

DATA SHEET

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

STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>
COUNTY: <b>Meeker</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>MAY 21 1975</b>

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: <b>G.A.R. Hall</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Memorial Hall</b>

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>370 North Marshall</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Litchfield</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>6th</b>	
STATE <b>Minnesota</b>	CODE <b>22</b>	COUNTY: <b>Meeker</b>	CODE <b>093</b>

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: <b>City of Litchfield</b>	
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>City Courthouse</b>	
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Litchfield</b>	STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>

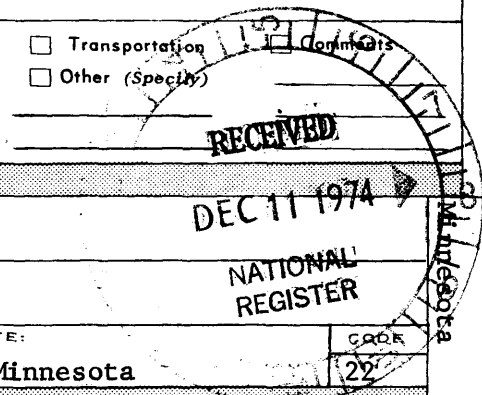
**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Meeker County Courthouse</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Litchfield</b>	STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>	CODE: <b>22</b>

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Statewide Historic Sites Survey</b>		
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1967, 1969</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Minnesota Historical Society</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Building 25, Fort Snelling</b>		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>St. Paul</b>	STATE: <b>Minnesota</b>	CODE: <b>22</b>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Minnesota  
COUNTY: Meeker  
ENTRY NUMBER: 1  
DATE: MAY 21 1975  
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Memorial Hall" is located at 320 North Marshall in Litchfield, Minnesota, block fifty-four, lot five of the original town plat. It was built by the Grand Army of the Republic in the year 1885. Constructed in a unique style reminiscent of structures that resemble medieval fortresses, but on a smaller scale. The cream colored brick structure measures twenty-eight feet wide, sixty feet long, with walls that extend eighteen feet in height.

The front elevation of the G.A.R. "Memorial Hall" includes two window openings framing a central tower with an arched door opening and a small round window. The entrance contains a wood paneled door and a glass fan transom. Positioned above the door is an inscribed stone with the raised letters of G.A.R. and the date of 1885. Small turrets stand out from the front corners of the building and two additional turrets project from the roof line along each of the side walls. Front window treatment includes two-over-two glass panes placed in a semi-elliptical opening with a radiating voussoir arch offset by a solid stone sill. This window treatment is representative of the five remaining windows in the Hall. Four windows are located in the south wall while the north wall contains only one.

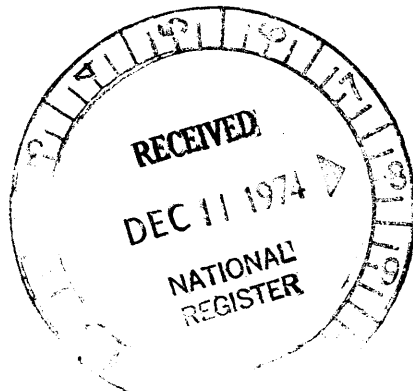
Inside the door is a tiny entryway with two doors leading to the main rooms. There are glass transoms over these doors. The front room is about twenty feet long with a moulded ceiling and original light fixtures. The second room is larger and has an imposing chandelier hanging from the ceiling.

✓ Adjacent to the rear of "Memorial Hall" is a brick addition built in 1961 by the Meeker County Historical Society as a museum. This addition, used in conjunction with the Hall, is connected by a door and butted to the original building.

Two brass cannon, mounted on cement carriages, are positioned on either side of the walkway up to the entrance. In 1970 a marker was placed on the front lawn to bring attention to the historical significance of the G.A.R. Hall.

The G.A.R. Hall is owned and maintained by the City of Litchfield, under the auspices of the Meeker County Historical Society. "Memorial Hall" is one of the finest examples of architecture inspired by the Grand Army of the Republic movement.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1885**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Memorial Hall" was built in 1885 as a tribute to those who fought to preserve the Union. It was designed to resemble a fort and to contain rooms for a public library, reading and museum. The cost of the structure and the land was five thousand dollars. Funding for the site and the Hall was obtained by subscription from citizens and Civil War Veterans. The veterans of Litchfield and Meeker County had founded their own chapter of the G.A.R., Frank Daggett Post No. 35, on July 8, 1883. The Hall was deeded to the City of Litchfield with the stipulation that it should remain unaltered, standing as a permanent monument.

This structure is representative of the Grand Army of the Republic movement which wielded powerful political and social influence in the years after the Civil War until the turn of the century. Today there are no survivors of this once widespread and influential coterie. "Memorial Hall" is one of the finest examples of the architecture inspired by the G.A.R. activity.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Album of History and Biography of Meeker County, 1888, p. 598  
 Lamsom, Frank, Condensed History of Meeker County, Brown Printing Company, Litchfield, 1939  
Litchfield News Ledger, May 28, 1885; April 2, 1885; May 7, 1885; May 14 1885; May 28, 1885; June 6, 1885

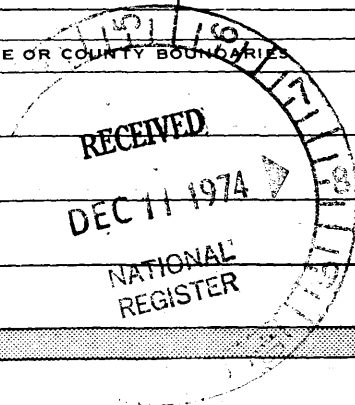
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		45 ° 07 ' 43 "	94 ° 31 ' 34 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **John J. Hackett, Survey Specialist**

ORGANIZATION: **Minnesota Historical Society** DATE: **20 November 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Building 25, Fort Snelling**

CITY OR TOWN: **St. Paul** STATE: **Minnesota** CODE: **22**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Russell W. Fridley  
 Russell W. Fridley, Director  
 Title: Minnesota Historical Society

Date: December 7, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest A. Connolly  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**MAY 21 1975**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5/20/75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 9 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAY 21 1975

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

G.A.R. HALL

CONTINUATION SHEET MEMORIAL HALL ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The significance of the G.A.R. Hall is derived from its exclusive association with the Grand Army of the Republic movement. Memorial Hall was utilized as a meeting hall for the Minnesota Chapter No. 35 of the G.A.R. and represents one of the finest examples of fortress styled architecture inspired by this national movement in the State of Minnesota.

The Grand Army of the Republic was an organization established by the Union Veterans of the Civil War in 1866 to preserve friendships, honor fallen comrades, aiding widows and the handicapped, and helping communities in which the members resided. The G.A.R. last met in 1949 for its 83rd encampment; there are no survivors of this national organization.

On July 8, 1883 the Civil War veterans in Litchfield, Minnesota, founded their own chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic, The Frank Dagget Post No. 35. The post was named after Frank Dagget, a lieutenant in the 6th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and the first Grand Commander of the Minnesota G.A.R.

Memorial Hall was erected in 1885 after the members of Post No. 35 recognized the need for a permanent repository for records and a regular meeting hall. Additive features incorporated into the building plans were a library, reading room and museum although the purpose of the structure remained as a meeting hall for the G.A.R. members.

Dedicated on Memorial Day, 1885, Memorial Hall was designed to resemble a fort. This architectural style truly represented the occupants who utilized the hall.

The G.A.R. Hall in Litchfield, Minnesota is significant as a Grand Army of the Republic meeting hall and as a example of architecture inspired by this national movement.