

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 2 1979

AUG 24 1979

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

VALON TUOTE RAITTIUSSEURA (REWARD OF LIGHT TEMPERANCE SOCIETY)

AND/OR COMMON

FINNISH TEMPERANCE BUILDING

2 LOCATION

125 THIRD STREET NORTH

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Second Avenue North
and Third Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Virginia

— VICINITY OF Finntown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

22

COUNTY

St. Louis

CODE

137

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
 COMMERCIAL PARK
 EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
 GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
 INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
 MILITARY OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Kaleva Building Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

Box 402

CITY, TOWN

Parkville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Louis County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

5th Avenue West at First Street

CITY, TOWN

Duluth

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Valon Tuote Raittiusseura, located at 2nd Avenue North and 3rd Street North in Virginia, is a two-story rectangular brick structure. Its facades are divided by buttresses into two bays at the ends and four bays at the sides. Fenestration is generally symmetrical, and rectangular windows (two per floor per bay on the side facade) utilize stone sills and flat vertically-laid brick arches in a radiating voussiors-and-keystone pattern. Decoratively laid brick forms a frieze under the eaves. The asphalt shingled, hipped roof of the building is broken by a squat bell-cast tower with flagpole directly over the entrance.

The first floor of the structure contains an entryway with ticket booth and cloakrooms, general meeting area, kitchen, storage area, and toilet facilities. An auditorium with stage and dressing rooms occupies the second floor.

The south (3rd Street) facade has been altered by the addition of a two-story structure (date uncertain) which extends the length of the auditorium at the second level and provides an open colonnaded veranda at the street level.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first meeting of the Valon Tuote (Reward of Light) Temperance Society was held in Virginia, Minnesota on March 12, 1893, at the home of one of its charter members. The society was a member in good standing in Suomalainen Kansallis Raittius Weljeys Seura Pohjois Amerikassa (The Finnish National Temperance Brotherhood of North America), a national organization consisting of approximately 150 chapters in the United States.

In 1906 Valon Tuote members had raised and saved enough money to construct a new hall with enough room for its 375 members and their activities. Within a year the new hall was completed containing a downstairs meeting room, dining room and kitchen and a second story stage and auditorium. Shortly after the hall was built, newly formed socialist locals in the Virginia area attempted to seize control by joining the society in large numbers and voting as a body. The attempt to seize control failed.

The main purpose of Finnish temperance was to offer immigrants from Finland activities which would instill in them the discipline necessary to avoid pitfalls in their new environment. It was one of the Finnish immigrants' numerous attempts to provide such services to members and it was the first organized attempt made by Finns. Many temperance societies, including Valon Tuote, actually preceded the establishment of Lutheran churches in Finnish communities in America. Liquor was considered to be the most evil curse in the New World. "There is no nobler work than the cause of temperance," intoned the presiding officer at a Finnish temperance society. "May all intoxicating liquors be banished from our otherwise fair land." Members were asked to pledge abstinence and older members took turns reading frightening passages regarding the evils of strong drink.

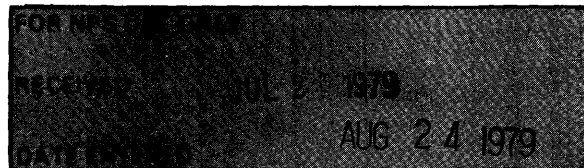
But not all activity was so somber. Professor Kalehmainen has characterized the other activities which occurred in a Finnish temperance hall after the formalities had been concluded.

An erring member asked forgiveness for his use of alcohol to fight a cold, and it was granted; a debate was held: 'who suffers more from drunkenness, man or woman?' Somebody played a stringed kantele. Two or three poems were read... Dolls, corsages and needlework were auctioned, letters exchanged, and the society's handwritten newspaper read by its editor. An innocent game or two, perhaps a playlet, a closing benediction and the festivities were over. Youthful Finnish immigrants hurried home to rooms and boarding houses, happy, released from the tensions of life in a strange land.

(see continuation sheet - page 1)

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Finnish Temperance Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The temperance movement among Finns served still another very important purpose. Each member who wished paid certain monthly premiums for protection against the cost of a hospital stay. And each member who wished could also buy an insurance policy payable to another upon his death. The Valon Tuote paid over \$900 to beneficiaries of deceased members before 1903.

Concerts were held and choruses and plays were performed in Valon Tuote Hall during its most active years -- the two decades before World War I. After the enactment of prohibition, membership began a steady decline from the nearly 500 members for several reasons. Most important, perhaps, was the age of the Finnish immigrant group. It was growing older and less active. Also the ravages groups such as socialists had made in temperance ranks may have been a factor -- especially their continual criticism of temperance as a "one issue" group. At any rate, temperance members could not entice second-generation members to join in any significant numbers. Valon Tuote existed until the late 1960s, but it had been a temperance society in little more than name for twenty years. In the late 1960s, the Knights and Ladies of Kaleva, a Finnish-American fraternal group, bought Valon Tuote Hall, renamed it Kaleva Hall and still use it for regular meetings and social events. They do not permit the consumption of alcohol to occur on the premises.

The Valon Tuote Raittiusseura is significant as the headquarters for a continuous but changing agenda of activities of a particular ethnic segment of Virginia's populace from the first decade of the century to the present.