of the State Grange,

⁴² 41st Annual Session of the Wisconsin State Grange, Antigo, Wisconsin, December 10-12, 1912, Booklet

⁴³ Appleton Post-Crescent, October 29, 1923, "Grange Master Opposes Linking Farmer and Labor"

⁴⁴ Appleton Post-Crescent, "Traces of Grange History", date unknown, document on file at the Greenville Grange

⁴⁵ Appleton Post-Crescent, "Members Help in Work", date unknown, document on file at the Greenville Grange.

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register of all Granges in the State of Wisconsin, the by-laws of the State Granges, a historical sketch of the National Grange organization, the names of the present Greenville Grange membership, various types of grains, flowers, fruit and fruit products, a report by the building committee, a list of the names of Grange officers and a list of names and officers of the juvenile Grangers.⁴⁶ The building was completed on April 6, 1929 and the dedication ceremony was held on June 30, 1929.⁴⁷ All of the buildings used by the South Greenville Grange were located within one mile of each other.⁴⁸

The tradition of operating a cooperative store continued within the new Greenville Grange building. The southeast corner of the first floor elevation was dedicated to the cooperative store. The store carried groceries, seeds, feeds, binder twine, coal and gasoline. The items carried in the cooperative store were purchased through the Grange Wholesale House in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.⁴⁹ Due to the expanded use of the gasoline operated car and tractor in rural Greenville Township, the demand for gasoline saw the Greenville Grange and the Greenville Equity organization form the Greenville Cooperative Gas Company on August 7, 1931. They located their facility near the railroad tracks in the Village of Greenville.⁵⁰The Greenville Grange saw the need for a frigid locker in the Village of Greenville Frigid Locker Plant On February 2, 1939.⁵¹

While speaking to an Annual Session of the Wisconsin State Grange, South Greenville Grange member George Schaefer commentated on what he viewed was the current greatest need for the farm family; "the farmer is need of better social and educational facilities to break the monotony of our farm work, especially for our wives and mothers who have the care of our farm homes and the care of the early lives and education of our children."⁵²

During the next eight decades, the Greenville Grange fulfilled that social role as a community social center for the area farmers hosting, dances, card parties, plays, dinners, wedding and anniversary parties, ball games, craft sales, swap meets, flea markets and bake sales. Over one thousand people were served at their annual chicken dinner in August of 1930. During a 1990 fundraiser brat sale, the Greenville Grange provided drive-up service at one of the ground level windows on the northeast side of the building. Members of the Greenville Grange participate in community service by cleaning cemeteries, sponsoring 4-H groups, raising money for the March of Dimes, and distributing dictionaries to school children.

⁴⁶ Appleton Post-Crescent September 10, 1928, "Corner Stone of New Grange Hall Laid by Society"

⁴⁷ The Wisconsin Granger, July 1973, "S. Greenville Grange is 100 Yrs. Old" pages 1, 4

⁴⁸ Wisconsin Historical Society, Nomination Questionnaire, prepared on March 11, 2016 by Jean Goffard

 ⁴⁹ History of George R. Schaefer, prepared on April 23, 1950, document on file at the South Greenville Grange No. 225
 ⁵⁰ *The Wisconsin Granger*, July 1973, pages 1, 4

⁵¹ Booklet, History of George R. Schaefer, prepared on April 23, 1950, document on file at the South Greenville Grange No. 225

⁵² 44th Annual Session of Wisconsin State Grange at Antigo, WI. December 10-12, 1912. (unpublished booklet)

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

In 1975, the Greenville Grange, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Historical Society, erected Wisconsin Historical marker No. 215 commemorating the location and the history of the Greenville Grange.

Currently the Greenville Grange has twenty members who continue fulfilling the requirements of the National Grange. They meet on the second Sunday of the month at 4:30pm. The building continues to be used for activities within the community and is also rented for weddings and meetings. The current mission of the organization is social and community orientated and the Greenville Grange members are not politically active as a group. According to member Jean Goffard, "throughout its existence, the South Greenville Grange has supported the need for better educational facilities, especially for farm wives and children as well as the farmer. It provided farm families the opportunity to work together in cooperation with church, school, and every other organization which aims to improve people's lives." The Greenville Grange is the oldest continually operating Grange in Wisconsin and is the largest two story Grange hall in Wisconsin.

Conclusion: Criterion A - History

The National Grange was established as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization designed to increase the quality of life in rural communities by strengthening the bonds between farm and family. One of its early goals was to provide agricultural education to the farmer on how to improve his farming techniques and practices. That enlightenment would help him improve the quality of his land and increase his crop output. What began as an altruistic organization, designed to unify the farmers of the north and south after the Civil War in a benevolent fraternity, quickly became a farm lobby.

Throughout the Midwest, the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry mobilized local Grangers to exercise the power of their vast membership at the voting booth. The farmer and his family were quick to realize their importance as a voting bloc. Their leading crusade became that of fighting the railroad and elevator companies' monopoly power with an equivalent power of their own. Farmers were drawn to unify by the same principals which led industrial workers for form labor unions; unfair wages for the factory worker verses unfair pricing for the American farmer. Within eight years of its founding, the National Grange had 20,000 Grange Halls in forty-four states with a staggering membership of 800,000 farmers both men and women. These farmers began to elect like-minded judges and state legislators in order to precipitate change.

The American farmer understood that the railroads and elevator companies were unregulated and had a strangle hold on the American economy and on agriculture by imposing overinflated transportation and storage fees.

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Success in the courts culminated in the Interstate Commerce Act which required that the railroad set reasonable and just rates, that they publish their rates, and that they file their rates with the Federal Government.

Once the Commissioner of the United States Department of Agriculture became a Presidential cabinet appointee in 1889, the concerns of the farmer were addressed on a national level. Although the National and State Granges still lobby for legislation beneficial to the American farmer, the focus of the Grange shifted back to its original hypothesis of fellowship, education and community service. Oliver Hudson Kelley knew that the real power of the Grange was found in the social and educational development of rural life. The Grange sought not just to develop men and women into better farmers, but to lift up the family and build strong communities.

Kelley also recognized the troubling solitude and monotony of life as a rural American farmer. Farmsteads were isolated groups of buildings located within large tracks of farm land. In many instances the farmer could not visually see his closest neighbor. Neighbors often only saw one another at church or at a funeral of a family member or friend. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Vol. 3,* addresses the importance of fraternal organizations in rural areas; "For isolated frontier homesteaders, fraternal groups provided an important occasion for meeting and socializing. They not only provided their members with fellowship, fun, and diversion, but supplied vital support to education, commerce and public health. They formed a key part of the social web that held together American culture."⁵³ The Grange offered a purposeful social outlet; one that offered social fellowship where it was easy and natural to make new friends. It also offered an opportunity to participate in community service. The Greenville Grange hall was not only used by local Grangers, but was a meeting place and focal point for the entire community.

Author Charles M. Gardner wrote in 1949 that "the real power of the Grange is not found in its legislative or financial accomplishments, but in the social and educational development of rural life. The effort to make the farm family a stronger unit, and rural communities more self-contained, laid the foundation for the great progress which started with the beginning of the Grange and has covered the nation. The Grange has sought to build and develop the best in men and women, and to make them not only better farmers, but part of a bigger and stronger community life."⁵⁴

Throughout its existence, the Greenville Grange has supported education for the farmer, his wife and his children. It provided Greenville Township farm families the opportunity to work together in cooperation with local churches, schools and other service organizations to improve the lives of the

⁵³ Barbara Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Vol. 3, Fraternal Organizations*, (Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, June 1986

⁵⁴ Charles M. Gardner, *The Grange – Friend of the Farmer*, (National Grange, Washington D. C., 1949), pages xv, xv1

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entire community. From the beginning, the Greenville Grange was built with the community in mind. The first level offers a large kitchen and dining hall. The second level has a stage and a dance floor. Many local couples met as a result of the dances hosted by the Greenville Grange. They then had their weddings and receptions at the Grange hall. Years later, many came back to celebrate their 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries at the Greenville Grange hall. During the last 143 years, the Greenville Grange has hosted dances, card parties, plays, speeches, ice cream socials, concerts, dinners, wedding and anniversary parties, ball games, craft sales, swap meets, flea markets and bake sales. Currently, the facility can be rented for meetings, fundraisers, and special events. The monies that are raised through their building rental program are utilized for the upkeep of the building. The Grange hall remains a social center for the entire community.

Conclusion

The South Greenville Grange No 225 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Social History for its role in the community as a local subsidiary of the national farmers organization known as the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. The Grange, established for the benefit of the American farmer was an influential force in advocating on behalf of farmers, and providing a social network in the community. The Grange hosted social events, entertainment, and educational opportunities to assist farmers in sound farming practices. The Greenville Grange stands as a testament to the Grange Movement. This benevolent phenomenon formed local fraternal societies under a guiding national organization. The National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry became a powerful lobby for farmer's issues. Since 1867, the Grange has lobbied for legislation which upholds the importance of the farmer as the food producer for both the United States and the world. The Greenville Grange retains excellent integrity both on the interior and exterior as well as location, design, setting and significant architectural features which leads to the judgment of eligibility. This building represents the history of the Grange Movement and is the only remaining building associated with this organization in the community.

Acknowledgements

The Fuldner Heritage Fund paid for the preparation of this nomination. This endowed fund, created through a generous donation by the Jeffris Family Foundation and administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society, supports the nomination of historically and architecturally significant rural and small town properties.

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

PRT OF S2.37AC OF E5AC SE SE SY N OF HY SEC34 T21N R16E 1.88AC M/L 209D199

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries above enclose all of the land that has historically been associated with the South Greenville Grange No. 225

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Name of Property: City or Vicinity: State: Name of Photographer: Date of Photograph: Location of Original Digital Files:

Number of Photos

Photo 1 Southeast façade. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 2 Northeast façade. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 3 Northwest façade. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 4 Southwest façade. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 5 Main entry hall with ticket booth. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 6 Main stairway. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 7 Entry doors to dining room. Camera facing southeast. South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville Wisconsin Patricia Lacey September 2016 State Historic Preservation Office, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI 11

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Photo 8 Dining room. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 9 Rear of dining room and kitchen opening. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 10 Second floor auditorium/dance floor. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 11 Rear of second floor auditorium. Camera facing southeast.

__End of Photo Descriptions

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

__Insert Figures

List of Figures

Figure 1: Plan drawingsFigure 2: Sample plan for Grange Hall buildings from *Grange Hall Suggestions*Figure 3: Map showing distribution of Granges in WisconsinFigure 4: Historic Photograph, 1929Figure 5: Historic Photograph, date unknown

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Figure 1: Plan drawings Not to Scale






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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Figure 2: Sample plan for Grange Hall buildings from Grange Hall Suggestions

Blueprint from the National Grange booklet Grange Hall Suggestions, which is very similar to the building built by the South Greenville Grange No. 225.



Proposed Grange Hall Plan

Figure 5.3: Proposed Grange Hall Plan, 1928 (from Grange Hall Suggestions, published by the National Grange)

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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Figure 3: Map showing distribution of Granges in Wisconsin



Location by counties of Subordinate Granges organized in Wisconsin No Granges were ever organized in Bayfield, Sawyer Washburn, and Kowaunes counties

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Figure 4: Historic Photograph Building Dedication June 30, 1929



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South Greenville Grange No. 225 Greenville, Outagamie County, Wisconsin

Figure 5: Historic Photograph, date unknown Illustrating Highway 45 in Foreground



___End Figures

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination
Property Name:	South Greenville Grange No. 225
Multiple Name:	
State & County:	WISCONSIN, Outagamie
Date Rece 4/2/201	
Reference number:	SG100002443
Nominator:	State
Reason For Review	
X Accept	Return Reject 5/11/2018 Date
Abstract/Summary Comments:	
Recommendation/ Criteria	
Reviewer Control	Unit Discipline
Telephone	Date
DOCUMENTATION	see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



RECEIVED 24

GISTER OF

TO:	Keeper
	National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this <u>Twenty-seventh</u> day of <u>March 2018</u>, for the nomination of the <u>South Greenville Grange No. 225</u> to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 11 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with image files
- 1 Map(s)

5 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)

- Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
 - This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners

Other: