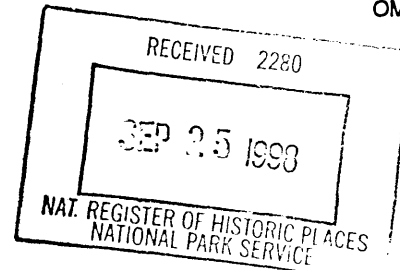


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1267

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Socialist Labor Party Hall

other names/site number Barre's Old Labor Hall

2. Location

street & number 46 Granite Street N/A not for publication

city or town Barre City vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Washington code 023 zip code 05641

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Elsa Milbraten, National Register Specialist September 21, 1998
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

Edson A. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 10-22-98

Socialist Labor Party Hall

Washington County, Vermont

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 4 rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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)

Current Functions (Enter Categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE:organizational, SOCIAL:meeting hall, RECREATIONAL and CULTURE:auditorium

Work in progress, Work in progress, Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter Categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

foundation Granite, walls Brick, roofAsphalt, other Granite

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Name of Property

Washington County, Vermont
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1900-1936

Significant Dates

1900
1903
1912

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Barre Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

Socialist Labor Party Hall

Washington County, Vermont

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one

UTM references

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 699180 4896720
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name / title Eric Gradoia

organization Univ. of Vt., Historic Preservation date May 5, 1998

street & number Wheeler House - 442 Main Street telephone (802) 656-0577

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05402-1645

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name Barre Historical Society

street & number 6 Washington Street telephone 802-476-7550

city or town Barre City state Vermont zip code 05641-0496

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Description

The Socialist Labor Party Hall is located on its original site at 46 Granite Street in Barre City, Vermont. Built in what was once the Italian section of Barre, the two and a half story red brick structure represents no specific architectural style. The structure displays its function as an assembly room through its long, one story, gambrel-roofed rear projection that constitutes the hall area within. The detailing of the building is simple, Barre granite is used for the front stairs, window sills, and carved medallion depicting the arm of labor over the front entrance. Corbeled brickwork accents the cornice and fanlight of the structure. Much of the original interior remains intact, although covered over by modern materials added through later remodeling. The only alteration to the exterior of the building has been the addition of a concrete loading dock on the southwest facade with widened door openings accessing the platform. Visually the Socialist Labor Party Hall retains its historic appearance and is currently under restoration to again serve the community as an assembly hall.

The Socialist Labor Party Hall is a 50' x 108' rectangular brick structure arranged on a northwest axis. Built in 1900, the Hall reflects no specific architectural style. The entire building is constructed in a running bond and sits on an exposed half story brick basement with a granite foundation. The Hall is divided into two sections, the two-story flat-roofed front portion and the single story gambrel roofed rear projection. The gambrel roof is covered in asphalt shingles. A wide molded wood cornice wraps around the roofline of the building.

The front section of the Hall measures 50' x 25' with the primary facade facing northwest. The mass of this section above the basement level is arranged into seven bays, two piles deep and two stories high. The center entrance is reached by ascending eight granite steps and is composed of a double leaf, five panel wood door with a four pane segmental fanlight. The fanlight is set within a double coursed brick arch springing from corbeled brick imposts. Directly above this is a granite medallion with the symbol of the Socialist Labor Party, an arm bearing a hammer, carved in bas-relief and the letters SLP with a floral motif surrounding them. All of the fenestration along the first and second story level of the building is 1/1 segmental arch sash windows with segmental brick lintels. The windows at the basement level are three-pane sash divided by vertical muntins with segmental arches.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Description (continued)

At the basement level, near the outside walls are the remains of two openings presently bricked in, one on each side of the building. Next to these bricked in spaces, to either side of the entrance steps, are steps that descend to doorways at the basement level. Between the basement doorway and the entrance stairway is a small, rectangular opening that has been boarded over.

The southwest side facade can be divided into two portions: the area located on the two-story section of the building, and the rear gambrel-roofed area that is divided evenly by a chimneystack. The southwest facade of the front portion of the building contains a pair of basement windows with two sets of sash windows above, one set at each story. Southeast of this area is a sheltered loading dock added some time after 1937 when the building was converted into a warehouse. The roof of the loading dock begins where the two story section of the front building ends and terminates at the chimneystack. The concrete loading platform stands about four feet off the ground and extends out about four feet. This platform is accessed by a set of steps located at the northwest end, which partially covers a basement window. Opening onto the platform are two wide wood doors. Each door has two rows of four lights at its upper section and a series of four vertically oriented panels below the lights. There are two window openings in this area, one located above the loading dock stairs and the other window next to the chimneystack. To the far side of the chimneystack is a brick wall with two window openings that have been bricked in sometime after 1937. One of these openings is located approximately five feet from the chimneystack and the other is approximately five feet from the end of the building. Between these two areas is a boarded up doorway. At the basement level are two boarded over openings, one directly below the filled in end window and the other approximately two feet past the chimneystack.

The southeast elevation is the rear gambrel end of the building. In the gambrel area are centered two sash windows. At the first floor level are five, evenly spaced windows. The middle window is slightly off center to the northeast, the five basement windows are centered with the windows above.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Description (continued)

The northeast facade is made up of a series of windows, some of which have been bricked up. The front area of the Hall is identical to its composition on the southwest elevation. There are seven evenly spaced windows on the gambrel portion of the building. The four southeast openings have been bricked in. The seven basement windows on this portion of the facade are located unevenly throughout the wall plane and fall just out of center with the windows above.

The interior of Barre Old Labor Hall can be divided into three sections of use, the basement, the two story front section of the building, and the hall area in the rear portion of the structure. All measurements are estimated to the nearest foot.

The first floor plan of the Labor Hall is made up of two areas: the front rooms and entrance composing one area and the meeting hall to the rear. All of the windows on the first and second floors of the building are 1/1-sash windows with flat stock trim. The ceilings in the entrance and two rooms are nine feet high. The stair hall, which measures 10'x18', is accessed from the outside through double leaf, five panel doors. This space contains a stairway leading upstairs along the southwest wall and a doorway accessing the northeast room. The stair hall flows into the southwest room through a large opening in the wall. A southeast door opens into the meeting hall and a door behind the stairs leads to the basement.

The northeast room is 19'x25' and retains much of its original fabric. The main architectural elements in this room include its maple flooring, pressed metal ceiling, bead board dado, windows, and plaster walls. There are three windows on the northwest wall and two on its northeast wall. A modern door has been added to the southeast wall to allow access to the meeting hall.

The southwest room is 17'x25' and has gone through some change over time. Modern wall paneling (craftwall) and ceiling materials are in the process of being removed to

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Description (continued)

reveal the original plaster surfaces. There are three windows on the northwest wall and three on the southwest wall. A large opening approximately eight feet wide has been created in the southeast wall of this room that enters into the meeting hall.

The meeting hall area occupies the southeast portion of the structure and measures 48'x83' with 13' ceilings. A 9'x14' room has been constructed at some point in time in the north corner of this space. On the southwest elevation two large freight doors open out to a loading platform. Much of the meeting hall's original fabric remains having been encapsulated by a drop ceiling and false walls in some locations. The main architectural elements of this space include the engaged posts and beams, the maple flooring, windows and bead board dado. The engaged posts and beams run at 12' intervals along the length of the meeting hall. The dado wraps the lower portion of the post with the remaining area of the post covered in plaster. At ceiling height it meets a boxed beam constructed out of beaded board. These beams span the width of the hall. On

some of the posts are completely intact remains of the decorative scheme they were painted in. This pattern consists of a blue-gray on the dado, brown on the chair rail, and a type of grained finish on the plaster part of the post. Just above the dado and below the beam on the post are stencils applied in gold finish. On a few areas of the wall surfaces are remnants of earlier finishes including stenciled ornament, and painted patterns.

On the second floor of the front portion of the building are three rooms, one occupying the area northeast of the stairs and two rooms to the southwest side. All have been remodeled with drop ceilings and craftwall, but visible behind these layers is evidence of earlier decorative schemes including moldings and stenciled patterns. The northeast room is 28'x25' with four windows on the northwest wall and two on the northeast wall. The southwest room is 18'x13' and has three windows on its northwest wall and one on the southwest wall. Southeast of this room is a 15'x12' room. The window on the southwest wall has been closed up.

Two stores were located in the basement with a brick party wall running the length of the structure dividing them. At the northwest end a stairway between the stores allowed

access to the upper floor. Each store had an outside entrance and large window at its

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National Register of Historic Places
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Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Description (continued)

northwest end. The windows have been bricked over. The windows that run along the northeast and southwest walls are three-pane single sash, some of which have been bricked closed. The northeast room is 18'x73' with two smaller rooms to its southeast, one 18'x25' and the other 13'x10'. The southwest area is 27'x 108' and is divided into five rooms along its length by brick partitions. Each space is approximately 27'x20'. The remaining original fabric in these rooms includes the narrow tongue and groove maple flooring, metal ceiling, window sash, and beaded board dado and plaster walls. The integrity of the space has not been altered and remains much the way it would have appeared c. 1910.

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Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Statement of Significance

The Socialist Labor Party Hall in Barre City, Vermont, is one of the city's few remaining architectural artifacts directly attributed to the early Italian community which immigrated here at the start of the twentieth century to work in the granite sheds. The Socialist Labor Party Hall meets National Register Criterion A in that the events and developments associated with the building are important and have made a significant impact on the history of Barre's ethnic development and role it played within the context of this nation's labor history. The building, constructed in 1900, served the community as a place to meet and socialize. From 1901 to 1936 the Socialist Labor Party Hall housed the offices and meetings of the Granite Cutters International Association (GCIA), at the time the largest local union of granite workers in the country. In 1901 the Co - Operative store opened in the basement of the Hall and served the community as a place to buy food, drink, bread, coal and other necessities within the locale. During the turbulent years of labor disputes in America, the Socialist Labor Party Hall hosted labor leaders such as Ann Burlak, nicknamed the "Red Flame" and Arturo Giovannitti, an important figure in the Lawrence, Massachusetts, textile strikes in 1913. Throughout the Lawrence, Massachusetts textile strikes, the Italian community in Barre sheltered 35 children of the striking workers in Massachusetts.

The Old Labor Hall, a two story flat-roofed brick building with a gambrel-roofed single story rear hall, was constructed in 1900 by volunteers of the Italian community in Barre, Vermont, as a meeting hall for the Socialist Labor Party, a political group dedicated to social and labor reform. From 1900 to 1936 the Hall served the community as a location to hold union meetings, political rallies, dances and sporting events. With the opening of the Co-Operative store in the basement of the Hall in 1901, the building also served as the source of food and merchandise for the community. The direct association of this property with the labor movement, community, and the immigration of Italians make it one of the most important remaining architectural artifacts from the turn of the century in Barre.

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Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Statement of Significance (continued)

Barre, Vermont, is located in Washington County approximately six miles southeast of Montpelier, the capital of Vermont. In 1875 a spur of the Central Vermont Railroad opened linking Barre to Montpelier. With this connection, Barre was now accessible by major railroads cutting through Vermont to cities such as Montreal, Burlington, Boston, and points in between. With this new openness and ability to import and export goods, the granite industry in Barre soared. In the years to follow, Barre would become world renowned for the quality and quantity of its granite. By 1902, 68 granite quarries were in production with an output of 1.5 million tons to be sold. Supporting this industry was a wave of immigration from European countries. In 1880 the population of Barre was around 2,060. This number swelled to over 10,700 by 1910, representing Scots, Irish, English, Swedes, and French Canadians who came to Barre to work in the quarries. A large number of Italians also settled in Barre. Trained as stone carvers these skilled artisans came to work in the granite sheds where the stone was shaped. Along with their skills and tools, these people brought with them political ideas that were circulating throughout their homelands. These beliefs focused on the welfare and protection of the working class through social reform.

At the start of the twentieth century Barre prospered from an economy based on the granite industry. Driving this industry was a huge work force largely made up of a diverse ethnic population working in all facets of the granite industry: quarrying, transporting, cutting, polishing, and carving the stone. In 1900 more than 90% of Barre's workers belonged to one of fifteen local unions.

The rise of factory-based industry in America created a distinct division into two ranks of society the wealthy and the working class. The wealthy reaped the profits of the sales of their merchandise, which was generated by the workers through long workdays, low wages, and tight controls over their actions. As a result of these hardships, labor organizations began to develop whose goals were to protect the working classes and provide support in times of need. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the organizing of industrial workers spurred by speeches and writings by Samuel Gompers, Eugene Debs, Mother Jones, and Ann Burlak created a turbulent era in this nation. Labor

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Statement of Significance (continued)

strikes were common, often ending in deaths on both sides of the lines and factory owners successfully breaking the strikes.

The Barre Labor Hall represents the Italian work force and the contributions these workers made towards the history of Barre as a city and the industry it fueled. The Labor Hall was built by Italian volunteers of the Socialist Labor Party. The Socialist Labor Party believed in public reforms benefiting the working class. The basis of the Socialist labor movement involved some fundamental ideas, including reduced hours and increased wages for workers, education of all children up to the age of 18, equal civil and political rights for all men and women, and workmen's compensation and insurance in case of an accident, sickness, old age or unemployment. These beliefs in conjunction with the solidarity of other workers like miners and textile workers and organizations such as the Industrial Workers of the World, formed the philosophy behind the Italian Socialist Circle.

From 1900 to 1936, the Labor Hall served as the location for union meetings, the stage for speakers, a hall for entertainment and a Co-Operative grocery for the neighborhood. In the December 8, 1900, issue of the Italian weekly paper *Il Proletario*, published in New York City, Camillo Cianfarra described his visit to Barre from New York City and his impressions of the Labor Hall. He writes:

As the comrades from other countries know, the Italian Socialist Section of Barre has built a Hall for the grand sum of 7,000 dollars, most of which has already been paid. That which at first would have seemed impossible has been accomplished, and the Hall stands now on Granite Street, a superb synthesis and demonstration of the collective effort of the workers joined and guided by the light of an idea like ours.... but when I saw the devotion with which our comrades were working there, I became convinced that for many years the Hall would have significance as the fruit of the judicious activity of our comrades, and that in the Hall many would awaken from the long hibernation in which they have lain, and many consciences will be revolutionized.

The construction is very beautiful. The facade, with a large flight of steps, is all of stone and red brick, with a large and majestic entrance, over which in the near future.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Statement of Significance (continued)

will be installed the great symbol of the S.L.P, the work of comrade Egidio Dunghi
The Hall is vast [sic] illuminated by electric light, with a vast stage, wide and
completely adjustable, for theatrical events, with all the necessary amenities to make
the place attractive and comfortable.

In the years to follow, the Labor Hall would be the location for a number of events
contributing to Barre's social history. The most common affairs were community meetings
and gatherings. These were held by a variety of groups and ranged from benefit dances to
local politics to union meetings. Historical documents from the Labor Hall illustrate some
of the events from the first year's records:

- 2-11-01 - "Mass meeting to see about putting up candidates for municipal office.
Socialist Labor Party Mayoral candidate, John Anderson"
- 5-1-01 - " Mass meeting with Philip Halvosa speaking on "Class Conscience: United
International Action by the Workers of the World."
- 6-9-01 - "Over a hundred members of the Italian colony attend ball and dramatic
entertainment."
- 8-16-01 - "Dance raised money for benefit of "the families of the strikers at Berra,
Italy"

The Barre branch of the Granite Cutters International Association (GCIA), formed
in 1886 (then as the Granite Cutters National Union), housed their offices in the second
floor of the Hall until 1936. Throughout the union's occupancy in the building, local
newspapers reported on the happenings and events of the union. The GCIA played a strong
roll in the labor strikes that occurred in Barre during the early twentieth century.

One occurrence that demonstrates the unpredictable nature of the political groups of
this period took place on the night of October 4, 1903, at the Labor Hall. During a political
gathering to hear a Socialist speaker, an argument broke out between Socialists and
Anarchists, ending in the fatal shooting of Elia Corti, a prominent stone carver responsible
for the panels on the Robert Burns Memorial statue (1899) in Barre.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Statement of Significance (continued)

Perhaps the greatest example of the Hall's national involvement in labor events occurred in 1912, when it served as the receiving station of 35 children of striking mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts. During this strike approximately 50,000 textile workers were out of work, protesting wage cuts. In this act of worker solidarity, a number of Italian families housed and cared for these children, protecting them from the violent conditions that were taking place in Lawrence.

Throughout the period of labor unrest, a group of labor leaders became known as prominent voices in support of the workers. These men and women would travel throughout the country and address groups of workers to promote the ideas of labor reform and worker solidarity. The city of Barre hosted a number of these speakers, including Samuel Gompers, Eugene Debs, Mother Jones, and Norman Thomas. Two labor speakers can be directly attributed to visiting the Labor Hall. On February 1, 1913 Arturo Giovannitti, a prominent figure in the Lawrence, Massachusetts, mill strikes attended a masquerade ball held at the Hall. During this appearance he conveyed the thanks of the workers of Lawrence for the support generated by the sympathizers in Barre. On November 8, 1934, Ann Burlak, known as the "The Red Flame" for her dramatic speeches in support of communism, spoke to a crowd of more than 200 at the Labor Hall. An article in the November 9, 1934, *Barre Daily Times* describes her speech:

She urged working men to refuse any form of arbitration in strikes, pointing out to them that the arbitration boards were merely capitalistic organizations designed for the purpose of seducing so called union representatives into calling off strikes and gaining the workers nothing. She urged large labor delegations to appear before bosses with their demands rather than to trust single or small groups of supposed union leaders who play for positions rather than the welfare of the workers they are suppose to represent.

In November of 1901, the Union Co-Operative Store opened in the basement of the Labor Hall. Much of this area still exists in fair condition. The store was managed by Antonio Giachino and provided the community with a resource for "produce,

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Statement of Significance (continued)

merchandise, goods, and commodities.” Three months later documents show that the store was enlarged. Over time the store included a bottling works and bakery, and distributed coal and wine to the community.

During the Great Depression records show events arranged to help families in need of food, clothes, and money. A December 13, 1930, article in the *Barre Evening Telegram* describes a dance put on in support of the organization’s Christmas fund:

A crowd estimated in the vicinity of 600 persons gathered last evening at the Granite Street Hall for a Dance and Bazaar conducted by the Granite Cutters International Organization for the benefit of needy unemployed members of the organization. With huge advance ticket sales and money taken in from sales of articles in the hall it was expected that about \$1,000 would be realized for the Christmas fund of the organization... The tremendous crowd in the Hall made dancing almost impossible. Several auction sales were held and many prizes given away on various plans... With the heavy advance of tickets, orders for shoes, clothing and food were put in by the G.C.I.A. committee and distribution to members families where there is a lack of employment will be started at once. It is expected that the distribution will do much to help make the holiday a happier one for a great many families.

In the 1920’s and 1930’s a number of advertisements show up in the local papers promoting sporting events at the Hall. These events appear to be limited to boxing and wrestling matches. One advertisement from the *Barre Daily Times* is for a wrestling bout. It reads:

BIG
WRESTLING BOUT
Granite Street Hall, Barre
Friday Evening, March 28
8 O’clock

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Statement of Significance (continued)

A. Tuovi
Of Barre and Boston
Vs.
Sylvio Checco
Of Gardner, Massachusetts
TWO GOOD PRELIMINARIES
Best two out of three falls
Admission, \$1.10, .77, .55

The Labor Hall and Co-Operative store operated until 1936 when the building was sold. The property was purchased by The Washington Fruit Company and converted into a produce warehouse. It was later acquired by the Vermont Pak Tomato company and occupied by them until bankruptcy forced them to close in 1994. In July of 1995 the Barre Historical Society in partnership with the City of Barre, State and Local organizations, private individuals, and businesspersons helped purchased the Old Labor Hall. The structure is now under the process of restoration to again serve the community of Barre as a meeting hall and social club.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 13

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 14

Socialist Labor Party Hall
Barre City
Washington County, Vermont

Verbal Boundary Description

Parcel number 12036-0685-0046 as recorded on the Barre City Tax Assessor's map located in Barre City Hall.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Socialist Labor Party Hall.