

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 23 1985
date entered AUG 23 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Z.C.B.J. Rad Tabor No. 74

and/or common Tabor Hall

2. Location

street & number R.F.D. N/A not for publication

city, town Dorchester X vicinity of

state Nebraska code 31 county Saline code 151

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: fraternal

4. Owner of Property

name Rad Tabor No. 74, c/o Mr. and Mrs. Leon Gerner

street & number N/A

city, town Dorchester N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office, Saline County Courthouse

street & number 215 South Court Street

city, town Wilber state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going federal state county local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Z.C.B.J. Rad Tabor No. 74 is a frame Czech lodge hall situated in rural Saline County. The original portion of this frame building was constructed in 1914. A large addition was placed on the east end of this vernacular Neo-Classical hall in 1934.

Tabor Hall is situated on a small parcel of level ground in rural Saline County farm country five miles south of Dorchester (1980 population 611). The building is of frame construction with a covering of lap-siding on the exterior.

The original (west) portion of the structure (measuring 2450x1105 meters) was built in 1914 and exhibits vernacular Neo-Classical details in the window hoods, dentil molding and cornice. A pedimented gable rises from the cornice line of the symmetrical front facade. This portion of the building has a flat roof, double-doored main entrance and eight-over-one, double-hung windows. Stick style ornamentation completes the design of this 1914 section of the building. A rear wing is attached to the north end of the building.

In 1934, a large (2437 by 2143 meters) dance pavilion was added to the east facade of the original hall. This addition has a hipped asphalt shingled roof. Purlins add architectural detailing to the roof line. A unique system of six-paned casement windows and lap-sided panels which hinge horizontally, line the north and south facades of this portion of the structure to provide adequate ventilation (see photos 5 & 6).

There are also exit doors on north and south facades. Projections on the east facade provide space for the stage and two restroom stairways (see photo #3)

The interior of the 1914 section has been altered somewhat since the 1934 addition. This space now houses a large bar, a small kitchen area and its coat check room. The balcony, with a simple balustrade, occupies the south end of this original hall. Opposite the balcony, along the north wall is the space formerly occupied by the original lodge stage. The stage has been removed (see photo 9) to allow for more seating space. A new ladies restroom and storage area occupy the premises on either side and behind this old stage area. This entire section has its original pressed metal ceiling. A semi finished basement is situated under the majority of this original building.

Two sets of double doorways lead into the 1934 pavilion. This area can also be viewed through the windows left intact on the east facade of the 1914 structure (see photo 7). Posts placed near the north and south walls provide interior structural support (see photo 7).

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				ethnic

Specific dates 1914; 1934

Builder/Architect Frank Hoffman, Ed Havelka

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Tabor Hall is significant in the area of ethnic culture for the role this Z.C.B.J. lodge has played in promoting the preservation of Czech language and culture in Saline County. This midwestern fraternal organization which was an outcome of the Czech Freethinking movement provided security and a national solidarity for Czech immigrants in America. Socially, Rad Tabor is significant as a place of much fellowship and social interaction for this rural Czech community.

The Zapadni Cesko Bratske Jednota (Z.C.B.J.) or Western Bohemian Fraternal Association emerged from the Cesko-Slovensky Podporuzici Society (C.S.P.S.) in 1897. The C.S.P.S. is the oldest fraternal Czech organization in the United States. The purpose of this group was to provide life insurance and sick benefits to members and in general to aid immigrants in getting settled in this new land. In 1897, Czechs in western states who had become disenchanted with the C.S.P.S., broke away from the organization and formed their own group (Z.C.B.J.) which reformed the old C.S.P.S. bylaws on the following points:

1. Members would pay insurance premiums according to age.
2. Women were accepted as regular insurable members as opposed to just social members.
3. A reserve fund was created.
4. A medical director was appointed to screen applicants.

The headquarters of the Z.C.B.J. was established at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and this new organization included lodges in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin.

These Z.C.B.J. lodges nurtured the Czech Freethinking movement on the Great Plains. The Freethinking movement had begun in Czechoslovakia in the mid-19th century. The Young Czech Party, made up mostly of peasants, farmers and tradesmen, was organized as a force against the upper middle class Czechs. The Freethinkers broke away from organized religion and promoted liberalism and strong national and democratic views. In America, these freethinking Z.C.B.J. lodges have had great influence in the development of Czech-American society and have been the primary conservators of the Czech heritage. These Z.C.B.J. lodges provided a support system and fellowship in much the same manner as a religious organization benefits its members with the added advantage of insurance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Pleasant Hill, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	14	6	5	18	9	12	10	4	14	9	13	8	17	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is described as the extreme southwestern corner acre in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 8, Township 7 North, Range 3 East, Saline County, Nebraska, and contains all historically associated property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date February 1985

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-4767

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Spencer

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date June 25, 1985

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

Joyce M. Sammon
Keeper of the National Register

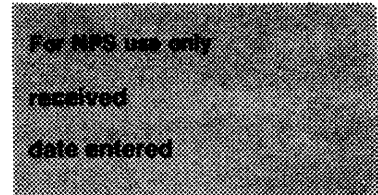
Entered in the National Register date 8/23/85

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

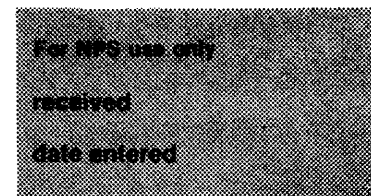
The stage is located at the east end of the pavilion. The back wall of the stage is curved to meet the ceiling which provides a band shell effect for sound enhancement (see photos 8). Much of the pavilion is paneled with tongue and groove siding. Originally the ceiling in this addition was exposed to the rafters, with draped cloth providing some decoration. During a 1981 remodelling, the ceiling was lowered to provide for a more energy efficient space. The walls above the tongue and groove paneling are adorned with advertising signs. Local businesses "purchased" their space and provided the sign painting - a practice common in many rural Nebraska areas (see photos 6, 7, 8).

There is a small gable-roofed outbuilding north of the hall.

The members of Rad Tabor do an excellent job with the upkeep and management of the facility which is occupied every weekend with dances and other functions.

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Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

Tabor Lodge #74 in Saline County was organized October 8, 1899 in the now defunct community of Pleasant Hill which was located two miles east of the present lodge location. The 14 charter members were John Cerny, Joseph Cihal, Joseph Freeouf, Frank Hajek, Paul Kasl, Anton Koci, Joseph Kozeluh, Jarlim Vrbsky, Vaclav Kucera, Anton Prokop, Vaclav Prokop, Jerry Shestak, Thomas Sokolik and Frank Zumpfe. The initiation of the lodge was witnessed by Lodge Praha No. 54 of Wilber and Lodge Nebraska No. 3 of Crete. The organization met in the abandoned Saline County courthouse in Pleasant Hill, former county seat, for several years until the Tabor Lodge hall was constructed in 1914. This structure was dedicated September 27, 1914.

During World War I, when Czechoslovakia became involved, Tabor Lodge organized a chapter of the Czech National Association and raised several thousand dollars to help in the war effort.

Tabor Lodge helped promote the area's Czech heritage by sponsoring Czech language classes at the hall and for a time Tabor Lodge had an active Sokol program. The Sokol movement is a gymnastic society which originated in Bohemia in the mid 19th century. This organization promoted a "sound mind in a sound body" with the mascot being the falcon (or Sokol in Czech), a bird which epitomizes a sleek, well tuned body.

Lodge Tabor grew rapidly and until two large Omaha lodges merged, Tabor held the distinction of being the largest in Nebraska. The current membership as of January 1, 1985 is 644.

By 1934, the organization had an urgent need for more space. A large dance pavilion was planned as an addition to the existing lodge. Attached to the eastern facade of the 1914 building, the new facility opened June 19, 1934 with a dance.

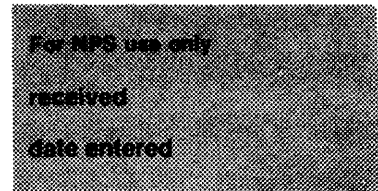
Many events have been held and continue to take place in Tabor Hall, i.e. lodge meetings, farm organizations and political meetings, class reunions, graduations, parties, flea markets, wedding and anniversary celebrations and dances.

Though the lodge always had a strong membership, the hall itself had begun to need extensive repairs in recent years. In January of 1981, plans were made by members to restore the building. The membership rallied together, and doing most of the labor themselves, had an "opening dance" in May 1981 to celebrate the completion of the work.

Tabor Lodge continues to grow in membership and boasts a good working relationship among members which attests to the success in management of the organization and social facilities.

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

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Tabor Hall is significant in the area of ethnic culture for the role it has played in promoting the preservation of the Czech language and culture. Most current Z.C.B.J. members daily speak and/or understand the Czech language. This Tabor Z.C.B.J. organization provided security to the Czech immigrants who needed such unity after arriving in a foreign land. Since most of Nebraska's Czech were "Freethinker's", this fraternal organization filled the void left by the lack of organized religion.

The hall is also significant socially as it provided a place for fellowship and many forms of social interaction (i.e. school programs, meetings, dances). Tabor Hall serves as a social nucleus for this rural Czech area.

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Bibliography

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Rad Tabor Z.C.B.J. meeting records.