

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **JAN 8 1980**

NOV 25 1980

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Czech Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Bohemian Hall

**LOCATION** 2.5 mi. S of Yukon

STREET & NUMBER

c. 2.5 m. South of

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Yukon *vic.*

VICINITY OF

No. 6

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Canadian

017

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jan Zizka Lodge No 67

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 150

CITY, TOWN

Yukon

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Canadian County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

El Reno

STATE

Oklahoma

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1979

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Survey

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Czech Hall is a ramshackle frame structure, built in 1925 with much volunteer labor and added to repeatedly over the years. A first addition to the hall was built on the north in 1935. Four years later the kitchen was modernized, a ladies' lounge and modern restrooms added. In 1954 yet another addition was built along the length of the hall's south side. And in 1957 a new kitchen was added to the west (back), the old kitchen area converted into a social area.

The core of the building is a 40-x-30-foot room with a raised stage area. Constructed to accommodate gymnasts as well as dancers, it has 2-x-12-inch floor joists on a 12-inch center, covered with maple flooring. There are supports in the ceiling for rings and hardware imbedded in the floor for the horizontal bar. Also in the ceiling: the original light fixtures and 8 fans. The hall has some 90 tables and about 375 chairs of varying vintage - and some of the original member-made benches from the first hall.

This original hall stood just to the north of the present hall (where a caretaker's house now sits). It was built in 1901 and torn down at the time the present hall was being erected. Some of its timbers were used in the new hall. Exterior walls of the front of the hall (including that part dating from 1925) retain their original lapping, but most of the newer sections at the back are covered with white asbestos shingles. The entire roof now has composition shingles. Two brick pedestals support the plain entrance portico; otherwise Czech Hall is of frame construction throughout - somewhat in need of paint, but structurally sound.

# 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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

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SPECIFIC DATES    1925 to present                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      George Morava

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Yukon's Czech Hall, as a large, ramshackle frame meetinghouse, is something over 50 years old. As social/humanitarian idea - a fraternal organization, established to enable a newly arrived ethnic group to assist and encourage one another while preserving their own distinctive Old Country ways in their adopted homeland - it is 80 years old.

Jan Zizka Lodge No. 67 was chartered in 1899, just ten years after this mid-section of present Oklahoma was opened to white settlement. It was a unit of the Zapadni Caske-Bratske Jadnety (JCBJ) organization, started three years before in Iowa. Primarily these fraternal lodges operated for insurance purposes. In time, however, they became increasingly social in nature. Jan Zizka (for a Czech military hero) was no exception. Still a mutual insurance group today with some 500 members, it is best known throughout Oklahoma as the center of Czech culture in the state ... and host for Saturday night dances open to all.

The lodge was incorporated in 1900 and a frame building was erected just to the north of the present hall, two miles south of Yukon. This so-called Bohemian Hall (Czechoslovakia was not willed into existence until after World War I) served as JCBJ headquarters and home for the Sokol (gymnastics) Lodge as well. By 1920 the lodge had outgrown the small original hall. It finally decided against enlarging the old meeting place, voting instead to build a new one immediately to the south. Work began in 1924 and on May 3, 1925, a grand opening was held for the new Bohemian Hall.

Dances and Divadlos became regular and popular features of the new facility. The latter were simple plays, brought over from the old country and presented in the Czech language by local talent. They were usually given in the fall and often attracted crowds of 400-500 people. Still in existence, although not at the hall, are the locally painted backdrops featuring traditional scenes into which are blended the advertising messages of Yukon merchants of the day (Samek, Roemer, Kroutil).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crawford, Lea, "Painted Panoramas Revive Czech Hall Memories," The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Aug. 3, 1979  
 Erdberg, Phil, "Polkas Keep County Dancers Whirling," Oklahoma City Times, Aug. 18, 1962  
 Whited, Jerry, "Jan Zizka Lodge 67 Will Celebrate 75th," The Yukon Review, Oct. 31, 1974

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY two acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Mustang

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 614093 39251530

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Two acres of the SE/4 Sec. 32, T 12 N, R 5 W, Indian Meridian, described as follows: Starting at a point lying 755 feet South from center of the East line of the section, thence East 209 feet, thence South 418 feet,

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

DATE

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL   X  

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

*Blenn Jordan*

TITLE

DATE

12/11/79

## FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Beth Groves*

DATE

11/25/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Czech Hall

At the beginning of World War II there was talk for a time of closing the hall, which had by then been considerably expanded. However, the need for recreation, even in war times, was soon recognized. The dances were continued, with servicemen admitted free, and the proximity of several important military bases spread the fame of Czech Hall well beyond the Yukon area. Before long visitors to the Saturday night dances were giving addresses from such far-away places as San Francisco, Hawaii, Guam, and France. Over the years, interestingly enough, Czech Hall also attracted many non-Czech regulars from nearby Oklahoma communities - notably members of German, Polish, and other ethnic groups who recognized and appreciated the similarity of Czech music and culture to their own.

Although Zizka Lodge voted in 1945 to conduct all its meetings in English only, use of the Czech language was encouraged. (At this time the name Czech Hall came into common use.) And the 1,000-member Czech community has made a conscious effort to hold onto many of the customs and folkways brought in by the sturdy Bohemian farmers who first took land claims here in 1889. Today this influence is especially noticeable in early October each year when an annual Czech Festival fills the streets of Yukon with parades, colorful native costumes, folk dancing, and concession stands dispensing kolaches and other old-country delicacies.

Czech Hall, then, while still representing an 80-year-old mutual aid society (the Western Fraternal Life Association since 1971), stands as a strong physical link with an Old World culture. Oklahomans of Czech (Bohemian) extraction are thoroughly Americanized today. But in their much-added-onto Czech Hall they recognize a practical vehicle for preserving - and enjoying - certain aspects of their national heritage.

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Verbal Boundary Description

thence East 209 feet to said section line, thence  
N 418 feet to original starting point.