

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only

received JAN 25 1984

date entered

1. Name

historic Z.C.B.J. Lodge No. 46

and/or common Bohemian Hall

2. Location

street & number South Barta Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Prague N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Lincoln code 081

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: social

4. Owner of Property

name Western Czechoslovakian Fraternity Association

street & number South Barta Avenue

city, town Prague N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 74864

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number Lincoln County Courthouse

city, town Chandler state Oklahoma 74834

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office - Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Z.C.B.J. Lodge/Bohemian Hall is a 40' x 100' structure. Constructed in 1917, the two-story building is situated in an acre of ground in the south western part of the City of Prague. The red brick exterior walls are a running bond with some rows of Flemish bond. The building's hip roof has one straight stack chimney and ends in a parapet wall on the front or east side of the building.

The east side has six 1/1 sash windows with brick sills and semi-elliptical arches. The main entrance is a double wooden door which has a round brick arch above consisting of five rows of header bricks. Leading up to the door are five steps constructed of concrete.

The south side of the building has five 1/1 sash wooden framed windows, all with decorative brick arches above. There are also three sets of paired 1/1 sash windows with fan lights, and round brick arches above.

The west side of the building has a rear wooden door. There are three bricked up window shapes suggesting the presence of windows at some time. The north side has four 1/1 sash windows and three sets of paired 1/1 sash windows, the latter do not show the fan lights as on the south side.

Although this is primarily a plain building, there are a number of attractive brick decorative features. All the windows and doors have brick arches and this theme is continued on top of the rectangular brick parapet where a brick semi-circle has the inscription: SIN
RAD. OKLA
C. 46. Z.C.B.J.

Also along the top edges of the walls, there are brick dentils.

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 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 1917–Present **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Z.C.B.J. Lodge Hall No. 46, or commonly referred to as the Bohemian Hall, is historically significant because it houses the oldest Czech fraternal order in Oklahoma and has served as a focal point for the Czech community of Prague, Oklahoma for over 65 years.

The first Czech fraternal lodge in Oklahoma was organized in 1891 and was affiliated with the national Czech fraternal association C.S.P.S. (Cesko-Slovansky Podporujici Spolek or translated the Czech-Slavic Benevolent Society). It was founded by thirteen Czech settlers near Prague as C.S.P.S. Lodge No. 214. In 1897 the organization moved to Prague and affiliated as Lodge No. 214 of the Zapadni Cesko-Bratraska Jednota (Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) which had severed ties with C.S.P.S. As one of the forty-nine lodges to secede in 1897, the Prague organization enjoys charter status in Z.C.B.J. which soon became the largest of all Czech-American institutions. The Prague Lodge No. 46 held its meetings in the Prague schoolhouse until Sokol Hall was constructed in the early 1900s. Shortly after statehood in 1907, Sokol Hall, a wooden frame building, was destroyed by fire. It was replaced with the present red brick building in 1917 which was constructed at a cost of \$14,000.

Membership in Lodge No. 46 increased to over 300 during the 1930s. Bicha in her book on The Czechs in Oklahoma (p. 42) states that the Prague Lodge Hall offered more activities in the community than any other organization for both Czechs and non-Czechs. In the summer the Lodge sponsored language schools for the children of Czech settlers with the expectation that the Czech language would survive in the American West. Dramatic presentations in the Czech language and Saturday night dances eased the arduous lives of the Czech farm families. In addition, the Lodge sponsored guest speakers, holiday celebrations, concerts, picnics, benefit functions, weddings, and funerals. The Prague Lodge has served as a community center even though only twenty percent of the area's residents are of Czech extraction today.

The Prague Z.C.B.J. organization also provided insurance and relief services to distressed members. Western Fraternal Life Assurance was given to all local Czechs from birth as well as access to the Lodge Hall in the case of emergencies.

Although membership in Z.C.B.J. Lodge No. 46 had declined to approximately 230, the association remains quite active. It holds monthly meetings in the Hall where association business is first conducted followed by some form of entertainment. It plays an active role in the oldest Czech gathering in Oklahoma, the Kolache Festival, held annually each April in Prague. For over 65 years the Z.C.B.J. Lodge Hall No. 46 of Prague has stood as a symbol to the ethnic pride and heritage of Czechs in Oklahoma.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Karel D. Bicha, The Czechs in Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980, p 37-42.
Prague, Oklahoma, City of Opportunities. Rice Printery, Okemah, OK. 1930.
Interviews: Lizzie Jezek (Sec/Tres. of Lodge) Prague, June 1983.
Karmen Dostalík (member of Lodge) Prague, June 1983.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Prague, OK

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000 7.5"

UMT References

A

1	4	7	1	0	2	0	5	3	9	2	8	2	6	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point which is 166.29' straight east of the northeast corner of the intersection of Oklahoma Highway 99 and A Avenue, proceed east along the northern edge of the section line road 208.71' to South Barta Avenue. Then proceed north along west side of South Barta Avenue 208.71', then due west 208.71', then

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

state N/A code county

state code county

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nicola Perkins Directed by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Department of Geography

date November, 1983

street & number Oklahoma State University

telephone (405) 624-6250

city or town Stillwater

state Oklahoma 74078

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

C. Metcalf

1-23-84

title

date

For HCERS use only

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

Bell Crovina

Keeper of the National Register

date

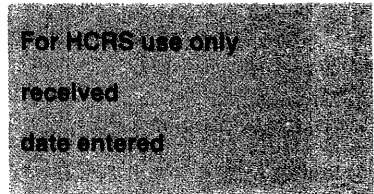
3/8/84

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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due south 208.71' to the point of beginning. These boundaries enclose a square area the size of one acre upon which the nominated property stands.