

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Z.C.B.J. Hall

other names/site number Bohemian Hall; Zapadni Cesko Bratske Jednota Hall

2. Location

street & number State Trunk Highway 27, 7 miles north of Cadott N/A Not for Publication

city, town Town of Arthur N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Chippewa code 017 zip code 54727

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>None</u>		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

5/14/92
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

**Entered in the
National Register**

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

[Signature]

6/25/92

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall

Social/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood

Tin

roof Asphalt

other Concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Zapadni Cesko Bratske Jednota Hall (ZCJB Hall) is located approximately 7 miles north of the city of Cadott on state trunk highway 27. The hall occupies the northeast corner of the intersection STH 27 and a town road. The hall rests on a slight knoll and has no distinctive landscaping other than a low retaining wall south of the building. The principal elevation faces west.

The ZCJB Hall (or Bohemian Hall, as it is known locally) was built by members in 1907. The building was originally a 52' by 32', two-story wood frame structure with a front-facing gabled roof and a fieldstone foundation. A 40' addition was added in 1930 to the rear of the building.

The exterior of the building is sheathed in embossed metal siding on all elevations with a rusticated cement block pattern painted silver. Windows are mostly 2/2 double hung sash with a simple wooden pedimented cornice. The roof is covered with lock type asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises from the furnace through the office and balcony storage room to extend above the peak of the building. A second interior brick chimney is located in the center of the west wall of the addition.

The main (west) elevation is symmetrically arranged with a central double door entrance surmounted by an ocular window. Double hung windows on the first and second story flank the entrance. A 7' by 21' concrete partial-width stoop with steps and a metal pipe railing extends along the front of the building. The main elevation is topped by a false-front parapet with a wooden entablature. The ZCJB signboard hangs above the main entrance. The 1907 structure is five bays deep with symmetrically placed double-hung windows on the north and south elevations. The 1930 addition is wider and projects several feet beyond the original structure to the north and south. Side entrances are located in both projections. The rear addition is 2 bays deep with smaller 2/2 windows and contains a basement entrance on the south elevation. The rear elevation has no fenestration.

The double five-panel wooden doors with a three light transom on the west elevation open to a long, narrow entry hall. A ticket window is located in the south wall just inside the doors. To the south of the entry are an office and a checkroom with storage. A coat room is located to the north. A trap door gives access to a small furnace room below. A balcony projects over these rooms and is lit by the ocular stained glass window.

X See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>Social History</u>	<u>1907-1942</u>	<u>1907¹</u>
<u>Ethnic Heritage/European</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	Cultural Affiliation	_____
_____	<u>N/A</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
<u>N/A</u>	<u>Unknown²</u>	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The ZCJB Hall has local and statewide significance under criterion A for its important historical associations with the Zapadni Cesko Bratske Jednota fraternal organization. Its significance extends far beyond the physical structure into social history through the promotion of activities that benefitted the local Czechs and the community at large. The building was a community focal point bonding Czech settlers and encouraged preservation of their culture as they gradually integrated themselves into the area. The "Bohemians," as they were called locally (rather than the more formal Czech), arrived from their homeland, Czechoslovakia, and made the ZCJB Hall the social center of their lives. Many were affiliated with the Free-Thought movement or at least had broken ties with any structured church. Having a hall made ethnic socialization and formal services such as funerals and weddings possible.

These activities evolved into fraternal insurance, money lending and all manner of support for the 100+ families in this northern rural area.³ The ZCJB Hall was the center of the social/fraternal life of the Czechs and is truly significant in the history and development of the Cadott area and the state as well.

X See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

See continuation sheet

- 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

Specify repository:

ZCJB Hall, Cadott

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/4/6/0/2/0</u>	<u>4/9/8/8/7/0/0</u>	B	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	D	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: Commencing at intersection of Hwy 27 and town road, proceed North 6 rods along Hwy 27, east 8 rods, south 6 rods to town road, and west 8 rods to the point of beginning. Town of Arthur, Chippewa County.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the entire parcel historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joyce E. Gannon Laraine post. Scribe
organization _____ date May 17, 1990
street & number R.R. #3, Box 188 telephone (715) 723-6109
city or town Cadott state Wisconsin zip code 54727

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The interior flooring is hard maple flooring of exceptional quality. The ceiling has a 3' slope on each side following the roof angle. The walls and ceiling are covered with 3 inch tongue and groove lumber laid horizontally. A vertical beaded wainscoting topped with wood molding extends to sill height throughout the interior. The main hall has four double-hung windows on each side. Simple wooden benches stretch continuously along the north and south walls.

The east end of the hall contains entrances to the rear addition and a large semi-circular wooden stage. The stage has a simple wood molding proscenium with a 2' apron curving out into the main room. There are two roll-down curtains. The first curtain has advertisements bearing the name of local merchants and hangs in front of the original Castle scene curtain painted by an itinerant artist, Emil Piler (a.k.a. Piller) in 1931. Both curtains are maneuvered by a pin and rail system. A reversible backdrop depicts a Czech street scene and a rural woodland scene. There are additional smaller drop curtains of buildings and other Czechoslovakian scenes for use in the plays. All are original from 1915 and have never been repainted.

A short ladder from the basement leads to a trap door in the stage floor enabling a prompter to unobtrusively direct the productions. Original milk glass lighting fixtures are suspended from the ceiling. The main fittings needed for the gymnastics equipment used for Sokol training are encased in the main floor.

The 1930 addition contains the stage and a rear kitchen area. Interior finishes are similar to the rest of the building. The 40' addition includes a basement bar area accessed by concrete stairs at each end and a corrugated steel ceiling painted silver.

The two privies are located north of the ZCJB hall. Both are wood frame with asphalt brick-look siding and gabled roofs. The privies are screened with painted picket fences.

The ZCJB Hall exhibits excellent historic integrity with most of its original construction and furnishings intact and is a tribute to the skills, hard work and loving care of its ZCJB charter members and their descendants.

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ZCJB Hall, Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, WI

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin indicates that Czech-speaking immigration was the earliest of any of the Slavic language groups and was largely composed of farmers and skilled tradesmen. It notes that although all the major Czech settlements occurred before 1860, a few groups established colonies in the cutover region of northern Wisconsin during the late nineteenth century. (CRMP settlement 8-10)

Czechs left their homeland of Czechoslovakia because of dissension with the Austrian-Hapsburg rule and its close bond to the Catholic Church. Many held anti-clerical, free-Masonic and Marxist beliefs and were prime candidates for the Free-Thought movement. By 1910 Wisconsin had the fifth largest Czech population in the United States.⁵ (settlement 8-12)

Disintegration of structured ties to a government and church encouraged strong interest in fraternal organizations to provide patriotic and business needs and formal social services such as funerals. The members were identified at meetings by wearing special reversible color badges; the black side for funerals and the red, white and blue for ceremonies.⁶ The original badges cost 50 cents. When one realized that a full day's labor might bring a dollar, one senses the importance of belonging to a group. The charter members' families still preserve the badges.

Nearly all the Czech settlements, except in the cities of Milwaukee and La Crosse, were agriculturally oriented. The concentration of Czechs about 7 miles northeast of Cadott, presently in the Town of Arthur, can be explained in part by the sections of land offered for sale in 1896 by the Cypreanson Brothers of Eau Claire. The brothers hired an agent, Vincent Benish, to advertise in Bohemian language newspapers published in urban areas of southwest Wisconsin where Czech immigrants had settled upon arrival in America. Further enticements were the donation of 2 1/2 acres of land designated for a Bohemian National Cemetery and a contribution of \$25.00 toward a meeting hall.⁴

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ZCJB Hall, Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, WI

The Free-Thought faction represented a phenomenon with few parallels among other immigrant groups (with the exception of the German Freie Gemeinde) and resulted in a lively free press and structured fraternal organizations. The original Czech fraternal order, Cesko-Slovansky Podorujici (Czech Benevolent Society) quickly became the major Czech order in the United States.⁷

The local fraternal society when formally organized in 1904 was inducted into the Zapadni Cesko Bratske Jednota (Western Bohemian Fraternal Association). Hence, the ZCJB symbol/emblem, although "Bohemian Hall" became its common name in the area.

The Bohemians built their Hall in 1907 with volunteer/donated help and materials. The original 60'8" by 32'3" structure had a 10' by 28' foldable stage added in 1913 to accommodate the "Goodwill Actors" who presented several Czech plays per year and traveled throughout the state.⁸ This dramatic society is an example of the cultural activities promoted by the Lodge. The Hall quickly became the multipurpose center for Czechs and also provided a meeting place for the area residents to dance from 7:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. the next morning. Local musicians, many with Czech backgrounds, provided the music.⁹ The members held regular fraternal meetings using established ceremonies, developed money lending practices, created brotherhood insurance and in general preserved their ethnic heritage. A Czech language school was conducted summers from 1908 to 1934 whenever possible.¹⁰ The first session featuring instruction in the mother tongue, history and culture, had 58 pupils in attendance. Original copies of Readers I, II, and III are preserved at the Hall.

Other especially unique records include the Lodge fraternal minutes (originally recorded in Bohemian) running continuously from 1901 to the present. The original site map and plat book apportioning the Bohemian National Cemetery among the charter members and their descendants still exists.

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Another original historical feature remaining at the Hall is the hand drawn roll down curtain painted by an itinerant artist, Emil Piler (a.k.a. Piller) depicting the Karlstein Castle built near Prague in the 14th century. The front curtain added in 1933 is composed of various size ads purchased by and containing the names of local merchants.

Sokol (translation "falcon") a Czech youth organization emphasizing gymnastics and patriotism used the Hall for their meetings from 1928 to 1943.¹¹ The anchor holes for the parallel bars are still embedded in the original maple floor. There were many exhibitions held at the Hall. People performed on the horizontal bars, parallel bars, rings, horse, calisthenics, marching, singing and folk dancing, one of which, the "Beseda" was a great favorite. In 1933 many from this group traveled in a covered milk truck to the Chicago World Fair to perform mass calisthenics at Soldier's Field and competed in individual and group competition along with thousands of fellow Czechs.¹²

Many social activities ceased during World War II with the energies and resources patriotically expended for the Red Cross, War Bond drives and support for the 13 local Bohemian youth serving in the military.¹³

The ZCJB Lodge is structurally sound and maintained, continuing to serve the descendants of the original charter families. The Lodge holds regularly staffed meetings with a full slate of officers. Meetings were conducted in Czech until 1946, when the English language was adopted. Fraternal activities are still supported with Memorial Day Services at the cemetery, an insurance component (Western Fraternal Life) and a Father's Day dinner featuring kolaches, one of the favorite if not the most famous ethnic food from their homeland.

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SOCIAL HISTORY/ETHNIC HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The ZCJB Hall is significant to the social and ethnic history of Wisconsin as a rare surviving example of a ZCJB Hall. Only two other ZCJB Halls are known to be extant in Wisconsin. The ZCJB Hall in Haugen was built in 1913 and listed in the NRHP on 4/11/85. The ZCJB hall in Adams was built around the same time and currently stands vacant and in poor repair.

The ZCJB Hall in the Town of Arthur represents the historically important social activities and philosophical ideas of the surrounding Czech community and the state as well. The ZCJB Hall, which began as a physical center for meetings, evolved into greater significance through the social activities of the fraternal order, promotion of Czech ethnic heritage, encouragement of Czech and American patriotism, and integration with neighboring nationality groups. Between 1904 and 1942, the fraternal and social activities, theatrical performances, educational activities of the Sokol, Freethinkers, and the Czech language school promoted social and cultural awareness in a relatively isolated rural area of Wisconsin. The hall had special associations with Freethinkers and provided social discourse for a group that avoided participation in any formal religious activities. It illustrates the importance of rural social institutions in the state and the dramatic effect of these institutions on the social and cultural life of their community.

In 1992, after 85 years of continuous contributions to Czech cultural preservation, the ZCJB Hall is truly historically significant.

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ENDNOTES FOR SECTION 8

1. The ZCJB Hall was begun in 1907. The Lodge is still active with a complete slate of officers and regular meetings. Original minutes and records written in Bohemian date back to 1901.
2. No known architect. Members built Hall. Structure similar to other ZCJB Lodge Minute Book, April 4, 1903.
3. Heinle, Mildred Buresh, Cadott, Wisconsin. Translated from ZCJB Lodge Minute Book, April 4, 1903.
4. Andre, Jeanne. "Early History of Drywood Czech Settlement," January 30, 1988 as copied from notes by Grandfather Thomas Kysilko written in late 1930.
5. Capek, Thomas. The Czechs in America, New York: Arno Press, 1969, Pages 36-60.
6. Spolku Brati Severw Cislo 18. June 9, 1901. Translated by Mildred Buresh Heinle, Cadott, Wisconsin.
7. Bicha, Karel D., "The Czechs in Wisconsin History," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 1970 pages 201-203.
8. Stanek, Bessie Najbrt, Cadott, Wisconsin, Cadott Community Centennial, 1965, page 89.

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ZCBJ Hall, Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, WI

ENDNOTES FOR SECTION 8 CONT.

9. Heinle, Mildred Buresh, Cadott, Wisconsin, translated from Lodge Minute Book, 1918.
10. Bohemian School Records. 1908-1936.
11. Stanek, Bessie Najbrt, Cadott Community Centennial Book, 1965, page 89.
12. Ibid., Interviewed, March 1990.
13. Heinle, Mildred Buresh, Interviewed March 1990.

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ZCJB Hall, Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, WI

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Photo #1 of 11

ZCJB Hall
Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Photo by R. Heinle, April 1990
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of balcony looking southwest.

Photo #2 of 11

ZCJB HALL
Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Photo by R. Heinle, April 1990
View of balcony looking west.

Photo #3 of 11

ZCJB HALL
Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Photo by R. Heinle, April 1990
View of stairway from balcony looking east

Photo #4 of 11

ZCJB HALL
Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Photo by R. Heinle, April 1990
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of stage from balcony looking east.

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ZCJB Hall, Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, WI

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION CONT

Photo #5 of 11

ZCJB HALL
Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Photo by R. Heinle, April 1990
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of north wall.

Photo #6 of 11

ZCJB HALL
Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Photo by R. Heinle, April 1990
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of south wall.

Photo #7 of 11

ZCJB HALL
Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Photo by R. Heinle, April 1990
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of entryway-ticket window looking west.

Photo #8 of 11

ZCJB HALL
Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, Wisconsin
Photo by R. Heinle, April 1990
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of checkroom and ticket window looking south.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION CONT

Photo #11 of 11

ZCJB HALL

Town of Arthur, Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Photo by R. Heinle, April 1990

Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

View of kitchen looking east.

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Section number 9 Page 1

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andre, Jeanne. "Early History of Drywood Czech Settlement," Manuscript, January 30, 1988 as copied from notes by Grandfather Thomas Kysilko written in late 1930.

Bicha, Karel D., "The Czechs in Wisconsin History," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 1970 pages 201-203.

Bohemian Hall Minute Book, April 4, 1903.

Bohemian School Records. 1908-1936.

Capek, Thomas. The Czechs in America. New York: Arno Press, 1969.

Eiseley, Jane. Freethinker's Hall, National Register of Historic Places nomination form, March 12, 1987, located at State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Heinle, Mildred Buresh, Cadott, Wisconsin. Translated from ZCJB Lodge Minute Book, April 4, 1903. Lodge Minute Book, 1918.

Spolku Brati Severw Cislo 18. June 9, 1901. Translated by Mildred Buresh Heinle, Cadott, Wisconsin.

Stanek, Bessie Najbrt, , Cadott Community Centennial, Cadott, Wisconsin 1965.

Stanek, Bessie. Interviewed, March 1990.

Heinle, Mildred Buresh, Interviewed March 1990.

NRForms/ZCJB