

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 9577 Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Beaver Falls N/A vicinity

state NY code 36 county Lewis code 049 zip code 13305

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Richard Purpoint DBHPO 10/9/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

___ other (explain):
for Edson W. Beall 12-1-15
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD

roof: ASPHALT

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Descriptive Summary

Beaver Falls Grange Hall # 554 is a 30' x 60' rectangular wood frame building with narrow clapboard siding over an irregular fieldstone masonry foundation, built in 1892 to house the recently formed (1888) Beaver Falls subordinate grange of the New York State Patrons of Husbandry. It stands with its façade and gable end to Main Street in Beaver Falls, a late 19th century paper and pulp manufacturing village. The building was originally built to the standard grange hall plan of a dining room and kitchen on the first floor and a more formal hall with stage for the performance of grange rituals and public presentations on the second floor. In 1915, the first floor was converted to commercial space. This necessitated a structural division of space within the building. "Modern" shop windows flanking a central recessed door were added to the façade to give access to the store, and an exterior door was added to the right of the shop bays, opening onto a closed stairway to the second floor. A meat market was added in the basement of the building in 1923. At some later time, the gallery floor above the kitchen and anteroom to the hall became the Juvenile Grange (#479) meeting area, probably when the group organized in 1940. Despite the loss of the last commercial tenant in the mid-1980s, the first floor windows and porch were rebuilt in 2008 by a community group interested in preserving the building and its history.

Narrative Description**Location and Setting**

Beaver Falls Grange Hall # 554 is located on the south side of Main Street, in the center of the hamlet of Beaver Falls, Town of Croghan, Lewis County. Beaver Falls lies 2 ½ miles west of the village of Croghan and 10 miles northeast of the county seat in Lowville, NY. All three towns were once connected by passenger service on the Lowville and Beaver River (L&BR) Railroad (built 1906; now out of service for both passengers and freight).¹

Historically, the hamlet of Beaver Falls extended to both banks of the Beaver River. Its growth is associated with the manufacturing activities of J. P. Lewis and his son, Harry Lewis, who developed and managed various pulp, paper, and fiberboard plants run by hydropower. The principal commercial buildings and both churches were on the north bank in the Town of Croghan, while many homes were built on the south bank in the Town of New Bremen.

The Grange Hall is oriented so that the gable end and store entrance face north towards Main Street; however, there is sufficient setback for a parking area and (in a video from the 1980s) a gas pump (no longer extant). To the east, there are two treed lots, an access road, and the local medical center. The access road

¹ Railway Historical Society of Northern New York, "Our History." www.newyorktrains.com/history.htm

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connects to the Omniafiltra mill to the south, in the former Latex Fiber Industries complex developed by Harry Lewis in 1925; this mill sits on the north bank of the Beaver River and is served by a siding of the former L&BR Railroad (with bridge) to the west and a dam generating electric power to the east. To the west is another access road to the Omniafiltra mill and the Beaver Falls Volunteer Fire Department. Across Main Street lies the community post office.

Most of the rest of the late-19th to mid-20th century commercial landscape has disappeared or buildings have been converted to domestic use. The smell of pulp manufacturing and the rise of personal vehicle ownership helped to decenter the community. The village school had already moved away from the hamlet center to New Bremen in 1875; the Beaver Inn (formerly, the Hotel Emulous) was run by Latex Fiber Industries until 1975, when it closed.² State Route 126 runs on the south side of the Beaver River through the Town of New Bremen; the hamlet is cut off from this thoroughfare and must be accessed by two bridges.

Exterior: Façade (North)

The façade of the nominated building is dominated by a first-floor hipped-roof porch over a commercial store front added in 1915, when the *Journal and Republican* and *Lowville Times* reported that the first floor of the building had “undergone extensive repairs and now presents the appearance of an up-to-date building.”³ The porch was stabilized and partially rebuilt in 2008; at that time much of the building was repainted and some glass was replaced.

The door to the store is recessed into the building and located near the center point of the facade with large single-pane shop windows located on each side. An almost identical door (not recessed) is on the extreme right; this second door provides access to the grange activities on the second floor. Each door has a central glass panel (the storefront door is single-pane; the stairway door is 2 X 2) with a single-pane transom running the width of the opening. Beneath the glass panel, each door has two recessed panels running the same width. A single panel runs beneath each shop window. The glass and the wood panels – in both the doors and storefront windows – are the same height to create unity.

The porch itself is roofed with asphalt shingles and sits on a concrete slab raised two steps above ground level. The four columns rest on round, replacement concrete pads and taper slightly to their capitals. These capitals are extremely simple: a simple circular molding (echinus) below a square plate (abacus) resting on the underside of the porch roof. The columns are spaced with a slightly wider gap in the middle to accommodate the off-central door into the store. The porch roof overhangs the columns (and concrete pad) by about 8” with an unadorned fascia, soffit, and frieze.

The fenestration for the first floor (balanced three-bay store front, plus door to the extreme right) is at odds with the symmetrical fenestration of the upper floors. On the second floor, two rectangular, 2 X 2 wood sash windows are equally spaced between the midpoint and the end of the wall. Between the windows (and centered on the midpoint) is a contemporary sign: Beaver Falls Grange in upper case letters, curving above the smaller P of H #554. The gallery floor above holds two shorter wood windows with elliptical 4-pane fanlights

² Recently, in 2015, the former inn was reopened as an Italian restaurant.

³ “Beaver Falls,” *Journal and Republican and Lowville Times*, January 7, 2015, 7.

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above a single fixed 2-pane sash. These windows are located closer to the midpoint; from the interior, they are equally spaced from the edge of the ceiling where it meets the sloped roof. At the very top of the gable end is a contemporary sign with the construction date: 1892.

The asphalt roof has a moderate slope with a narrow unadorned fascia, open eaves, and a plain frieze. All siding on the façade and other elevations is narrow clapboard butted against vertical corner boards of the same dimension. The irregular fieldstone foundation is visible on the west, south, and east elevations.

Exterior: West Elevation

On the west, the Beaver Falls Grange Hall is five bays wide on the second floor with identical windows in the first four bays; each consists of rectangular 2 X 2 wood sash, surmounted by an elliptical 4-pane fanlight identical to the upper sash of the top windows on the façade. On the first floor, all but one of the bays has been closed, presumably from the conversion of the building to commercial use; only a rectangular, 2 X 2 wood sash window (without fanlight) survives in the fourth bay. A seam down the exterior wall suggests that the fifth bay – containing a shorter window opening onto the upstairs stage with no window below – may also have been added in 1915.

Part of the foundation is visible, as the hall is built into a hill that slopes away to the south. Three boarded-up windows and one door are regularly spaced within the first four bays of the building. Another window is offset within the fifth bay, close to the seam extending down the wall; it is also shorter and starts higher from the ground, supporting the possibility that the rear part of the building may have been added at a later date. Oddly, despite the five openings, the fenestration does not match the openings on the upper floors at all.

Exterior: East Elevation

The east elevation is similar to the west – boarded windows on the first floor and five bays on the second. One exception is an emergency exit door and fire escape from the hall on the second floor, placed in the third-bay opening. The second difference is a narrow brick chimney on the exterior wall between the third and fourth bays; it appears to have served a furnace in the basement.

Exterior: Rear (South) Elevation

The rear (south) elevation contains one short window (first floor left) that is different in height from the sash on the other three sides, plus a lean-to on posts (first floor right). This lean-to is built with vertical wood siding and contains a vent that may have been used for a cooler or other store equipment. In any case, it appears to post-date the 1915 conversion.

Interior: First Floor

The first-floor interior is open with three support columns holding up a center support beam. All store fixtures have been removed; however paint shadows and wear patterns show where shelves and coolers stood. In the middle of the room, a galvanized steel duct rises from the basement and distributes hot air heat from ceiling vents. Some of the original wide, horizontal board trim remains, but most of the side walls have been covered

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with modern sheetrock. At the rear, a door leads into the lean-to; a second door (perhaps to a walk-in cooler) can be seen beyond.

Interior: Second Floor

The door to the right of the porch leads up a flight of steps to the second floor and grange hall. Like the rest of the features of the Beaver Falls Grange Hall, this staircase served a programmatic function, which will be discussed in Section 8. The stair was enclosed (with vertical boards above a chair rail, horizontal boards beneath) and led into an anteroom outside the hall. This anteroom has three six-panel doors – one directly into the hall, one into a closet above the stairs, and a third into a small kitchen (presumably installed when the store moved into the first floor). In addition, there is a hatch that may have been used for taking tickets or vetting attendees in the wall between the kitchen and anteroom.

The kitchen is simple and utilitarian. There is a stove (but no refrigerator) and plenty of counter space on built-in shelves and a table. Overall, the finish is vertical boards beneath a high chair rail and narrower horizontal matchstick board siding above. A set of triangular wooden shelves is set into the corner between the anteroom door and a window on the façade wall; on the other side of the window is a closed, hanging cabinet. A second closed cabinet on the east wall holds plates, mugs, and cutlery. The electric stove is placed on the partition wall leading into the hall; above it is another hatch (now closed and blocked off on the hall side with a blackboard). In the southwest corner, a door with peep-hole (operable from the outside) leads into the hall.

The hall itself is a large open space, well-lit with three windows (with simple 4-pane fanlights) on each side. Like the kitchen, the overall finish is vertical wide boards beneath a high chair rail and narrower horizontal matchstick board siding above. The room is high; the matchstick continues up the wall onto the slant of the outside roof and ceiling. A raised stage (with flanking doors) takes up the rear wall. The stage fills one bay of the exterior side walls and based on the seam in the exterior clapboard, the stage may have been added after the initial construction of the hall.

The stage retains its painted curtain, with a pastoral scene and advertisements from the 1920s. The advertisers include The Corner Store (tires, paint, and machines); Andre \$ Co. Ford Trucks and Tractors; The Croghan National Bank; RB Hilts Variety Store (Beaver Falls); G. C. Fredenburg (general merchandise); Martin F. Just (coal); Croghan Pharmacy; and the Ontario Milling Company (feed manufacturers).

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On the partition wall above the anteroom and kitchen, a band of matchstick board siding is applied in decorative slants. The space above is now closed off with Beaver Board (a type of composite fiberboard invented by local manufacturer James P. Lewis in 1906); however, it appears that there was an open gallery above these rooms at an earlier date.⁴

Interior: Gallery

Above the kitchen and anteroom, reached by an extension of the stairs from the first floor, is a small room that was used by Juvenile Grange #479 after it formed in 1940. Originally, the space appears to have been an open gallery looking out on the grange hall below. Two short windows (operable 4-part fanlights over fixed 2-pane sash) illuminate and ventilate the space; a large oil burner sits between the windows. The room is entirely paneled in narrow horizontal matchstick board siding – walls, roof slant, and ceiling.

⁴ Travis Bowman, *Harry and Molly Lewis House: Fiber Products Research Center* [National Register Nomination], New York State Historic Preservation Office, 2012, 8:3.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

1892-1965

Architect/Builder

N/A

Significant Dates

1892 (Construction)

1915 (Conversion of first floor to store)

Period of Significance (justification):

The period of significance extends from the construction of Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554 in 1892 to 1965 (fifty years from the present). Throughout that period, the local chapter of the Patrons of Husbandry occupied the building and used it for programmatic and social functions.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554 (Town of Croghan, Lewis County) is locally significant for social history, agriculture, and architecture. The building meets Criterion A in social history and agriculture for its association with the late 19th/early 20th century development of community and agriculture in the Beaver River Valley. Membership in the grange appealed to progressive members of the second generation of Americans and German, French, and Swiss immigrants who were inheriting and improving family farms in this part of Lewis County. Unusual for the time, both women and children over the age of 16 were full members and full participants in the ritual and activities of the grange. The ritual supported the social objectives of the grange. Programs included educational lectures provided by local members, state Grange lectures, and the NYS Cooperative Extension; cooperative purchases of farm supplies and insurance; and entertainment to reduce the isolation of rural farm families

The Beaver Falls Grange also meets Criterion C as a representative intact example of a subordinate grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, built on the late 19th century "grange room" plan. This plan requires an anteroom, reception room, and stage for use in ritual. The Beaver Falls building originally used both floors for its social and ritual functions. After the 1915 conversion of the first floor to commercial use, all of the grange functions were concentrated on the second floor; nevertheless, the hall retains all the distinctive characteristics of a typical grange.

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The period of significance is 1892 (date of construction) to 1965 (fifty years from the present.) Throughout that period the local grange members used the hall for their programs and, after 1915, rented the first floor for use as a country store. The building is currently vacant. The exterior of the hall was painted and partially restored by members of the community in 2008, but the organization itself is only nominally active with a membership of about twenty people.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Setting and Context:

Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554 is located in the hamlet of Beaver Falls, Town of Croghan, Lewis County, New York. Before the Revolutionary War, this interior county was little known. The first surveys to the north and east of the Black River Valley labeled the entire northern part of the state as wasteland, and no map until 1795 showed the river to be anything other than a bay off Lake Ontario.⁵ However, after the Revolution, the area quickly opened up. Two changes facilitated settlement. First, in 1784, the legislature established the New York State Land Commission to sell patents and raise money to pay off war debts. Second, in 1788, the Oneida Nation was persuaded to surrender ownership of most of the land west of the Adirondacks in the Treaty of Fort Stanwix. Four years later, Alexander Macomb, William Constable, and Daniel McCormick negotiated the bargain price of 8 pence per acre for more than 3.6 million acres of land in the northern part of the state. The size of this purchase (1/8 the surface area of the state) triggered an investigation into political favoritism, but no one really knew the extent of what had been sold until the purchase was surveyed in the 1790s.⁶

All the land in what are now Lewis, Jefferson, and St. Lawrence counties (and portions of Franklin, Herkimer, and Oswego counties) was included in the sale, but, at that time, the entire area was part of Herkimer County. Herkimer had been split off Tyron County in 1791; Oneida County split off Herkimer after 1798. Lewis County was taken from Oneida County in 1805 and named for then-Governor Morgan Lewis.⁷ In 1841, the Town of Croghan was formed out of the townships of Diana and Watson.

By then the area around Beaver Falls had been twice settled – once, abortively, by aristocratic refugees from the French Revolution and, later, by a second wave of Europeans, plus New Yorkers and New Englanders. The French settlement of Castorland was a direct result of Macomb's 1792 purchase. Macomb himself went bankrupt in another business speculation, but William Constable acquired much of his share. In 1793, Constable went to Paris and sold Peter Chassanis 450,950 acres. This land was surveyed by Chassanis's agents and the city of "Castorville" was laid out at Beaver Falls on their map. However, little actual settlement

⁵ Franklin B. Hough, *History of Lewis County, NY*. (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1883), 25. "This great plateau region of mountains, swamps and lakes, was found by the surveyors who explored it, as wild and inhospitable as any portion of the country yet visited by civilized man. It began to be poor soon after passing out of the borders of the Mohawk valley, and as it became worse towards the north, the inference very naturally followed that the northern border of the state was not susceptible of tillage. This area of northern New York was a small part of Macomb's Purchase, the largest patent sale made in NY, comprising more than 3.6 million acres of land. no map of a date earlier than 1795 has any trace of the Black River."

⁶ David Yehling Allen, *The Mapping of New York State: A Study in the History of Cartography*, Chapter 8: 9, 13. <http://digital.library.stonybrook.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/newyorkstatemaps/id/46>

⁷ Lewis County Historical Society, "Brief History of Lewis County." <http://www.lewiscountyhistory.org/history.html>

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occurred. Some clearing took place and a sawmill was built, but the French who came to the area were not experienced farmers and were unprepared for the North American environment.⁸ Eventually the assets of the French company passed to James Le Ray de Chaumont (known in America as James Le Ray) and, after Napoleon took power, many of the French émigrés returned to Europe.

These complex land deals are necessary to understand the second stage of settlement which began in 1830. By that time, the land had returned to wilderness.

*There was scarcely a perceptible progress in settlement during the first twenty-five years after the French removed. Their clearings and roads grew up with brambles, and their rude cabins rotted down, leaving but slight traces of their industry, and few evidences that this region had been traversed by civilized men.*⁹

After 1830, Americans from eastern New York and New England began to settle in the northern part of the township, and Le Ray's agents were able to sell plots in the southern section to an increasing number of Europeans. Jacob Kiefer came to the Town of Croghan from Metz in the department of Moselle around 1830; Joseph Kiefer and Christian Hierschey arrived in 1831; a third Kiefer (John) arrived in 1837 or 1838.¹⁰ By 1845, the township had a population of around 700.¹¹ Four years later, the population was 1,168 – 646 Americans and Irish and 522 French, German, and Swiss. Together, the Towns of Croghan and New Bremen (the north and south sides of the Beaver River) held 247 European families in 1849, of which 190 families (987 people) were French, 46 (230) German, and 11 (58) Swiss. Most (150 families) were Catholic, with the remainder divided between Protestant (57) and "Muscovite," presumably, Mennonite (39).¹² Nine of the European families had arrived in America on or before 1830; 132 families by 1840 and the remaining 106 by 1849. The arrival of forty-five families in the two years before the 1850 census and the doubling of European families on Le Ray's lands in the next ten years suggest that the aftermath of the Revolutions of 1848 and the turbulent religious climate in Europe had a direct effect on settlement in this part of Lewis County.¹³

In his 1883 *History of Lewis County, NY*, Franklin B. Hough noted that:

The Europeans who often came in large companies, and who settled together, naturally retained for some years their native language in common use, in families, and in religious meetings; but most of the middle-aged, and all of the young, acquired very readily the English. The children attending the district schools, where this language alone is taught, and associating with Americans, of course soon acquired

⁸ Hough tells the story of J. T. Devouassoux, a retired military officer, who unwittingly built his home in the flood plain of the Beaver River and was forced to move it to higher ground.

⁹ Hough, 165.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Hamilton Child, *Gazetteer and business Directory of Lewis County, N.Y., for 1872-3* (Syracuse: Printed at the Journal Office, 1872), 81. The population for Croghan is listed as 1,014 but that includes an area that became part of the new town of New Bremen in 1848. According to Hough (489), 315 people in Croghan lived there.

¹² Since it is unlikely that neither the Russian Orthodox nor the Old Believer Church was active in the areas of France and Germany from which the settlers emigrated, this term may refer to the large Mennonite population that early established itself in the Town of Croghan.

¹³ Hough, 165-166.

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*the language of the country, without a trace of foreign accent, and in a few years longer, not a vestige of the French or German will be found in that part of the country.*¹⁴

Nonetheless, it was not until the census of 1875 that the number of native-born voters (males over the age of 21) exceeded the number of naturalized voters.¹⁵

Beaver Falls

According to Lewis Van Arnam, the area around the hamlet of Beaver Falls was resettled about 1836, the year Le Ray sold some lots in the area of the old Castorville plat to Robert Archdekin. Soon after, Jacob and Rudolf Rohr bought land adjoining the falls on both banks of the river and built a sawmill on the north (Town of Croghan) side. Others joined the Rohrs in the community, first called Rohr's Mill.¹⁶ As more native-born New Yorkers and New Englanders arrived to build mills, the hamlet became Beaverton; around 1866, it received its current name of Beaver Falls.¹⁷

Several settlers from Northville, New York, were particularly important in the development of Beaver Falls as a manufacturing community in the midst of farming country. Aaron Foote is thought to be the first; he built a sawmill on the south side of the river sometime in the early 1850s. Hiram Lewis arrived in 1852, built a tannery, and sold it around 1856 to William LeFevre, a tanner from Northville who had exhausted his bark supply. J.P. (James Polk) Lewis arrived from Northville in 1871; his father Hiram had built the tannery and his brother-in-law, Martin LeFevre, now ran it. Lewis, LeFevre, and builder Charles Nuffer (a local German who had married into the Lewis family) constructed the first pulp mill in 1880; this became the foundation of J.P. Lewis's pulp and paper empire.¹⁸

In 1873, Child noted that Beaver Falls contained "one church (Methodist), one tannery, two saw mills, one store and about fifty houses."¹⁹ The map from Beers's *Atlas of Lewis County, 1875*, shows the community straddling both banks of the Beaver River with the German Evangelical church (not Methodist) clearly labelled and six major businesses identified in the business notices:²⁰

¹⁴ Hough, 166-167.

¹⁵ Hough, 79.

¹⁶ Lewis S. Van Arnam, *Beaver Falls Cavalcade: 1794-1979* (Beaver Falls: Self-published, 1979), 17.

¹⁷ Van Arnam, 13.

¹⁸ Van Arnam, 18, 23, 35; DeWitt C. LeFevre gave a slightly different account of the founding families in his biography, *Grand-père's Legacy* (Beaver Falls: NY: Appleknockers, 1979), 6-10.

¹⁹ Child, 160, 81. Child gives population totals from the 1860, 1865, and 1870 census returns. His data on the church came from its pastor, Rev. Edward A. Weier. However, although doctrinally aligned with the Methodists, the Evangelical Association first joined the United Brethren and, only in 1968, the Methodists.

²⁰ D.G. Beers, *Atlas of Lewis County, 1875* (Philadelphia, PA: Pomeroy, Whitman & Co., 1875).

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Beaver Falls Village Business Notices.

Le Fever M. R., Proprietor of Tannery and Dealer in General Merchandise.
 Lewis James P., Dealer in Dry Goods, Ready Made Clothing, Hats, Caps, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Hardware, Crockery, Flour, Pork, Fish, Salt, Meal, Yankee Notions and Medicines.
 Nuffer Charles, Millwright, Bridge and General Builder, all kinds of Job work done.
 Richner Rudolph, Proprietor of Beaver Falls Hotel.
 Rohr Peter J., Sawyer.
 Schlup Jacob, Farmer and Proprietor of Improved Horse Power Thresher.

Fig. 1: D. G. Beers, *Atlas of Lewis County* (Philadelphia, PA: Pomeroy, Whitman & Co., 1875).

In 1883, Hough noted the new pulp mill:

*This manufacturing village upon both sides of the Beaver river, and upon the line of Croghan and New Bremen, is on the site of the prospective city of "Castorville," of the French pioneers, and it is to be regretted that it does not bear this name. It is the seat of the extensive tannery, lumber mills, and a pulpmill.*²¹

Lewis gained sole control of the mill in 1883 and built another using an improved pulp grinding process in 1887 – only the second with this hydraulic process in New York State. Paper mills and paper specialties followed. At the time of his death in 1912, J.P. Lewis was the second richest man in Lewis County. His obituary, in the local *Lowville Herald*, noted that "It was through the agency of these mills that the village of Beaver Falls grew to a population of about 500, the mills being the only industry in that town, and in them the greater part of the male population of the town was employed."²²

The first church (not Methodist) was formed by some of the German-speaking Protestants in 1854; it became part of the Evangelical Association, a larger gathering of pietistic, Arminian (non-Calvinist) German-speaking congregations begun by the Pennsylvania Dutch.²³ The Mennonites worshiped in homes following the practices of the primitive church.²⁴ Catholics were served by a mission church in the nearby village of Croghan, 2 ½ miles east. Services had begun there in 1831 in a small log blockhouse. By 1835, the parish of St. Stephen's was organized with 125 members and erected a larger building, followed by a 600-seat building in 1842. However, no permanent priest was assigned to the community until 1854, when Fr. Anthony Heimo arrived from Switzerland. An influx of German Catholics came in the 1870s, as Otto von Bismarck strove to unify Germany and reduce the power of Pope Pius IX through a policy of *Kulturkampf* ("culture struggle"). Between 1871 and 1878, Bismarck attacked the Catholic Church by imprisoning bishops and priests and suppressing the monastic orders. In 1874, five German Franciscan friars arrived from Fulda (Hesse) and asked

²¹ Hough, 167.

²² "J. P. Lewis: Death of a Well Known Paper Manufacturer," *Lowville Herald and Lewis County Democrat*, March 8, 1912, 5.

²³ As Hough predicted, English gradually gained precedence, and an English-speaking group seceded to join the neighboring Methodist Church in 1889. However, German remained in use for services until 1917 and the Great War. Salem Christian Fellowship Church. "About US: Church History." <http://www.salemcfc.com/#/about-us/church-history>

²⁴ Hough, 169.

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the Bishop of Ogdensburg for a pastoral appointment. He is said to have answered: "Here are altar breads and wine. Go to Croghan, say Mass, and serve there."²⁵

By 1870, the Town of Croghan had a population of 2,433 – 1,638 native-born and 795 foreign-born; this was an almost 20 percent increase in total population since the 1860 census. In 1880, the population was 3,374.²⁶ The 1890 federal census was destroyed by fire in the early 20th century, but the detailed 1892 state census shows that sixty-three of the German-born residents of the first election district of the Town of Croghan were farmers, while only nine were laborers, seven were in trades (cooper, masonry, and shoemaking), one, an agent, and one, a merchant. Many of the native-born children of these German immigrants also farmed – generally with their parents – but many more were engaged in a wide variety of jobs, often at the mills run by J.P. Lewis and his partners.²⁷ A majority of the charter members of the Beaver Hall Grange #554 came from these second generation Americans.

Agriculture

The land to the east of the Black River rises gradually towards the border between Lewis and Herkimer counties and the western Adirondacks. Much of the area is drained by the Beaver River and its tributaries, and the Beaver joins the Black River just four miles west of Beaver Falls. The area around Beaver Falls itself is fertile, especially the lands flooded by the river each year. However, many of the soils elsewhere are thin, and the area is better suited to dairy than to intensive crop production.

Once the second phase of settlement began in the 1830s, both banks of the Beaver River were quickly turned into productive agricultural land.

From the fact that settlements were delayed some forty years later on the east side of the river than upon the west, the first impression from a contrast in the conditions on the two sides of the river, must have had a discouraging effect upon immigrants, but now, since clearings and improvements have been made, the agricultural capabilities of the eastern towns, are found to be much greater than was formerly supposed possible.²⁸

The 1849 census of the towns of Croghan and New Bremen notes that the European families in the area

...owned or occupied 12,413 acres of which 4,338 were fenced and improved, and 500 partly cleared. They owned 59 horses, 388 sheep, 513 swine and 1,256 horned cattle, and their produce the year previous had been 2,770 bushels of wheat, 4,430 of corn, 7,513 of rye, 3,127 of buckwheat, 10,640 of oats, and 33,339 of potatoes, 1,447 tons of hay, 17,068 pounds of butter exclusive of that used in families, and 27,925 pounds of maple sugar.²⁹

Much of this output was for personal use, but some of this grain was grown for sale. The choice of cash crop was dependent upon the available transportation. Initially, few roads ran into Lewis County. The NYS Legislature only approved construction of what is now Route 26 in 1803; it ran north from Rome to Turin,

²⁵ St. Stephen's Church, *The History of the St. Stephen's Parish Community*. ststephenscroghan.org/history.htm

²⁶ Hough, 79.

²⁷ *New York State Census, County of Lewis, Town of Croghan, Electoral District 1, 1892*. www.ancestry.com

²⁸ Hough, 166.

²⁹ Hough, 165-166.

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Lowville, and Watertown. In winter, wheat from the Black River Valley was taken by sleigh to Albany, or to Utica and Rome after the Erie Canal opened in 1825. Construction of the Black River Canal began in 1836 but took almost 20 years to complete; in 1855, the navigable "Black River Shallows" were finally connected to the City of Rome by a 35-mile feeder canal that began at Lyons Falls.³⁰ Elsewhere in the state, railroads soon out-competed canals, but the gradient between the Mohawk and Black River valleys made railroad construction to Lewis County as difficult as canal building. Eventually, a line was pushed through Lewis County from Utica to Ogdensburg, but nothing went smoothly. The Utica & Black River Railroad (U&BRR) opened in stages: from Utica to Boonville in 1855, to Lyons Falls in 1867, to Lowville in 1868, to Carthage in 1871, through Watertown to Sackets Harbor in 1874, and eventually to Ogdensburg in 1878. Although plans were made for a branch line from Lowville through Beaver Falls to Harrisville in late 1880, the Lowville and Beaver River Rail Road (L&BRR) did not get started until 1904, when J.P. Lewis backed the short line to serve his mills. The first run was an excursion on January 15, 1906, with 300 people on board.³¹

Until daily rail service began, wool, cheese, and butter were the predominant agricultural exports. Wool had a nearby market – the steam-powered knitting and woolen mills of the industrializing Mohawk Valley. However, fluid milk needed to be converted into cheese and butter for sale to more distant markets. According to the 1865 Agricultural Census, Lewis County produced almost a million pounds of cheese. In the same census, there are detailed statistics for the Towns of Croghan and New Bremen:

Croghan: (north bank of the Beaver River)

- 13,418 Bushels of Oats
- 1520 Bushels of Indian Corn
- 26,289 Bushels of Potatoes
- 1265 Milk Cows
- 91,097 Pounds Butter
- 292 Horses over two years old
- 1118 Sheep shorn for their fleece
- plus trivial amounts of winter wheat, tobacco, and apples.

New Bremen: (south bank of the river and even more productive)

- 17,037 Bushels of Oats
- 2259 Bushels of Indian Corn
- 24,305 Bushels of Potatoes
- 1452 Milk Cows
- 94,004 Pounds Butter
- 301 Horses over two years old

³⁰ The 2009 Lewis County Comprehensive Plan notes that, "The Black River Canal was the longest surviving of the Erie Canal System feeder canals, with segments remaining in use until circa 1920."

<http://lewiscountyny.org/content/Generic/View/20:field=documents;/content/Documents/File/858.pdf>

³¹ Railway Historical Society of Northern New York, "Our History." <http://www.newyorktrains.com/history.htm>

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- 876 Sheep shorn for their fleece.³²

Cheese and butter went to the ever-expanding cities of the Eastern seaboard. The Civil War had facilitated the development of cheese factories; the scarcity of labor and the need to improve quality led to the centralization of production in Lewis County (and in much of rural New York State). However, the trade was somewhat seasonal. Hough noted that butter was “still chiefly produced upon farms, in the spring and fall at seasons when it is found more profitable than cheese.”³³ At first the cheesemakers were local people who returned a fair price to the farmers. As time went on, more adversarial relationships developed between farmers and cheesemakers, or between farmers and the butter and cheese agents who brought their dairy products.

Nationwide, the rise of exploitative middlemen and increasingly exorbitant freight rates led farmers to organize and demand reforms. From the Civil War through the beginning of the twentieth century, the value of farm lands kept rising but not farm prices – so farmers were forced to borrow and take on more risk to expand.³⁴ The resulting tensions helped fuel the development of the Patrons of Husbandry – the “Grange” – in the nation and, after 1888, in northern New York State.

The Development of the Grange

The grange was a product of the chaos of the post-Civil War South. In 1866, Oliver Hudson Kelley was sent on an inspection tour of Southern states by the federal commissioner of agriculture. As a Northerner, he was ill-received; however, as a Mason, he was welcomed and shown great hospitality by his fraternal brothers. Kelley decided that “a great fraternity of farm folks, embracing in its folds the North and the South, would accomplish much in wiping out the scourge which war had spread over the fair lands of the south.”³⁵ Soon after he returned to Washington, Kelley visited his niece, Caroline A. Hall, in Boston. She convinced him to include women as equal members with men in his new fraternal order. The Patrons of Husbandry, or National Grange, was formally established in Washington, D.C., on December 4, 1867. Potomac Grange # 1 was organized on January 8, 1868. This first lodge became a “trial” site for the development of grange ritual and the seven degrees of membership.³⁶ The first subordinate grange was organized a year later as Fredonia Grange #1 in Chautauqua County, New York. Kelley is generally given credit for the creation of the Patrons of Husbandry but he himself acknowledged the help of six other “Founders” along with his niece.

The movement grew quickly for eight years. At the end of its first year, there were 10 granges; at the end of its second, forty-six (plus the first statewide organization in Minnesota.) Year three added 134 chapters; in year four, the total was 1,005. By 1875, there were more than 750,000 members in more than twenty states. Yet, despite the early involvement of farmers from New York State, most of this growth took place in the west

³² Child, 161.

³³ Hough, 72.

³⁴ James I. Stewart, “The Economics of American Farm Unrest, 1865-1900,” *EH.Net Encyclopedia of Economic and Business History*. [Electronic Resource] <https://eh.net/encyclopedia/the-economics-of-american-farm-unrest-1865-1900/>

³⁵ Lenard L. Allen, *History of New York State Grange* (Watertown, NY: Hungerford-Holbrook Co., 1934), 17.

³⁶ Nordin, *Rich Harvest: A History of the Grange, 1867-1900* (Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1974), 11.

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and south; only 11,723 members were reported from the state.³⁷ New York farmers were fragmented by class, size of farm, and cash crop, and unable to find common ground in the grange.

Tenants, for example, sought paternalist protection from the disruptions of the market, while commercial farmers worked to forge organizations that would advance the interests of large-scale producers at the state and national level. Frequently they advocated policies that would push poor farmers out of business and off the land. Grange members, who occupied the middle strata of the farm community, sought solutions that would maintain rural society and the competitiveness of family farmers through self-discipline, education, temperance, and mixed-farming strategies that limited risk. Their position frequently put them at odds with tenants, who they believed were poor farmers, and large-scale producers, who they believed cared little for the rural community at large.³⁸

Membership in both the national and state grange shrank quickly after 1876. The disputes about Midwestern freight charges, which had fueled national growth, were largely resolved by legislative and judicial action, and the purchasing and manufacturing cooperatives, which enabled farmers to buy cheaper products, became liabilities at the state level. The grange became financially overextended, especially in the manufacture of farm equipment.³⁹

Two other factors undermined the appeal of the organization. Some grange values (like temperance) implicitly excluded Catholics and immigrants, and a variety of religious denominations condemned the grange for its quasi-Masonic rituals. From the start, the founders considered hard work, thrift, and self-reliance foundational to the survival of family farms and rural communities. Alcohol was seen as antithetical to these values, and those who drank were not to be recruited for membership. At the same time, many religious groups discouraged their adherents from seeking membership. The Catholic Church was opposed on the basis of a papal bull ("In eminenti apostolates") issued in 1738 that banned all fraternal groups whose oaths of secrecy prevented full and unfettered confessions. (A few local priests allowed farmers to join the order to gain its economic benefits, but most Catholic bishops did not.)⁴⁰ Many Protestant denominations were equally opposed. Immigrant Calvinistic denominations associated the grange (and all secret societies) with "false worship of God," while American churches like the Presbyterians and United Brethren voiced similar qualms. Conservative New England denominations particularly disliked the equal membership of women.⁴¹

By 1880, the national membership of the grange had dropped to slightly more than 100,000.⁴² But, despite the odds, the order survived and was in place to expand again in the late 1880s. This time, New York State was a major focus of growth.

D. Swen Nordin explains the resurgence of the grange as a "post-frontier" phenomenon:

³⁷ Allen, 19-20, 40.

³⁸ Thomas Summerhill, *Harvest of Dissent: Agrarianism in Nineteenth-century New York* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2005), 223.

³⁹ Allen, 20; "Granger movement," *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/241647/Granger-movement

⁴⁰ Nordin, 23.

⁴¹ O. Fritiof Ander, "The Immigrant Church and the Patrons of Husbandry," *Agricultural History* 8:4 (Oct 1934), 161.

⁴² "Granger movement."

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The Grange and its growth patterns in the nineteenth century reflected the influence of one area of settlement upon others. As farmers settled the Great Plains, they had to adjust to new conditions. Corresponding adjustments also were made east of the Mississippi River. By the 1880s, easterners had to revise their agricultural practices to survive the onslaught from prairie competition. To combat the advantages enjoyed by settlers of the Plains, easterners turned to the Patrons of Husbandry, seeking legislative and other assistance.

...there were really two Granger movements. One covered the years 1870-1880 and primarily affected the West and South; the second spanned the years 1880-1900 and displayed its greatest vigor in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and the eastern Middle West.⁴³

The first accurate report of New York State membership by county was included in the State Grange journal for 1892; it showed a total of 494 subordinate granges in 39 counties with an overall membership of 32,498.⁴⁴ This was an almost 200 percent increase in twelve years (from 13,000 in 1880). The third and fourth State Masters of the New York Grange were largely responsible for this growth through the employment of full-time organizers to establish new granges (and reactivate old ones) and through the development of policies that better represented the state's farming communities. During W.A. Armstrong's tenure as secretary and master, the grange pushed for the development of the Geneva Experimental Station, passed referendums advocating women's suffrage (1881) and temperance (1886), successfully pressured the State Legislature to appoint a state railroad commission and a state dairy commissioner, organized Grange Day at Chautauqua, and expanded cooperative purchasing and mutual fire insurance benefits. During Walter C. Gifford's term, the grange successfully lobbied for a trial of free rural mail delivery, established Grange Day at Thousand Island Park in Jefferson County, opened a permanent grange building at the State Fair in Syracuse, and passed resolutions for improved state, county, and town roads.⁴⁵

In 1892, Lewis County had 19 active granges with a total membership of 1726. One of these was Beaver Falls Grange #554, organized on June 28, 1888.

Beaver Falls Grange #554

The State Lecturer of the New York State Grange was very busy in the winter of 1887-1888 – J.B. Whiting spent months organizing new granges in Jefferson and Lewis Counties. State lecturers like Whiting played an important role in reviving the movement by bringing information on best practices to local communities and hosting organizational meetings. The first state lecturer had been a leading Ayrshire breeder in Jefferson County; other early lecturers were Prof. L.R. Lazenby of Cornell University and W.A. Armstrong (later New York State Grange Master) on the board of directors of the Geneva Experimental Station. In March, 1888, Whiting told the *Lowville Journal & Republican* that he had recently organized five granges in St. Lawrence County and seven in Lewis County – and was aiming for three more before returning home to Seneca County.⁴⁶

A newspaper report on the organization of Glendale Grange #548 gives a sense of the process:

⁴³ Nordin, 14.

⁴⁴ Allen, 65.

⁴⁵ Allen, 56-66.

⁴⁶ *Lowville Journal & Republican*, March 29, 1888, 3.

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—On the evening of March 8th, a number of farmers and their wives met at the residence of Mr. F. D. Stiles, at which time Mr. J. B. Whiting, lecturer of State Grange, assisted by W. W. Squires, overseer of New Haven Grange and chaplain of the Oswego county council, organized a grange to be known as the Glendale grange.⁴⁷

A local resident was asked to invite neighbors; the state lecturer brought leaders from adjoining granges to testify to the benefits of membership; presentations were made on the hierarchy of the National Grange and the roles of officers; and the people present voted to establish a new branch of the grange in their community. Once the decision was made, more information was provided on the rituals and local officers elected.

Joining the grange gave isolated farmers entrée into a larger community of like-minded “brothers” and “sisters.” Local granges were defined as Subordinate Granges and organized either into a County Council or Pomona Grange (county-level groups for members who had achieved the fifth degree of membership or above). The Pomona Granges inducted members of the Subordinate Granges into the fifth degree, and selected members to attend the annual State Grange. The State Grange inducted individuals into the sixth degree and sent delegates to the annual meeting of the National Grange. There, individuals could be inducted to the seventh – and highest – degree of the order. District meetings gave local grangers the opportunity to build relationships within their counties. There were also picnics that were widely publicized to attract new members. One such picnic was held the month the Beaver Falls grange was formed.

THE GRANGERS' PICNIC.

The weather was very auspicious Wednesday for the basket picnic under the auspices of the granges of Lewis county at Forest park, and about six hundred farmers, their wives, sons and daughters were present. All came with well-filled baskets and a sumptuous dinner was greatly enjoyed. Leonard's Silver band marched to the grounds at one o'clock and discoursed fine music during the afternoon. The chief attraction of the afternoon, however, to the farmer, was the address delivered by Hon. Mortimer Whitehead, of New Jersey, grand lecturer of the national grange. He spoke for about two hours and gave his views on the tariff question, the two political parties, emigration, schools, etc. There were eleven county granges represented, and all apparently had a good time.⁴⁸

In the case of Beaver Falls, a Mr. Samson organized a group of second-generation German farmers and laborers – and their wives – into subordinate grange #554 on June 28, 1888, at the home of Ed Tyner; Samson was assisted by George Kinsey of Natural Bridge Grange #497, Jefferson County. The charter members were:

- George Tyner – farmer with 113 acres and 10 cows and 3 horses; cemetery records show a George Tyner was born in 1832
- Edward and Rebecca Tyner – laborers
- Peter Ver Schneider – farmer with his father, Frank, on 115 acres, 10 cows and 3 horses
- Fred Sauer – EITHER Fred H. Sauer, assessor and farmer on 100 acres in the Town of New Bremen OR Fred Sauer, farmer of 52 acres near Naumburgh; Fred H. Sauer's dates are 1854-1927
- Henry Ritchner – possibly the son of Rudolph Richner, who built a hotel in Beaver Falls in 1893

⁴⁷ *Lowville Journal & Republican*, March 22, 1888, 3.

⁴⁸ “The Granger's Picnic,” *Lowville Journal & Republican*, June 21, 1888, 3.

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- Jacob Weyeneth – possibly the son of Rudolph Weyeneth, farmer of 8 acres in New Bremen and veteran of the Civil War
- Fred Widmeyer – farmer with his brother, George, of 134 acres, 12 cows, 3 horses
- John Sauer – EITHER John Sauer, farmer with 100 acres and 10 cows OR his son, John Sauer, Jr., also listed as a farmer; the son's dates are 1851-1913
- Thomas and Amelia Tyner – farmer on 50 acres with 2 cows and 2 horses who also worked at one of the sawmills; cemetery dates for Thomas are 1844-1924, and for Amelia, 1854-1939
- Philander M. and Mary Smith – farmer who leased 117 acres with 12 cows, 3 horses, and a 5-acre hop yard; cemetery dates for Philander are 1845-1925, and for Mary, 1848-1929
- Amos Petzoldt – farmer listed as having 43 acres, including 5 acres "Black river flat"
- Jacob and Jennie Nuffer – no directory listing but Jennie's cemetery dates are 1860-1935⁴⁹

Most of the people on this list were young. George Tyner seems to have been the oldest charter member at age 56 and he became the first "Worthy Master" of the Beaver Falls Grange.

A second meeting was held at his house on July 7, 1888, at which first- and second-degree membership was conferred on Michael Smith (farmer on 54 acres with 1 cow and 2 horses), Augustus Pachaud (farmer on 57 acres, "furnishes grazing for stock, soldier in Union army"), and Frank Ver Schneider, whose son was a charter member. The grange continued to meet in homes and at Philander M. Smith's hop house for the next few months before renting space in Hirschey's Cheese Factory on Main Street. Newspaper references to a grange building (not the current one) mention the addition of an outside stairway, formation of a Knights Templar Lodge (temperance organization), and holding of a strawberry and ice-cream festival "for the benefit of the church," all in 1889.⁵⁰ (An English-speaking Methodist Church opened in Beaver Falls in 1890 and, in any case, religious opposition in the German evangelical denominations had clearly waned by this period.)⁵¹ Other newspaper clips note "basket" and harvest picnics in Joseph Ver Schneider's grove, a grape festival for the local Evangelical minister, and a July 4th celebration with music during the day and dancing by Ormsby's orchestra in the evening.⁵²

Growth continued and, on March 14, 1891, a committee was selected to plan a grange hall in Beaver Falls. The lot next to the cheese factory was bought from John Klett (later in business as a wagon maker in Constableville).⁵³ In September a special meeting was called to authorize a building committee.⁵⁴ This group

⁴⁹ Van Arnum, 133; Information on individual members from the 1895 Business Directory of Lewis County (William Adams, *Business Directory of Lewis County with Map, 1895-96*, Syracuse, NY: J.P. Fralick, 1896, passim.) and records of the Beaver Falls Old Cemetery associated with the German Evangelical Church (*Town of Croghan – Beaver Falls Old Cemetery*. www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nlewis/beaverfallsoldcem.htm).

⁵⁰ *Lowville Journal & Republican*, June 27, 1889, 3; *Lowville Times and Lewis County Independent*, July 11, 1889, 3; and *Lowville Journal & Republican*, July 11, 1889, 3.

⁵¹ G. Byron Bowan (Ed.). *History of Lewis County, New York: 1880-1965* (Lowville, NY: Board of Legislators of Lewis County, 1970), 111.

⁵² *Lowville Journal & Republican*, June 26, 1890, 3; August 14, 1890, 4; September 18, 1890, 3; June 25, 1891, 3.

⁵³ Directory, 1896, 618.

⁵⁴ Van Arnum, 133.

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was obviously quite efficient. Fourteen months later Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554 opened with a celebration. "Agamemnon," newspaper correspondent for the Denmark Grange #535, gave a report:

Last Saturday night, it was our good fortune to be present at the grand opening of the new hall of the Beaver Falls grange. The hall was packed to its utmost capacity. It was a public gathering. Worthy Master Scheer presided. The programme [sic] was well carried out on the part of the ladies of Beaver Falls grange, whose essays and addresses were of the highest order, as also was the singing. After the literary exercises, short addresses were made by Hon. Nathan Clark, Copenhagen; H.E. Cook, Denmark, John L. Smith, Turin, G.P. Saunders, Utica, and Prof. Frank Thompson, Lowville. Refreshments were served in abundance, and the Naumburg cornet band, led by Prof. Thompson, enlivened the occasion. Success to the Beaver Falls grange.

AGAMEMNON⁵⁵

A new organ was installed the following March. Electricity was added in 1912 and, in 1914, the building was altered to accommodate a general store on the first floor.

Cleveland Fredenburg has moved his stock of dry goods and groceries from the Higby block to Grange hall which has undergone extensive repairs and now presents the appearance of an up-to-date building.⁵⁶

The Bach family opened a meat market in the basement of the building in 1923; Van Arnum recalls that it was entered from an interior stairway with the meat grinder in a back room.⁵⁷ Juvenile Grange #479 was organized in 1940 and occupied the space at the top of the stairs above the anteroom and kitchen.⁵⁸

Meetings

Reports of the grand opening of the hall emphasize the mix of education and entertainment presented at grange meetings. In 1893, the Beaver Falls Grange hosted the Lewis County Council with lectures on "Women's Work in the Grange" by Mrs. Wayne Clark and the "Road question" by A. F. Lanpher, followed by guided discussions and a "Question Box" to help attendees further share knowledge.⁵⁹ In 1895, Beaver Falls decided to apply for certification as a Pomona Grange, bringing firth-degree members of nearby subordinate granges together for day-long programs and ritual activities.⁶⁰

A great deal of effort must have gone into these meetings, based on the *Lowville Journal & Republican* account of the September, 1898, event:

⁵⁵ *Lowville Journal & Republican*, November 03, 1892, 3.

⁵⁶ *Journal and Republican and Lowville Times*, January 07, 1915, 7. Fredenburg and his son, George, continued to run this business until the mid-1980s. They were related through the Steinhilber family to the Van Arnams, who were part of the extended LeFevre, Lewis, and Slocum families that ran the mills and other stores in Beaver Falls. LeFevre, 10.

⁵⁷ Van Arnam, 118, 134.

⁵⁸ L. Ray Alexander, *History of the New York State Grange, 1961-1973*, in L. Ray Alexander, *100 Year History of the New York State Grange, 1873-1970*, 187. [No publication information]

⁵⁹ *Lewis County Democrat*, June 07, 1893, 3.

⁶⁰ *Lowville Journal & Republican*, October 03, 1895, 4.

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COUNTY POMONA GRANGE: A Successful Meeting Held at Beaver Falls – Some Suggestive Addresses – Next Meeting at Lowville

.... Worthy Master J. E. Knapp occupied the master's chair. The meeting was opened in the fourth degree in regular order [NOTE: This meant all full members of the subordinate granges could attend the educational program], and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Reports of members were in order, and J. D. Paris, past-master of the Pomona, gave a good report of grange work and explained the necessity of every grange in the county being connected with the Pomona grange. J. L. Smith spoke words of encouragement for the grange. Geo. Tiner, of Beaver Falls grange, was called upon and responded cheerfully. Mr. Bush, of Kirschnerville grange, gave a good report of his grange. Recess was taken for dinner.

At 1:30 the grange reassembled in the fourth degree. At this juncture Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture Richardson entered the hall and received a hearty welcome. The Worthy Lecturer, Mrs. Stiles, of Glendale, took the exercises into her hands and spoke on what she saw and heard at the Thousand Islands on "Grange day."⁶¹ Mrs. Mary E. S. Rich, of Copenhagen, read a paper on "Women's work in the grange." Mrs. Rich belongs to the committee on woman's work in the New York State grange. She referred very forcibly to the new woman of to-day, and held that the "new woman" is doing no more than the "old woman" had done. She spoke of Miss Clara Barton, of the Red Cross society, and of what she is doing. The speaker urged the doing of all work cheerfully and with a feeling of delight; she believes in doing with a light heart. It was a grand good paper.

"Why does the mortgage pay better than the farm?" was the subject of a paper by E. E. Ragan, of Glendale.... G. L. Rook, of Harrisburg, favored the meeting with a song.

Assistant Commissioner S. B. Richardson was called upon for an address on the dairy interests of the country.... He said that fewer failures occurred among the farming classes than any other class. Farmers want more faith in each other; more education to farm more intelligently than our forefathers did. He advocated organization and held that the grange is an organization intended to benefit the farmers. Mr. Richardson explained the milk station system pro and con and called the attention of the farmers to the importance of giving the matter careful consideration, as stations are being erected in the county. O. F. Bowen, of Denmark, was called upon to discuss the subject of milk stations and factory business. He spoke intelligently on the subject. Worthy Master Knapp also spoke on the same line and said he believed the milk station a Godsend to this country, especially to the farmers living along the line of the railroad, while those more remote would be more or less benefited. He spoke of the feeding value of whey....

John L. Smith, of Turin grange, spoke on the subject, "Method and tact on the farm and in business affairs." Mr. Richardson spoke on method and tact, and was followed by E. E. Ragan and J. D. Paris on the same line. Mr. Paris believes that tact and method are inseparable. W. S. Windecker took up the same subject, after which the meeting closed in the fourth degree and opened in the fifth degree. Several applications were received and accepted into the Pomona, among the number S. B. Richardson. The candidates received the obligation of the degree. County Deputy P. E. White, of

⁶¹ Following the first "Grange Day" at Chautauqua in 1889, a similar day was established at Thousand Island Park in 1891.

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*Denmark, spoke with his usual earnestness upon all subjects relating to grange work, and the general opinion of ail present was that he is the right man in the right place. The meeting throughout was one of more than usual interest. The next meeting of the Pomona will be held in Lowville.*⁶²

In the early 20th century, the New York State Department of Agriculture began holding its Farmer's Institutes at some of the local granges in Lewis County. In 1910, 1913, and 1914, the Beaver Falls Grange presented sessions on alfalfa, under draining, potato growing, schools, social problems on the farm, horse breeding, rural citizenship, music and recreation in the home, tuberculosis (particularly bovine TB), seed, poultry, silage, and swine.⁶³

Another factor in the success of the Beaver Falls Grange was its focus on economic cooperation. From the start, farmers in Beaver Falls bought seed and fertilizer together and purchased insurance from the Jefferson and Lewis Counties Patrons' Fire Relief Association. At various times from 1888 to 1925, other perks of membership were developed by the State Grange. These included weekly publication of grange news in the Utica Press (1897), participation in the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo (1901), state legislation to suppress the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine (a competitor to butter) and to build better roads, scholarships for students to study at Cornell University (1904; later rolled into a Revolving Scholarship Fund, 1923), creation of a system of Juvenile Granges (1904 in Wayne County; 1940 at Beaver Falls), representation on the Cornell University Board of Directors (1906), lobbying for statewide extension of parcel post service (to supplement rural free delivery), development of a rural health committee (1914; an outgrowth of an earlier committee on tuberculosis), various patriotic drives during World War 1, life insurance (1919), and improvements in rural schools (1920).⁶⁴

Many grange policies began at the county or local level. In 1903, the Pomona Grange of Orange County adopted a resolution advocating cooperative milk-marketing and, three years later, the subordinate Wallkill River Grange #983 launched the Dairyman's League; both initiatives reflected monopolistic practices in the fluid milk industry. The Dairyman's League was soon endorsed by the State Grange and went statewide. It helped dairy farmers negotiate fairer prices and brought more stability to the farm price of dairy products in Lewis County as elsewhere.

Women and Grange Ritual

Two final issues have special importance for the history of the Beaver Falls Grange and the design of its hall – the role of women and the importance of grange ritual. Rebecca Tyner, Amelia Tyner, Mary Smith, and Jennie Nuffer were charter members. Women members had an equal vote and were full participants in programming and leadership. Each grange had at least thirteen officers, of whom four must be women:

- Officers: Worthy Master, Overseer, Steward, Assistant Steward, Gatekeeper, Lecturer, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain
- Women Officers: Lady Assistant Steward, Ceres, Pomona, and Flora.⁶⁵

⁶² *Lowville Journal & Republican*, September 08, 1898, 5.

⁶³ *Journal and Republican and Lowville Times*, January 20, 1910, 4; *Black River Democrat*, November 27, 1913, 1; *Journal and Republican and Lowville Times*, December 17, 1914, 2.

⁶⁴ Allen, 66-100, *passim*.

⁶⁵ Summerhill, 200.

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In theory women could fill all of the leadership roles, and eventually many served as lecturers (particularly after the development of the Juvenile Grange for children), treasurer, secretary, and chaplain. Beaver Falls elected Mrs. C. W. Moller as corresponding secretary in 1895, but, statewide, few women achieved other roles until the 1930s.⁶⁶ Nonetheless, in the days before female suffrage, this level of organizational equality was most unusual and central to grange policy and success.

...deep concern about the effect of "nonproducers" and intemperate landless laborers on society caused the Grange to include women as members. The Grange recognized women's labor as crucial to the welfare of the family farm and believed that women should enjoy the public rewards of hard work, and like temperance societies, the Grange consider [sic] women central to protecting the home.... As John W. McArthur, the master of one of the first Granges organized in Delaware County, noted, "Until this Order came into existence," the average farm woman endured "the toils of life" but did not enjoy its "honors and privileges." The Grange "takes her by the hand and recognizes her as a friend, companion, educator, and equal of man; opening the door of opportunity, and bidding her to make the most of the opportunities of life."⁶⁷

The Reverend Aaron Grosh, first chaplain of the grange and an Episcopal minister, believed that women would elevate the moral level of the organization: her "gentle influence, her perceptions of righteousness and purity – all these are needed in the Grange, and also in society at large."⁶⁸ However, Grosh and most of the early male leadership of the grange did not believe that women needed the vote outside the grange. This conservative position was challenged within the New York State Grange by some of the early female members, and challenged outside by the growth of the temperance movement. Most grangers (both men and women) saw "drink" as the chief force degrading rural life. In 1876 Frances Willard of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) declared that women must be given the vote because men would never legislate prohibition. Eventually, the grange was forced to confront its cognitive dissonance. In 1881, Mrs. W.C. Gifford, wife of the Master of the Chautauqua Grange and a temperance leader in her own right, introduced a simple resolution in favor of women's political equality that was narrowly passed by the State Grange. Ten years later, when her husband had become State Master, she introduced a similar resolution to the National Grange; it passed in 1894. The early 1890s were heady days for farm women looking for recognition and control over the issues that concerned them in the community – children, alcohol, physical drudgery. For many, the grange gave them opportunities denied everywhere else.

A second issue, intertwined with the inclusion of women, was the critical function of ritual in the grange. Women had key ceremonial roles, and many of the secret lessons of the grange dealt with family and home. It was considered surprising then (as it seems now) that good, Protestant farm wives and mothers would portray the goddesses Ceres, Pomona, and Flora in variants of the Elysian Mysteries. However, founder Oliver Hudson Kelley felt these rituals were critical to building trust and cooperation between the sexes, between members, between granges, and between the North and the South during Reconstruction. The Reverend Grosh helped

⁶⁶ *Lowville Journal & Republican*, January 10, 1895, 3.

⁶⁷ Summerhill, 200.

⁶⁸ Donald B. Marti, "Sisters of the Grange: Rural Feminism in the Late Nineteenth Century," *Agricultural History*, 58:3 (July 1984), 251.

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Kelley develop the rituals on the Masonic model during the organization's first year. Christianity was constantly invoked, and the Bible was displayed open on an altar during ceremonies. Miniature tools of farm life were also laid on the altar to reinforce lessons.

Grange rituals were built around the seasons of the year and the role of nature as a fundamental force of human life. Each of the first four degrees of membership celebrated a different season; in addition, the fourth signified full membership in the subordinate grange. The fifth degree brought the leaders of the subordinate granges together at the county level; it was only open to current and past masters, their wives, and a maximum of 3 fourth-degree members from each local hall. The sixth and seventh degrees admitted members to the State and National Grange.⁶⁹ Parallel orders existed for men and women:⁷⁰

Degree	Season	Elements of Nature	Elements of Nature			Lesson	Symbols
			Male	Joint	Female		
First	Springtime (Childhood)	Seed	Laborer		Maid	Faith	Ax, Plow, Harrow, Spade
Second	Early Summer (Youth)	Blossoms, the Plant	Cultivator		Shepherdess	Hope	Hoe, Pruning Knife
Third	Autumn Harvest (Manhood)	Flowers, Fruit, Ripened Grain	Harvester		Gleaner	Charity	Sickle
Fourth	Winter (Old Age)	Feast	Husband		Matron	Fidelity	Agate
Fifth	Adversity and Initiation into Pomona (County) Grange	Storm, followed by Sunshine and Plenty			Pomona	Perseverance	Signet Ring with Cornucopia
Sixth	Initiation into State Grange				Flora		
Seventh	Initiation into National Grange				Ceres		

⁶⁹ Nordin, 10.

⁷⁰ *Order of the Patrons of Husbandry – Grangers*. www.stichtingargus.nl/vrijmetselarij/frame_en.html

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Men and women were addressed as “Laborer” and “Maid,” “Cultivator” and “Shepherdess,” and so on. Each degree had its costumes and stage props – in the fifth degree these included gauze for a specter and lycopodium (clubmoss spores) ignited to create thunder. Each meeting for “degree work” began with a ceremonial “closing of the gate.” Both the theatricality of grange rituals and their secrecy had a direct influence on the design of grange halls – buildings required secure entrances, stages, storage for costumes and props, and decorated stage curtains to set the scene.⁷¹

The particulars of grange oaths help illuminate grange policies and social benefits from the perspective of individual members. In the first degree, initiates were enjoined to keep the secrets of the grange, work hard, learn, support one another – both men and women – and treat their domestic animals well.⁷² In the second degree, the Worthy Master instructed initiates to cultivate the mind and “prune idle thoughts and sinful suggestions.”⁷³ In the third degree, the new “harvesters” (male) and “gleaners” (female) were told to study nature, develop skills of observation, teach others, and practice charity to all.⁷⁴ Fourth degree members were encouraged to focus on the home and family – to treat their children well, teach them, and make rural life so attractive that they would wish to continue in agriculture.⁷⁵ Finally, in the fifth degree of membership, members turned their focus outwards to the community. The Worthy Master instructed initiates that they should display the “choicest productions of orchard, farm, garden, dairy, and household” at local and county fairs and, further:

Every Patron of our ancient art should experiment to discover new modes of cultivation, or to ascertain precisely what are the elements of success. He should note the character and condition of the soil; the quality, measure and weight of his seed; the time and mode of planting; and the state of atmosphere and season, before, at, and after planting. He should also carefully observe and record all changes and accidents, helps and hindrances that attend each stage of growth. And when the experiment is completed, he should as carefully note all particulars pertaining to the results obtained. This will enable him to instruct others, and will suggest many valuable hints for future use. Thus will you truly become eminent Patrons of Husbandry, honoring and being honored, blessing and being blessed, instructing and being instructed, favored of God, and your brethren, approved by your own conscience, and the judgment of the wise and good who know you and your works.⁷⁶

⁷¹ The layout of the second floor of the Beaver Falls Grange includes two small rooms (one now a kitchen with a peephole) that were used to manage attendance. Members had to knock in a prescribed pattern, answer a ritual question, and pass the gatekeeper to gain entrance to the hall. Nordin, 12.

⁷² *Patrons of Husbandry – Grangers: Initiation Ritual – First Degree – Preparation, 1946.*

http://www.stichtingargus.nl/vrijmetselarij/grangers_r1.html

⁷³ *Patrons of Husbandry – Grangers: Ritual of the Second Degree – Culture, 1946.*

http://www.stichtingargus.nl/vrijmetselarij/grangers_r2.html

⁷⁴ *Patrons of Husbandry – Grangers: Third Degree – Harvest, 1946.*

http://www.stichtingargus.nl/vrijmetselarij/grangers_r3.html

⁷⁵ *Patrons of Husbandry – Grangers: Fourth Degree – Home, 1946.*

http://www.stichtingargus.nl/vrijmetselarij/grangers_r4.html

⁷⁶ *Order of Patrons of Husbandry: 5th Degree – Pomona, 1915.* www.stichtingargus.nl/vrijmetselarij/grangers_r5.html

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Thus, grange ritual was fundamental to the educational and cooperative policies of the movement, laying the foundation for grange involvement in farm improvement through the Geneva Experimental Station and Cornell University, county and state fairs, and regular programs, debates, and demonstrations of techniques in subordinate granges to improve agriculture and rural life. In addition, the grange was an important social institution in isolated rural communities – teaching men to respect the labor of the wives and children, improve their land, and treat their domestic animals well. Women used the grange to educate and empower themselves, gain the respect of their husbands and communities, and organize to achieve political goals. Children, too, benefited. Young people over the age of 16 were eligible for full membership from the start. When too few joined to replenish local lodges as the first generation of members died, the National Grange instituted a plan for Juvenile Granges in 1888 to give farmers' children practice in the art and science of farming. The New York State Grange organized its first Juvenile Grange in Wayne County in 1904 but only began to push the movement intensively in the 1920s. Beaver Falls Grange incorporated its children's branch (#479) relatively late, in 1940. Today, the organization is small and no longer meets in its hall but continues as an active chapter of the Grange.

Criterion C: Architecture

Before the first floor of the Grange Hall was converted to a store, this space appears to have been used for public meetings and social events. Newspaper articles report community benefits and large meals being served at sessions of the Pomona Grange; presumably, a large kitchen was available to prepare this food. After Grover C. Fredenburg moved his store into the first floor of the grange in January 1915, the kitchen was relocated upstairs. Lewis S. Van Arnam describes the layout of the Fredenburg store as he remembered it from his youth:

Originally there was a soda fountain at the front on the west side, to the rear of which were dry goods. On the opposite side were the large glass and oak candy cases. Toward the rear were the scales, wheels of cheese, a coffee grinder with the large hand wheels, and the plug tobacco cutter near the back. In the center at the rear stood the round coal stove.

Bread was shipped in by train and came in large wooden boxes with hinged covers. When empty, they doubled as seats on the porch during the summer....

Viewed from the front, the store looks about the same as it has for years, but the interior, of course, has been modernized by Glenn [Fredenburg, son of Grover C.] to keep abreast of the times.⁷⁷

Few furnishings remain, but the open floorplan survives as an example of a simple early 20th century country store.

⁷⁷ Van Arnam, 116-117.

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The second floor is different; this is the location of the “Grange Room” that defines the building as a Grange Hall. Manuals for the Patrons of Husbandry included diagrams of the layout for degree work, architecturally imbuing the space with mystery and symbolic meaning to support the rituals:⁷⁸

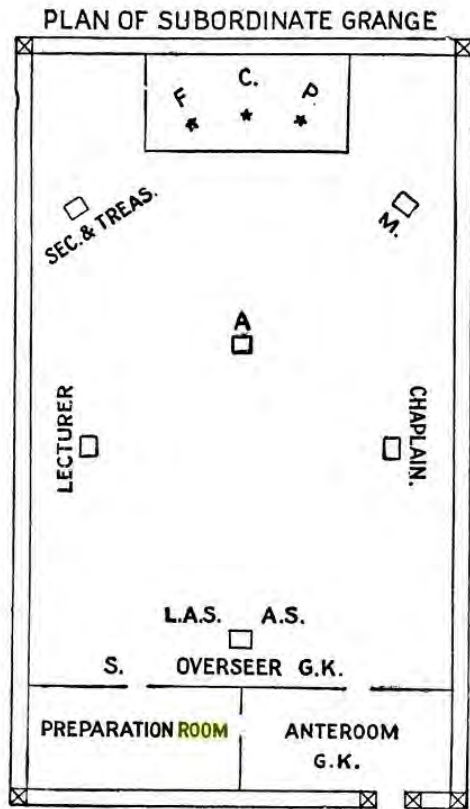


Fig. 2: The National Grange, *Manual of Subordinate Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry* [Ninth Edition] (Philadelphia: George S. Ferguson Co., 1908), 2. NOTE: Nordin shows a similar diagram adapted from Cramer's *The Patron's Pocket Companion* (1875).

The abbreviations refer to the following officers:

- F = Flora
- C = Ceres
- P = Pomona
- M = Master
- LAS = Lady Assistant Steward
- AS = Assistant Steward
- S = Steward
- GK = Gatekeeper

As a secret society, the Patrons of Husbandry protected its ritual; only members were allowed into official grange meetings. Thus, access to the Grange Room was controlled. In the Beaver Falls Grange, the stair to the second floor is enclosed and leads to the anteroom where members were met by the official Gatekeeper and Steward. Further, not all meetings were open to all members; access depended on the degree of membership and the “degree” of the meeting. Thus, only members “in the fourth degree” could attend meetings “in the fourth degree.”

To gain admission, members rapped a predetermined number of times on the outer gate and then replied correctly to the gatekeeper's questions. Adhering to a code permitted members to come into the anteroom. In order to enter the main assembly room, grangers once again knocked an appropriate number of times. The number of strokes upon the inner door corresponded with the degree under which the meeting was being held. Thus, to gain admission to a session conducted in the third degree required three raps in correct cadence. The assistant steward guarded the inner door and judged the incoming member's adherence to entrance specifications. Satisfactorily complying with ritual demands

⁷⁸ The National Grange, *Manual of Subordinate Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry* [Ninth Edition] (Philadelphia: George S. Ferguson Co., 1908), 2.

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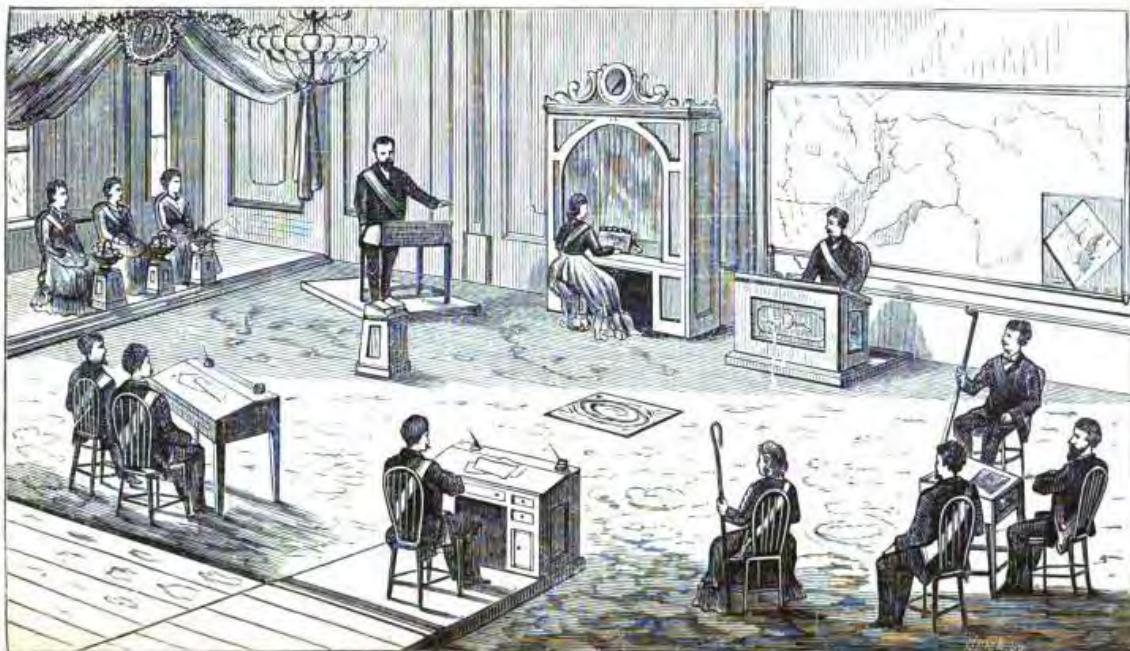
County and State

*permitted the entrant to present himself to the overseer. Upon giving the correct salute to that officer, the patron was granted permission by an exchange salutation to participate in the meeting.*⁷⁹

In the Beaver Falls Grange, one door from the anteroom opens directly into the grange room; another goes into the preparation room, which served double duty as a dressing area during degree work and as a small kitchen. A hatch in the partition wall between the anteroom and preparation room/kitchen may been used by the Gatekeeper and Steward to control access to the hall (and/or to charge for Grange dinners); more certainly, a peep-hole in the "inner door" between the preparation room/kitchen let the 3 Stewards keep people in that room under observation during rituals.

Within the hall, various banners, ribbons from the Lewis County Fair, grange mottos, and the framed incorporation document are posted on the walls. A table for holding an open Bible during grange meetings has been stored in the northeast corner. The rear of the room is taken up with a stage, decorated with a painted stage curtain. Flora, Ceres, and Pomona would sit before the pastoral scene of a simple farm, country road, field, and flowers in bloom during initiation rituals. Simple floodlights heightened the mystery in a darkened room. The upright piano on the west side of the hall might provide the sounds of thunder and lightning or it could be used to accompany songs from *The Grange Illustrated*, like "I Love to Rove" and "Live for Something."

John G. Wells's 1874 illustration of a "Grange Room - Officers in Position," brings all these elements together and shows how officials were expected to distribute themselves throughout the room with everyone else behind them:⁸⁰ (Similar symbolic staffs were found in a closet at the Beaver Falls Grange.)



GRANGE ROOM—OFFICERS IN POSITION.

⁷⁹ Nordin, 10-11.

⁸⁰ Wells, 7.

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Summary

Overall, the architecture of Grange halls supported the mission of the Patrons of Husbandry, and Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554 is an architecturally excellent example of a grange hall with an intact “Grange Room.” The purpose of the organization was to empower rural men and women and to build community; rituals, meetings, singing, recitations, and public lectures all needed to be accommodated in the space. In Beaver Falls, a relatively homogeneous community of second-generation farmers, the grange gave its members a sense of a larger world of shared mystery and purpose that has allowed the organization – and its building – to survive into the twentieth century.

Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554

Name of Property

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Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Beaver Falls Grange #554 Minute Books (in possession of current master)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .38 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18N 465386E 4859260N
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary is based on the historical extant of the Grange Hall parcel.

Lewis County Tax Map (Parcel 100.00-01-25.000)

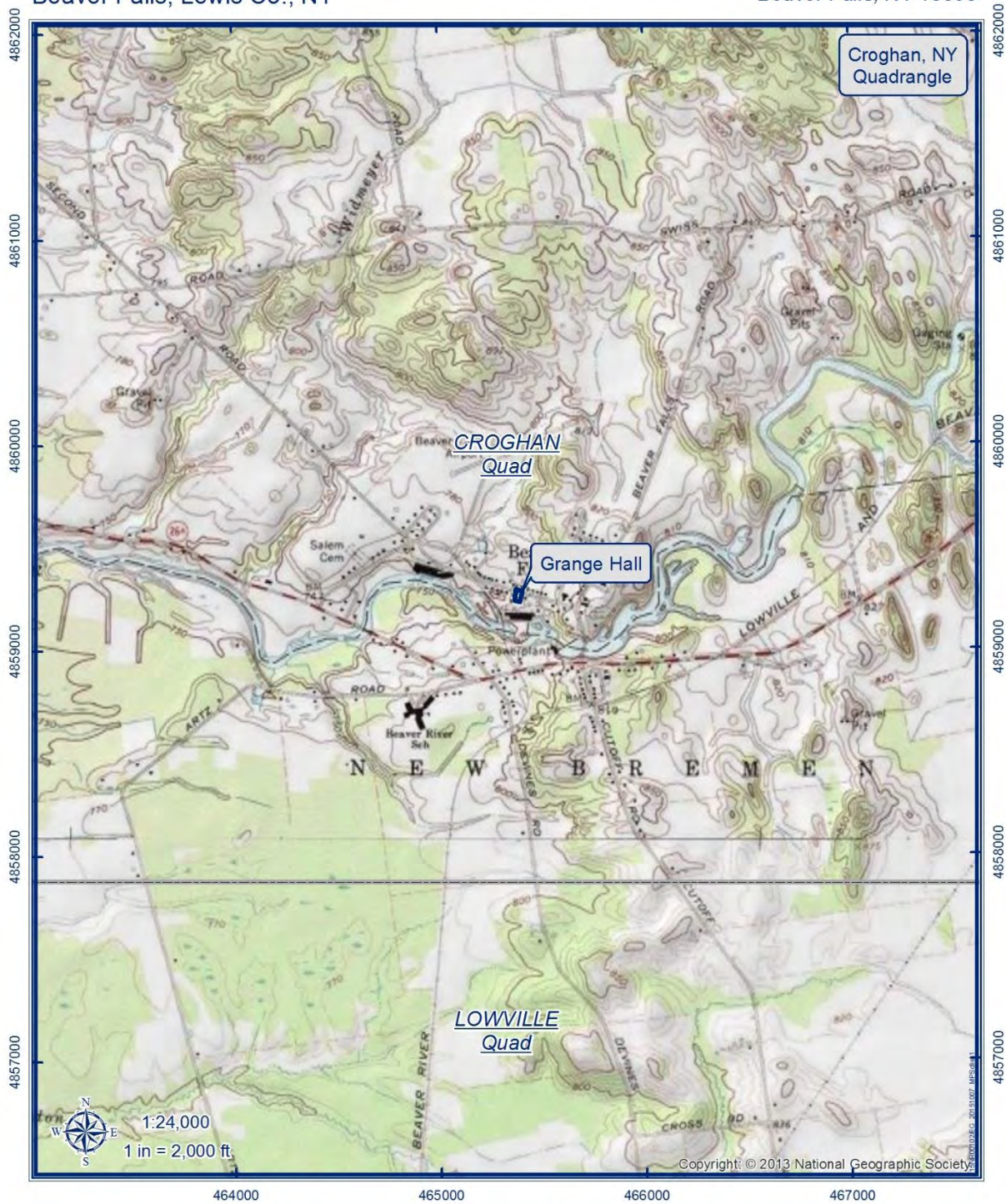


Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
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Beaver Falls Grange Hall # 554
Beaver Falls, Lewis Co., NY

9577 Main Street
Beaver Falls, NY 13305



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

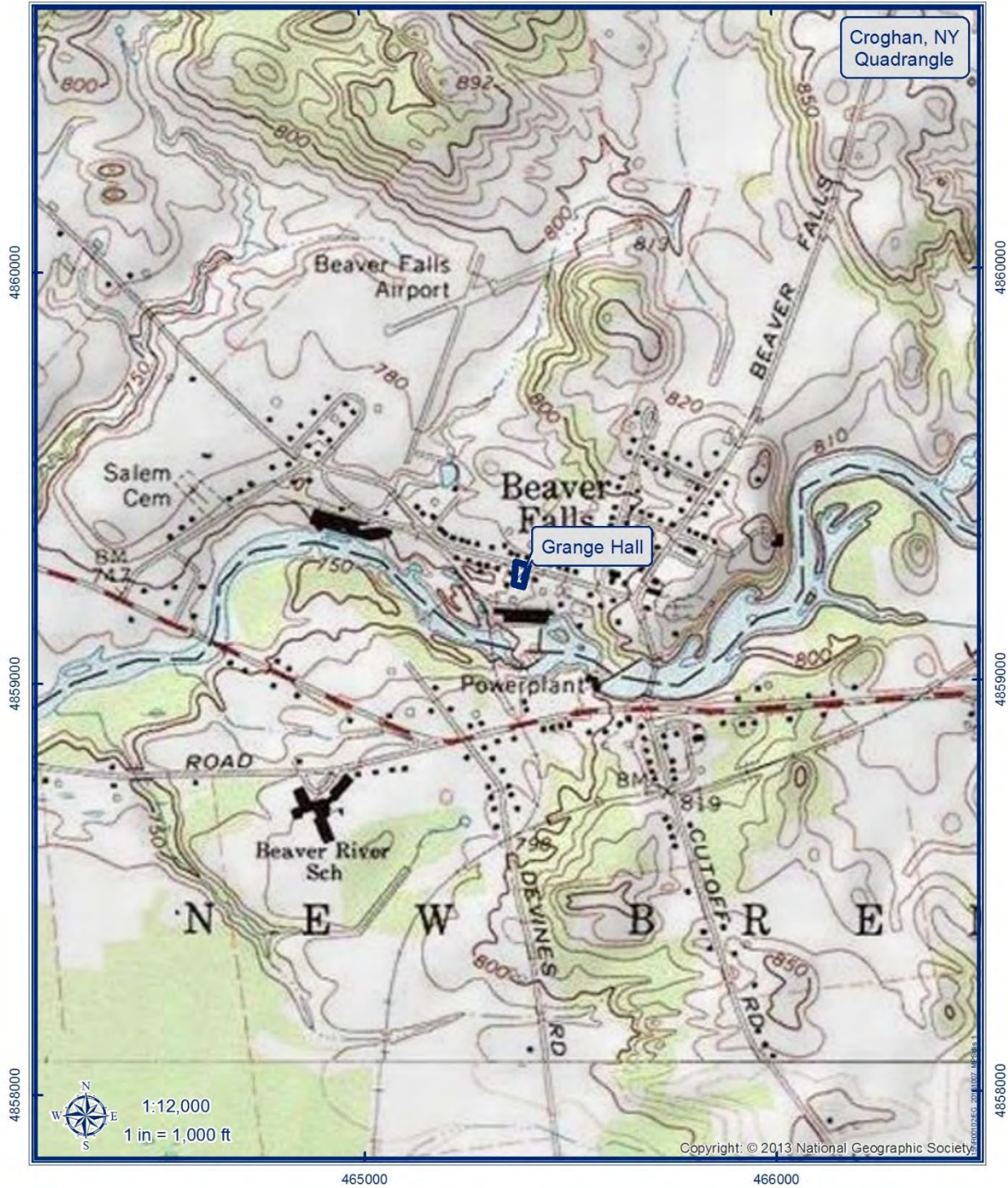
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Beaver Falls Grange Hall # 554
Beaver Falls, Lewis Co., NY

9577 Main Street
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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
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Units: Meter



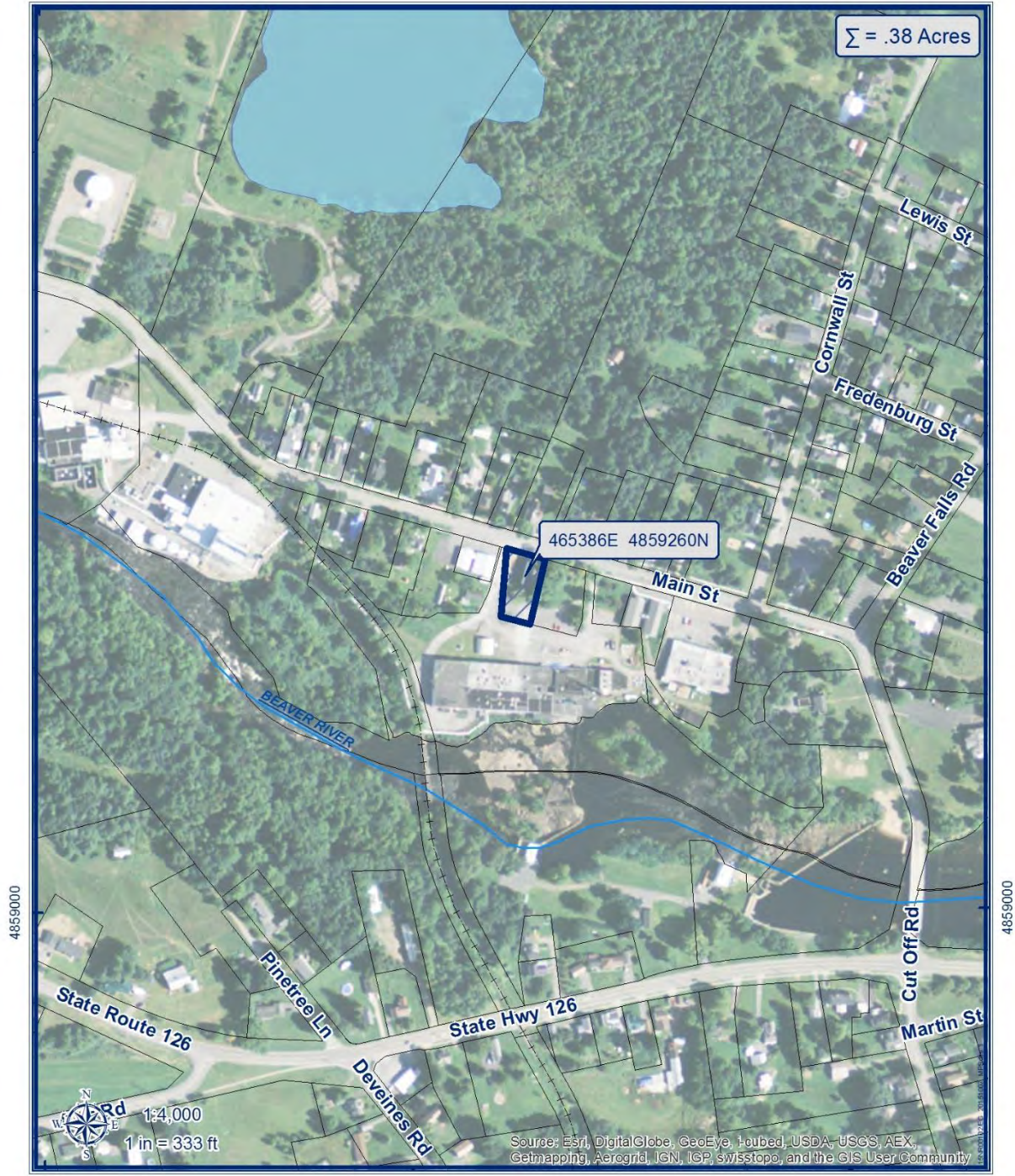
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State

Beaver Falls Grange Hall # 554
Beaver Falls, Lewis Co., NY

9577 Main Street
Beaver Falls, NY 13305



465000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emilie W. Gould, Historic Preservation Program Analyst (with information from Mitchell Fidler, Department of History, Beaver River Consolidated School)

organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation date August 28, 2015

street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-268-2201

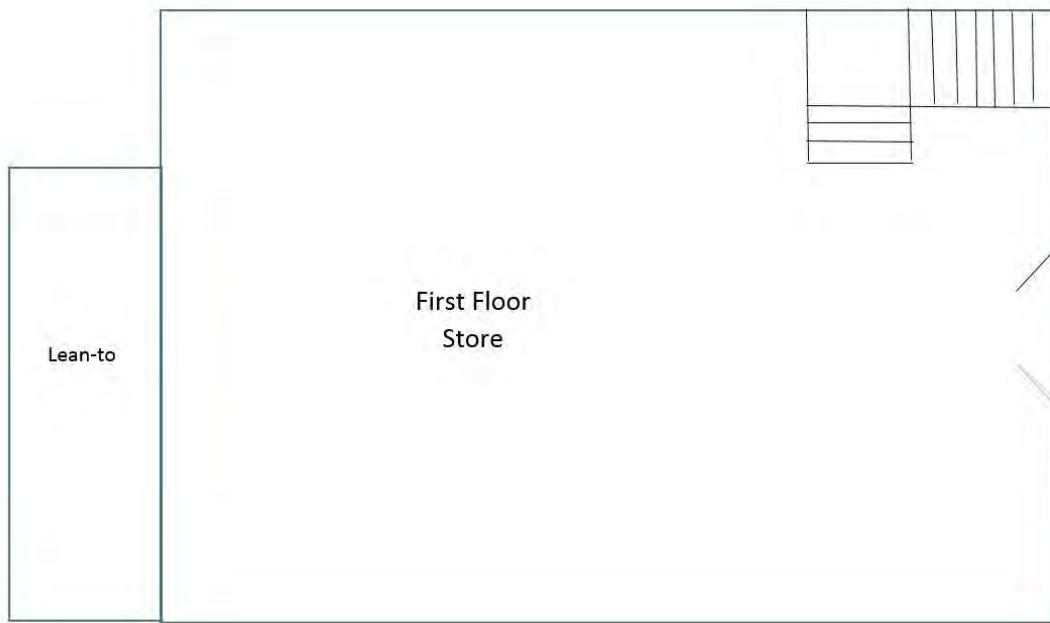
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

e-mail Emilie.Gould@parks.ny.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

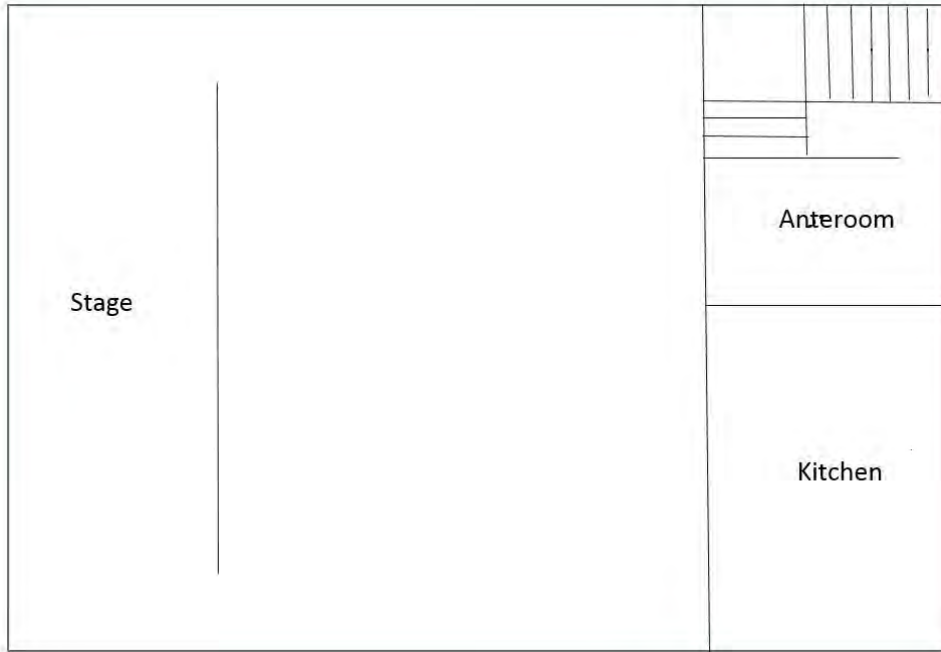
Floor Plans: First Floor (Store)



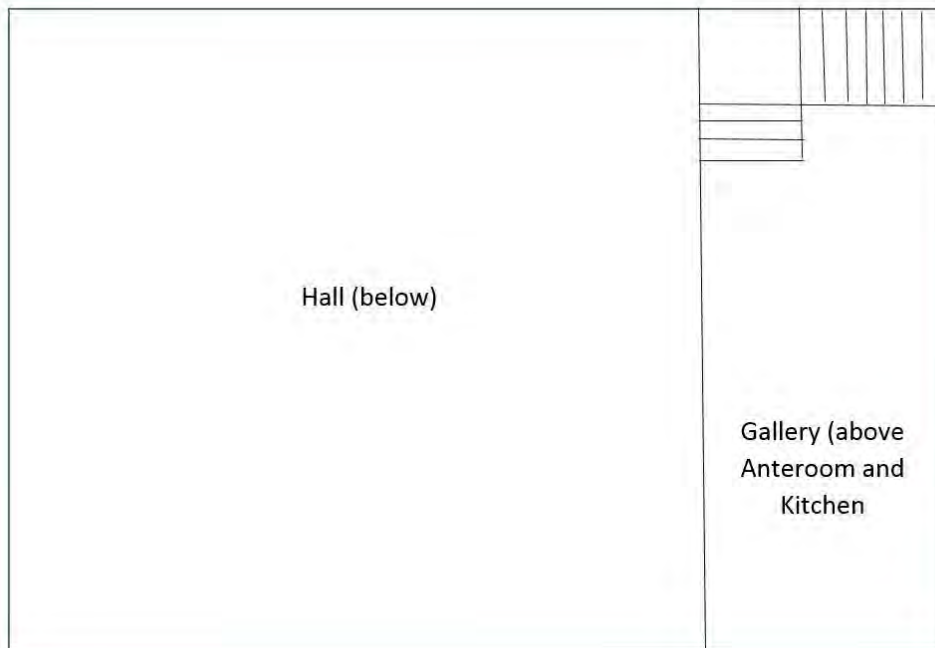
Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554
Name of Property

Lewis County, NY
County and State

Floor Plans: Second Floor (Grange Room/Hall)



Floor Plans: Gallery



Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554

Name of Property

Lewis County, NY

County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Beaver Falls Grange Hall

City or Vicinity: Beaver Falls (Town of Croghan)

County: Lewis (049)

State: NY

Photographer: Emilie W. Gould

Date Photographed: June 6, 2015

NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0001	Exterior – Façade (North) and West Elevation
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0002	Exterior – East Elevation
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0003	Exterior – South (Rear) Elevation
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0004	Interior – First Floor Store
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0005	Interior – Stair to Second Floor Grange Room
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0006	Interior – Second Floor Anteroom
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0007	Interior – Second Floor Kitchen with Door to Hall
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0008	Interior – Second Floor Grange Hall and Stage (facing south)
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0009	Interior – Second Floor Grange Hall and Stage (facing north)
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0010	Interior – Detail - Peephole
NY_Lewis County_Beaver Falls Grange Hall 554_0011	Interior – Gallery Room (above Anteroom and Kitchen)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Beaver Falls Grange #554 (c/o Mitch Fidler)street & number 8772 Cutoff Roadtelephone 315.346.1513city or town Castorlandstate NYzip code 13620

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



1892

BEAVER FALLS GRANGE
P.O. BOX 102









1 case
net wt. 20 LBS
ARMOUR
LARD
50560

BEAVER FALLS GRANGE
P^{er}H 554







The CORNER STORE
Groceries and U.S. Tires

SONODA MACHINES
LOW BACK PAINTS

Authorized Ford
SALES and SERVICE
U.S. and Goodyear Tires

ANDRE & CO.
Ford and a list of products
Croghan, N.Y.

EDISON
RANGE
VICTOR
TALKING
MACHINES
R. B. HILTS
Variety Store
Croghan, N.Y.

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NATIONAL BANK

4%

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Time Deposits

Working with you and
for you all the time

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GENERAL
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COAL
DEALER
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CROGHAN
PHARMACY
Drugs, Medicines,
Syringes,
Hospital Supplies,
Soda, Stationery,
Wholesale and Retail
Prescriptions,
Croghan, N.Y.

ONTARIO MILLING COMPANY INC. OSWEGO, N.Y. Manufacturers for
Aunt Mary and Uncle John
FLOUR, CRACKERS AND GRAHNS





Up
Landscape
Landscape

Red box with illegible text

Blue board with a red 'X' mark

Cardboard box with illegible text

Small yellow container

Small square sign

Small square sign

Octagonal sign with the word "GRAND" and a picture of a dog

Blackboard with illegible chalk drawings

Vertical sign with illegible text

Small white bucket





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Beaver Falls Grange Hall No. 554

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Lewis

DATE RECEIVED: 10/16/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/06/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/23/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/01/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000852

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12-1-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280

OCT 16 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

14 October 2015

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following two nominations, both on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Jacob T. Miers House, Schoharie County
Beaver Falls Grange Hall #554, Lewis County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office