



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 by 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 Lodge Boleslav Jablonsky No. 219

other names/site number Western Fraternal Lodge No. 219

2. Location

street & number 30033 110th Street  not for publication

city or town Poplar Grove Township Strathcona  vicinity

state Minnesota code MN county Roseau code 135 zip code 56759

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.)

*Ian R. Stewart* 7/23/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Ian R. Stewart Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper 9.6.02  
Date of Action

**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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		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  
Recreation and Culture/Dancehall

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall  
Recreation and Culture/Dancehall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

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

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage/European

Social History

Period of Significance

1916-1952

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	2 8 2 3 8 0	5 3 8 2 0 5 0
	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 David C. Anderson

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March 18, 2002

street & number 169 Lundy Bridge Drive telephone (563) 382-3079

city or town Waukon state Iowa zip code 52172

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 \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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Lodge Boleslav Jablonsky No. 219  
Roseau County, Minnesota

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**DESCRIPTION**

The Lodge Boleslav Jablonsky hall is a 27 by 44 foot single story structure on a one-acre parcel located at the southwest corner of Poplar Grove Township 10 miles east of Strathcona in Roseau County, Minnesota. Poplar Grove is in the southern tier of townships bordering Marshall County. Roseau County borders Canada and lies just west of Lake of the Woods.

Before Euro-American settlement, the area was almost totally forested, it now includes extensive farmlands plus forested zones and swampland. Built in 1916 by lodge members, the hall is a wood frame structure on a poured concrete foundation with no basement. It is painted white throughout and stands out in a landscape without topographic relief and few farmsteads or other man-made structures in view. The hall is comprised of three segments: an eight foot square enclosed entrance porch on the south end, a three-bay hall/auditorium, and a kitchen and stage at the north end. The south wall is extended vertically somewhat beyond the lower gable roof edges to create a rectangular facade with a simple cornice. A sign reading Z.C.B.J. Hall Lodge No. 219 is placed on this wall above the porch.

The porch includes a ticket booth made of locally sawn aspen to the right of an off-set door. The porch is clad in wood drop siding while the remainder of the building has wood lap siding.

All windows in the hall are double-hung wood units with simple trim inside and out. The roof surfaces have asphalt shingle cladding, and a brick chimney is placed along the north wall of the main interior space.

The interior wall and ceiling surfaces are covered with "Celotex" composition board and four by eight foot sheets of plywood paneling. The stage, which does not project into the hall, is elevated about 18 inches and measures 12 by 12 feet. The walls and ceiling of the stage are the original wood sheathing. There never was a curtain or backdrop, but a door to the stage on the east side (visible on the exterior) was covered over at some point in time. The floor is 1 by 4 inch hard pine in poor condition at some locations due to a leaking roof in the past. There are hinged benches along the long walls of the hall.

The facility presents itself as a straightforward, economically built structure that, except for the stage and partially false front and identification sign, could be mistaken for a school or township hall.

Lodge records and accounts by current members<sup>1</sup> indicate that the basic structure was built in 1916 with certain features added over the years and repairs made as funds allowed. Dates for some of these are as follows: the entrance porch and ticket booth were put on in 1946, electrical wiring installed in 1948, the stage and kitchen completed on the interior in 1940, the sign put on in 1941, Celotex installed in 1938, and the chimney installed in 1932. A number of the windows, which originally included exterior shutters, have been replaced over the years.

Except for the plywood paneling installed in 1989 on the lower four feet of the walls, the hall has been changed little since the 1940s.

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<sup>1</sup>Members Irene Svir, Wesley Pesek, and Frances Forst were interviewed at the lodge hall on October 3, 2001. Written documentation submitted by lodge Secretary Frances Forst is in the SHPO file for this property.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Lodge Boleslav Jablonsky No. 219 is locally significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage/European and Social History. It also relates to the Minnesota statewide context Railroads and Agricultural

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Development 1870-1940. The Czechs and Scandinavians that came to Poplar Grove Township and other areas of Roseau County beginning in the 1890s were the first European-American settlers on lands that were part of an area known as Minnesota's last frontier. The Czechs and other ethnic groups were intent on maintaining their identity and language by establishing churches and schools that maintained language and cultural traditions brought over from their countries of origin. In addition, new social institutions like the Czech fraternal lodges were created in America by European immigrants to promote their welfare, maintain cultural traditions, and satisfy social needs. By the time the Boleslav Jablonsky Lodge hall was built in 1916, the Czech population in and around Poplar Grove Township had reached a concentration sufficient to support such a project, although the local lodge organization had been in existence since 1914.

#### Roseau County Settlement

Settlement activity by Czechs and others in what became Poplar Grove Township and Roseau County was directed toward obtaining farmland and building permanent homes. Europeans had been in parts of this territory much earlier, largely in connection with the fur trade. During the nineteenth century the Hudson's Bay Company was active in areas drained by the Roseau River, which runs west across the northern part of Roseau County into Kittson County and Canada to the Red River. The American Fur Company had a trading post at Warroad in Roseau County on Lake of the Woods.<sup>1</sup> The western part of Roseau County was ceded by Native Americans (*Ojibwe*) in 1863 and the remainder in 1889. A small number of settlers arrived in the valley during the 1880s from the Red River region, and the city of Roseau was platted in 1892. Roseau County was organized in 1895 from the eastern 30 townships of Kittson County, and in 1896 it was granted additional territory from Beltrami County.

Large-scale settlement here depended on two factors that came into play at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century. Between 1898 and 1899 a large territory in Roseau County was opened for claims under the Homestead Act<sup>2</sup> and in 1900 the first railroad link to the area was created when the Canadian National Railway laid track to Warroad and west across the northwest part of the county. The Great Northern Railway extended its network into the county from the south in 1904, reaching Roseau City in 1908.<sup>3</sup>

The population in Roseau County went from 6,994 in 1900 to 11,333 in 1910. No one was recorded in Poplar Grove Township until 1910 when 200 residents were listed. Neighboring Huss Township where Strathcona is located also recorded no residents until 1910 (306). Barnett Township, bordering Poplar Grove to the northwest, registered 137 in 1900 and 309 in 1910.<sup>4</sup>

By far the largest ethnic groups to settle Roseau County were Norwegians and Swedes, followed in proportion by Czechs, Poles, and an assortment of others.<sup>5</sup> Foreign-born Czechs in the county numbered 33 in 1895, 127 in 1905, and 104 in 1930. Figures for individuals with Czech parents born outside Bohemia are 0 in 1895, 283 in 1905, and 235 in 1930.<sup>6</sup>

#### Czech Settlement in Minnesota

Although Czechs are not one of Minnesota's larger ethnic groups, they were ranked seventh in 1910 with a population of 33,247. Nationwide and also in Minnesota, first and second generation Czechs pursued agriculture-related occupations (mainly farming) more than any other occupation in 1900.<sup>7</sup>

Czech immigration to Minnesota began in the 1850s, with the largest concentration developing in a "triangle" encompassing parts of LeSueur, Scott, and Rice counties with the city of New Prague at its center. Other pockets dating to the 1850s were the Lake Minnetonka-Hopkins region of Hennepin County, Steele County south of Owatonna, in Fillmore County near Chatfield, and around Silver Lake in McLeod County.<sup>8</sup> Smaller concentrations are found at diverse locations including Pine (1890), Roseau (1894), Polk

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(1896), Pennington (1904), and St. Louis (1915) counties.<sup>9</sup> The timing of these settlements varies, but the largest date back to the 1850s and continued to grow into the early twentieth century. Their location depended on several factors, but mostly on where and when land was available. The best farmland in Minnesota was first available after 1851 and was rapidly taken up by Czechs and others. By 1900 there was little farmland available in Minnesota that most immigrants could afford, so the homestead option was attractive even though much of the land turned out to be of low quality.

According to local accounts, the first Czech to arrive in Roseau County was Anton Homolka, who initially located in Section 24 of Poplar Grove Township in 1894.<sup>10</sup> This area was to get the largest number of Czechs in the county, but other clusters developed in Barnett Township and around the communities of Greenbush and Badger.<sup>11</sup> There is no evidence of any organizational effort to get Czechs to settle in Roseau County, but as elsewhere in Minnesota their numbers reached a peak sometime after 1905 but before 1930.<sup>12</sup> They remain a relatively strong presence in these areas, despite the continuing general decline in farm numbers and rural population. Czechs in Roseau County may in fact at present represent a larger proportion of the rural population here than earlier. A large number of the family names found in Poplar Grove Township in 1913 are also on the 1997 plat map, and they are shown as owners of more land than in 1913.

#### Maintaining Ethnic Identity

Most immigrant groups to the United States created or adopted existing institutions as a means of sustaining their ethnicity, an effort that included religious, cultural, and social dimensions.

The designation "Czech" as it is used here refers to people of central European descent from what is today the Czech Republic. The state now includes lands known since medieval times as Bohemia and Moravia, with Bohemia being the larger. The Czech Republic and neighboring Slovakia were briefly united at the end of World War I, but between 1620 and 1918 these nations were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire where the official religion was Roman Catholicism.

In contrast to the United States as a whole, in Minnesota most Czechs in the rural areas were and remain Catholic.<sup>13</sup> The importance of the church in maintaining the ethnic heritage here is clear at several locations in Minnesota, and it has been documented in NRHP nominations. There is a Catholic church in Poplar Township that has always included a number of Czechs in its congregation, along with members of other ethnic origins.<sup>14</sup>

However,

What most distinguished Czechs from other immigrant groups in America was their having been the only group among whom a majority became freethinkers and severed all formal ties with organized religion. In the U.S. before 1914, approximately 40-45 percent of Czech immigrants remained practicing Roman Catholics. A slight majority, perhaps as many as 55 percent, called themselves freethinkers and stood apart from all churches, especially the Roman Catholic Church, to which most had once, if only nominally, belonged.<sup>15</sup>

There have been a large number of institutions created by freethinking Czech-Americans to promote freethought philosophy, maintain the Czech language and culture, and provide social venues, benevolent societies, burial grounds, and support the cause of establishing and maintaining an independent Czech nation-state. Among these are the Sokol, a gymnastic society similar to the German *Turnverein*, Free Schools, fraternal lodges, and a large number of daily, monthly, and annual publications published in places like Chicago and Omaha and sent to Czechs all across the United States.

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The origins of the freethought movement go back to the ideas of a man who can be called the first protestant, a Czech Catholic reformer who was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415 as a heretic. In the intervening years, Jan Hus has above all become associated with Czech nationalism, which was repressed under the Hapsburgs from 1621 to 1918.<sup>16</sup> In religious terms, the freethinkers can perhaps best be called agnostic, and the fraternal societies of which the Jablonsky lodge is an example were created to serve the needs of Czech immigrants that in other locations were met by Catholic and Protestant churches.

It should be noted that among the non-church affiliated fraternal and other societies created by Czech-Americans, a distinction can be made between those that provided health insurance and/or death benefits and those that did not. Among the latter are the Sokols, amateur theater groups, and choral societies.<sup>17</sup> The freethinkers also published an array of Czech-language journals, established Free Schools where the language and culture and Czech nationalism were promoted, and organized burial societies (Czech National Cemeteries). The cemeteries were generally open to anyone and were often created simply out of necessity. Two exist in Poplar Grove Township and are still in use.<sup>18</sup>

The freethought-oriented beneficial fraternities represent the largest Czech-American institutions, and it is important to note that they were as American as they were Czech in origin, since they did not exist in the home country until after their creation here. The fraternal lodges were created to fulfill certain needs that the Church satisfied for believers and to counteract its organizational challenge.<sup>19</sup>

During the latter half of the 1860s and the 1870s the freethinkers were groping toward some form of organization that would satisfy their social needs and at the same time unite their varied activities in a purposeful way. With the growing popularity of fraternal lodges among Americans the benevolent idea gradually superseded the nationalistic and educational motifs and relegated the latter to a subordinate position, though they continued to be important. As the newer settlements to the north took place, the founding of a lodge was as clear an indication as the founding of a church that enough Czechs had arrived to support some organization.<sup>20</sup>

The oldest and largest freethought fraternal society was the Czech Benevolent Society (*Cesko-Slovansky Poporujice Spolek*), best known by its initials C.S.P.S. This was organized in St. Louis in 1854 and in 1932 merged with several other fraternal groups to form the Czechoslovak Society of America. The Western Fraternal Life Association (*Zapadni Ceska Bratraska Jednota* or Z.C.B.J.) is the second largest freethought confraternity, and it split off from the C.S.P.S. in 1897 over issues of insurance rates and allowing women members to be insured.<sup>21</sup> The Western Fraternal Life Association (W.F.L.A.) includes the Boleslav Jablonsky Lodge, and its home office is in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

#### Czechs in Roseau County and the Lodge Boleslav Jablonsky No. 219

The Jablonsky lodge was organized in 1914 to obtain life insurance at reasonable cost and provide a gathering place where Czechs could "visit in their own language."<sup>22</sup> The lodge was named for Boleslav Jablonsky, (1813-1881) priest, poet, and Czech nationalist. Until the lodge hall was built in 1916, meetings were held in members' homes. A nearly complete run of lodge Secretary's meeting records has been maintained and indicates that nearly the full range of activities outlined above as typical for these organizations characterized the Jablonsky lodge history. The lodge did not, so far as records show, present a militant anti-clericalism and, according to longtime member and current Secretary Frances Forst, a number of lodge members also belonged to local churches including St. Joseph's (Catholic) but that this never caused any problems within the membership.<sup>23</sup> Since the Czechs who went to church were too small a group to have a church of their own, they joined the local Lutheran and Catholic congregations along with the Scandinavians, Germans, Poles and others. When socializing with other Czechs at the lodge and elsewhere, religious differences were simply not an issue.<sup>24</sup>



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The Czech fraternal societies provided benefits to members both on a local level and via their national network, and on an international scale as well. This is evident in the lodge records and in other documentation. Besides life insurance, other kinds of mutual aid were organized and distributed, including support for regional institutions, e.g. the Bohemian Old People's Home and Orphan Asylum in Chicago, where Jablonsky lodge members could also receive aid. Help for individuals with special needs at locations quite distant from Roseau County was solicited and granted, for example from the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and California, to mention only three. Support for Czechoslovakia was provided both during the World War I period and during the crisis of 1938-39, when Nazi Germany occupied the country, when the Jablonsky lodge contributed money and contacted elected officials in Washington to plead the cause of Czech independence.<sup>25</sup>

During World War II, the lodge bought war bonds and sent substantial contributions to both the American and Czech Red Cross organizations. While only life insurance was available from the Home Office, there are numerous cases documented in the local lodge records of money given to help pay medical bills of both local members and those belonging to other lodges. This multi-dimensional mutual aid acted to sustain a sense of Czech identity and solidarity that was promoted in other ways as well, via newspapers and journals that the Jablonsky lodge and individual members received. These included the *Hospodar* (Husbandman), an agricultural bi-monthly published in Omaha, and the *Hlasatel* (Herald) of Chicago and *Bratrsky Vestnik* from Cedar Rapids, a Z.C.B.J. publication.

In addition, the language and culture were sustained by Czech language plays (or "shows") performed in the hall and by music and dance events. There are several references to the purchase of playbooks, and the Home Office sent money to support a Juvenile Department at the lodge, which was also a means for maintaining the language and providing occasions for general socializing.

Traditional music and dance were important forms of Czech cultural expression<sup>26</sup>, and the Jablonsky lodge records demonstrate that wedding and other occasional dances were regular events there and that they were also an important source of lodge income. Food, drink (including beer even during the Prohibition Era) and other items were sold on the grounds, earning additional money which supplemented the local dues collected from members. Many of these events were open to the general public, and the hall was rented to other groups for various functions, including church services by a local congregation when its church was damaged by fire.<sup>27</sup>

The annual July 4 celebrations, initiated the year the hall was built, were ambitious affairs open to the general public. Memorial Day dinners were held in the hall, as were farewell parties for community men departing for service in World War II. As a minority group in the midst of Scandinavians, the Czechs of Roseau County were too small to support a Sokol or Free School, but they did support the local public schools, where the children mixed in with the Norwegians and Swedes. Some of them not only learned English there but also Norwegian and Swedish.<sup>28</sup> Lodge meetings were conducted and recorded in Czech until 1960.

The lodge hall has been in continuous use from 1916 to the present. The period of the 1940s was the most prosperous for the lodge, with several improvements being made to the hall. Frances Forst indicates that the farm economy was strong at the time and people had more money to spend for entertainment while costs, e.g. for musicians, were low. At the present time the lodge is unheated, and given the rigorous climate of northern Minnesota, meetings are held in members' homes during the winter. During the rest of the year the hall is still used for annual Memorial Day dinners, wedding anniversaries, birthday parties and the like, with music provided by local musicians.<sup>29</sup>

When asked by the Home Office in 1997 about the largest event in the history of the lodge, the response was

Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1989. We hosted a dinner inviting other lodges and non-members. Had special music, accordion and concertina. Our 50 year members were presented with plaques.<sup>30</sup>

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The Czechs of Poplar Grove Township and their cohorts elsewhere in Roseau County have never been a large group of people. They have, however, shown a remarkable persistence. The lodge had 30 members in 1915, about the same in 1938, approximately 90 members between 1978 and 1995, and when the Badger lodge merged with Boleslav Jablonsky in 1996, 40 members were added. In 1997 the total was 155. The lodge near Badger, the "north lodge," *Ruze Severu* No. 241 (Rose of the North), had been organized on the initiative of the Jablonsky lodge in February 1916.

Until the merger, the Jablonsky membership was drawn from Poplar Grove (15 families in 1920), Huss Township (two families in 1920), and one Bohemian-German family in Moose River Township of Marshall County. Population schedules and family biographies in the 1992 *Roseau County Heritage* indicate various origins for the Czechs in Roseau County. As of 1920 most had come directly from Czechoslovakia, but later on others came from mostly rural locations in the Midwest and also from large cities like Chicago.<sup>31</sup> It is likely that the reach of the Jablonsky lodge has been extended considerably from what it was in the beginning, a development paralleling the increasing size of farms and population decline.

Although the Western Fraternal Life Association has also grown in membership over the years, it has long since ceased to be for individuals of Czech origin only. Its main but not exclusive function at present is to provide life insurance and related services. While there are about 20 lodges in Minnesota, only two halls survive, and this also reflects the change in function.<sup>32</sup>

A number of Z.C.B.J. lodges never built halls (e.g. *Ruze Severu* No. 241), since many of the essential functions of the fraternal order could be performed in a variety of settings, including members' homes. The larger objective of creating a visible presence in the community and a venue for celebrations and recreation for immigrants not disposed to join a church led to the creation of facilities like the Jablonsky lodge. In Roseau County, one of the last areas of the state to be settled by Euro-Americans, the hall is one of the few remaining properties that can represent the Czech-American contribution to this story. The Jablonsky lodge history provides cultural insight into how one group sustained its identity and met its social, cultural, and recreational needs when no other suitable facilities were available in a remote area of the state populated by residents who spoke unfamiliar languages and held alien religious beliefs.

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<sup>1</sup>Chapin, 319. See Section 9 for complete bibliographic information on the sources cited in these notes.

<sup>2</sup>Wahlberg, 70-71.

<sup>3</sup>Chapin, 327. Prosser, 43.

<sup>4</sup>13<sup>th</sup> *Census of the U.S.*, Abstract with Supplement for Minnesota, 590.

<sup>5</sup>*Roseau County Heritage*, passim.

<sup>6</sup>Chrislock, Table 17.1.

<sup>7</sup>Capek, 60, 81. Chrislock, 339.

<sup>8</sup>Chrislock, 339, 337.

<sup>9</sup>Jerabek, Map III.

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<sup>10</sup>Ibid., 75. Maus, 3.

<sup>11</sup>*Atlas of Roseau County*, 1913.

<sup>12</sup>Chrislock, Table 17.1.

<sup>13</sup>Chrislock, 342.

<sup>14</sup>This is St. Joseph Church of Benwood. See Maus, p. 3.

<sup>15</sup>Garver, 148. See also Bicha.

<sup>16</sup>Capek, 23-25.

<sup>17</sup>Capek, 254. <sup>14</sup>This is St. Joseph Church of Benwood. See Maus, p. 3.

<sup>18</sup>These are the Gust National Cemetery in Poplar Grove Township and the Barnett National Cemetery in Barnett Township.

<sup>19</sup>Bicha, 60, 56.

<sup>20</sup>Jerabek, 108.

<sup>21</sup>Chrislock, 342. Information provided by the W.F.L.A. is in the SHPO file.

<sup>22</sup>Forst. SHPO file. Between 1897 and 1910 the WFLA relied on "word of mouth and letter writing" to gain new members. In 1910 the organization hired a full-time organizer who visited "every Czech background settlement in the middle west" and organized many new lodges in the process including possibly the Boleslav Jablonsky lodge, although there is no specific documentation to this effect. See "The Early Years and the Emergence of the Sales Force. *Fraternal Herald*, February 1997, p. 11.

<sup>23</sup>Frances Forst in telephone conference on 2-27-02.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

<sup>25</sup>The Jablonsky Lodge was barely organized when World War I broke out, but an effort was made to "obtain a list of truly poor and needy in the old country for their suffering in the war." (1-17-15).

<sup>26</sup>Capek, 222-223.

<sup>27</sup>This and the other information on social events are drawn from lodge records, Frances Forst, and the reply to a questionnaire sent out from the Home Office in 1999.

<sup>28</sup>The case of Emil and Adolph Tomasek is illustrative. Known as the "Norwegian Bohunks," these brothers are of Czech parentage and grew up among Norwegians. As a result they are trilingual. *Roseau County Heritage*, 630.

<sup>29</sup>Forst correspondence, SHPO File.

<sup>30</sup>W.F.L.A. questionnaire reply. SHPO File.

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<sup>31</sup>The 1920 data is from the 14<sup>th</sup> E.S. Census manuscripts for Poplar Grove and Huss Townships in Roseau County and Moose River Township in Marshall County. Microfilm copies in the Minnesota Historical Society library.

<sup>32</sup>The other Z.C.B.J. lodge hall is in Meadowlands Township of St. Louis County. Lodge halls built by the other major freethought-oriented lodge, the C.S.P.S., are located in St. Paul, Owatonna, and in Hayward Township of Freeborn County. All but the Owatonna Hall are listed on the NRHP.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Commencing at the SW corner of Section 28 in Township 159 N. Range 41 W. in Roseau County, Minnesota, thence east along the south line of said section for a distance of ten rods, thence due north for a distance of sixteen rods, thence west a distance of ten rods to the west line of said Section 28, thence south for a distance of sixteen rods to the point of beginning, containing one acre of land.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the lodge.