

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received **MAR 12 1985**

date entered

APR 11 1985

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

1. Name

historic Z.C.B.J. Hall

and/or common Community Hall

2. Location

street & number 320 W. Third St. not for publication

city, town Haugen vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Barron code 005

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Western Fraternal Life Association, Lodge 100

street & number P. O. Box 211

city, town Haugen vicinity of state WI 54841

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Barron County Courthouse

street & number 330 East LaSalle Ave.

city, town Barron state WI 54812

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society

city, town Madison state WI 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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

Haugen's ZČBJ Hall is a large, single-story rectangular frame building, constructed in three sections, with a partial basement. It is thought to have been built by the local members of the Zapadni Česko Bratrské Jednota (ZČBJ), or Western Czech Fraternal Union around 1913. A building may have already been on the site which may have been enlarged; however it is commonly held that a new hall was constructed in 1913.

The building is "barn-like" with a gambrel roof and a false front which extends only to the height of the mid-hip of the roof, giving the appearance of a central gable in the false front. The original structure was only 25' by 50', but the year after the original structure was built or acquired, another 25' were added. By 1915, a stage section was attached to make the entire building 50' by 75'. At this time, also, a new roof was erected to join the three sections to form a whole. The 50' by 50' section of the hall without the basement has only a wooden foundation. The 50' by 25' section with the basement (the section the stage is built on) has a poured concrete foundation scored to look like concrete blocks.

The building is covered with clapboard siding, painted white. Four double-hung, four-paned, flat rectangular windows run along the east side of the building, and five identical windows run along the west side. Small, plain, hoods decorate each window. Two five-paneled wooden doors are placed almost centrally on each side of the building. The main entrance, on the north side of the hall is a plain double leaf door with no glazing and a blind transom. Above the entrance is a small ventilation window and in the front gable is a wooden arch with the words, "Community Hall" & "ZCJB" written in the arch. A block chimney stands by the southwest corner of the building.

To the rear of the hall sits a small cement block outhouse. Of more recent construction, the outhouse does not contribute to the significance of the property.

The spacious interior has a half-barrel-shaped ceiling. Painted wainscoting runs about three feet up from the floor in the northern two-thirds of the buildings. Up from the wainscoting, the walls and ceiling are covered with pressed metal panels in a decorative pattern. Molding of the same material also runs along each side of the interior.

One-third of the interior consists of a stage and backstage area. The stage is the traditional proscenium, with a small stage apron bowing out from the edges. Removable panels on the stage floor reveal electrical footlight sockets and a promptor's box. A primitive pin and rail system for curtain maneuvering is set up stage left. A system for the support of scenery flats runs along both left and right stage. This system also supports the larger drops.

There are two large painted canvas drops at the mouth of the proscenium and two at the upstage end of the flat support system. These large drops are made of hand-sewn pieces of canvas, as are the flats. The large drops are rolled, to be lowered for appropriate scenes, while the flats are nailed in place. The flats and drops are painted with Czechoslovakian scenes. They were done around 1915 by a local Czechoslovakian immigrant artist, Emil Piller, and have never been repainted. The curtain drop depicts the Hradčany in Prague.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion
..... 1400–1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science
..... 1500–1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture
..... 1600–1699	..... architecture	..... education	..... military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
..... 1700–1799	..... art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian
..... 1800–1899	..... commerce	..... exploration/settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater
..... 1900–	..... communications	..... industry	..... politics:government	..... transportation
..... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1913–1935	..... invention		 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				..... Ethnic Heritage—
Specific dates 1913–1935 ¹	Builder/Architect Unknown ²			..... European

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The ZČBJ Hall is significant for Ethnic Heritage–European because it represents the philosophical ideas and social customs of the Czechs or Bohemians in Wisconsin in the early twentieth century. The ZČBJ Hall is also significant for Social History because the organizations and activities associated with the ZČBJ Hall benefited the large local Czech population in the Haugen area. Following a historical overview of the Hall, these themes will be developed in detail.

The area around the village of Haugen was once a part of the lumbering region in Wisconsin. By 1895, after the logging era was over, Bohemian farmers settled in the area and the village was platted.³ In 1913, The Czech fraternal society which had been organized in the Haugen area in 1900, Západoň Česko Bratrské Jednota, or Western Czech Fraternal Union, purchased land for a meeting hall. They either enlarged the building already on the site, or more likely, built a new structure in 1913, and by 1915, the hall was the large barn-like structure it is today.⁴

Between 1913 and 1950, the Haugen ZČBJ Hall was a community center for local Czech-Americans. First, it was a meeting place for the local ZČBJ chapter. This group held meetings, ceremonies, and social events in the Hall. Second, until around 1943, the Hall's theatrical facilities provided a place for many plays, some in the Czech language. The elaborately painted backdrops and flats provided scenery from the homeland for these performances. Third, between 1930 and 1948, the native Czech patriotic and gymnastic organization for young boys, the Sokol, used the hall as their meeting place and gym. Fourth, in the 1930s, classes were held in the Hall which featured instruction in Czech history and language. Other minor activities associated with the ZČBJ Hall were a 400-book lending library, a burial plot organization, and a continuation of the insurance component.⁵

After World War II, the Haugen ZČBJ organization became a less active, fraternal insurance organization. The Hall deteriorated, and in 1959, the ZČBJ turned over the Hall to the village of Haugen, with the stipulation that the Hall would be available to the ZČBJ free of charge. Recently, the village returned the Hall to the ZČBJ, now known as the Western Fraternal Life Association. The WFLA holds few activities there because of the safety concerns of the still deteriorating condition of the building. The local WFLA hopes to raise money for renovation of the building at some future date.⁶

Ethnic Heritage–European

The ZČBJ Hall is significant because it represents the social activities and philosophical ideas of a group of Czech immigrants to Wisconsin in the early twentieth century. By the early twentieth century, Wisconsin was already an area of great concentration of Czech immigrants. By 1910, Wisconsin had the fifth largest population of Czechs in the United States.⁷ Most of the mid-nineteenth century immigrants settled along the eastern edge and southwestern area of Wisconsin. But by the turn of the century, many Czechs, often coming from Chicago, settled

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation page

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Haugen, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5
---	---

5	9	5	2	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	0	5	0	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the ZCBJ Hall is identical to the boundary of Lots 15 and 16, Block J, Original Plat, village of Haugen.

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 Robert H. V. Heinze
Carol Lohry Cartwright
 organization Western Fraternal Life Association
Historic Preservation Division date 10/31/84
 street & number Box 86 telephone (715) 234-8249
816 State Street telephone (608) 262-1339
 city or town Haugen state WI 54841
Madison state WI 53706

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 *Jeff Dean*
 title DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION date FEB. 25, 1985

For NPS use only

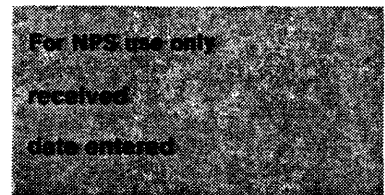
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Allouez Byers Entered in the National Register date 4-11-85
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet ZCJB Hall, Haugen, Barron County, Wisconsin Item number 8 Page 1

the cutover lands of northern Wisconsin.⁸ At this time most Czechs were already embroiled in a religious schism which had its roots in the politics of the homeland. In Czechoslovakia, there was a dissatisfaction with Austrian-Hapsburg rule, and their strong ties to the Catholic Church hierarchy. This dissatisfaction led to an anti-clerical, anti-Catholic feeling on the part of half of the Czech immigrant population in the United States. These immigrants organized into a formal movement, the "Freethought" movement, which was not only an anti-Catholic Church movement, but also a Czechoslovakian patriotic movement. While many rural Czechs remained faithful Catholics, urban Czechs flocked to the Freethought movement. They created a lively Freethought press and a strong fraternal organization, the Česko-Slovanský Podporující Spolek (Czech-Slavic Benevolent Society or CSPS). The CSPS organized in the nineteenth century in St. Louis and quickly became the major Czech society in the United States.⁹

Another significant Czech association, one which had its origins in Czechoslovakia, was the Sokol, a youth organization with similarities to the German Turnverein. The Sokol stressed strength through gymnastics and Czech patriotism. In the United States, the organization was primarily a gymnastics club.¹⁰

In 1896, an east-west conflict arose in the CSPS, and in 1897, disgruntled western members of the CSPS held a convention in Omaha where they formed the Západní Česko-Bratrské Jednota (Western Czech Fraternal Union, or ZCJB). It was this group which established the ZCJB Hall in Haugen.¹¹

The Haugen ZCJB lodge was dominated by "freethinkers," and between 1913 and 1950, the Hall was an active cultural force in the Haugen area. The activities held there continued the Freethought movement into the twentieth century in Wisconsin, long after the state ceased to be the cultural and population center of Czech immigrant life. The Czech education classes, theatrical performances, the local Sokol, together provided a cultural and social base for the large local population of Czechs in Haugen. While the ZCJB, or Western Fraternal Life Association is less active today as a community cultural force, the Hall is still occasionally used for ceremonies or local activities. If the Hall is renovated, there is little doubt it would again become a community center.

The Haugen ZCJB Hall is one of only a handful of identified Czech halls in the state. Most significant is the fact that the Haugen group continued to support the Freethought movement long after it had begun to die out elsewhere, and that the hall was an important community center in this rural area in northern Wisconsin.

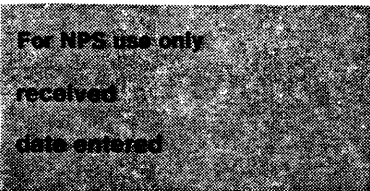
Little is known about the Czech painter who did the stage backdrops. He may, with further investigation, be identified as an important local ethnic artist. At this time, however, not enough information exists to put a significance upon the artwork in the Hall.

SOCIAL HISTORY (Social/Humanitarian)

The ZCJB Hall is significant for social/humanitarian reasons because the ZCJB organization promoted activities which benefitted the local Czech population and the community at large. Between 1913 and 1950, the fraternal and social activities, theatrical performances, educational and patriotic activities, and the Sokol were important social and philosophical forces in the Haugen area. The activities promoted

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet ZČBJ Hall, Haugen Item number 8 Page 2
Barron County, Wisconsin

cultural awareness in a rural, sometimes isolated area of Wisconsin. The Hall also provided the social and ceremonial activities important to the group of Czech Freethinkers who did not participate in Catholic or any religious activities. The activities held in Hall were, in a way, a substitute for the church-going which was an important social outlet for many immigrant groups in rural areas. That this particular group was so active in this area indicates how important having a social outlet for the Czech population was in Haugen during the early years of the twentieth century. For this reason, the ZČBJ Hall is significant for its contribution to the social and fraternal life of Czechs in Haugen.

Notes

¹The ZČBJ Hall was begun in 1913 and its activities lasted until after World War II. However, no significant new activities were begun after 1935, therefore even though the activities extended until about 1950, the period of significance only extends to the 50-year cut-off date, 1935.

²It is commonly held that lodge members constructed the building, no one in particular being responsible for design or construction.

³Franklyn Curtiss-Wedge, History of Barron County, Wisconsin. Minneapolis: E. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co., 1922, p. 1131.

⁴Josef F. Snobl, "Historie Řádu Hvězda Wisconsinu, Čís. 100, ZČBJ, v Haugen, Wis," Bratrský Věstník, August 8, 1964, p. 30; September 9, 1964, pp. 21-23. Translated by Robert H. V. Heinze, Haugen, Wisconsin.

⁵Snobl, August 8, 1964, p. 30; September 9, 1964, pp. 21-23; Robert H. V. Heinze, Haugen, Wisconsin, personal letters.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Thomas Capek, The Czechs in America. New York: Arno Press, 1969, pp. 36-60.

⁸Karel D. Bicha, "The Czechs in Wisconsin History," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 1970, 53(3), pp. 194-195.

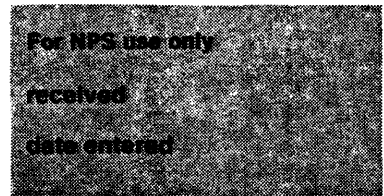
⁹Bicha, pp. 201-203; Kenneth D. Miller, The Czecho-Slovaks In America. New York: George H. Doran Co., 1922, pp. 82-83.

¹⁰Miller, pp. 82-83.

¹¹Capek, p. 259.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



ZČBJ Hall, Haugen

Continuation sheet Barron County, Wisconsin Item number 9

Page 1

Major Bibliographical References

- Bicha, Karel D. "The Czechs in Wisconsin History," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 1970, 53(3): 194-203.
- Capek, Thomas. The Czechs in America. New York: Arno Press, 1969.
- Curtiss-Wedge, Franklyn. History of Barron County, Wisconsin. Minneapolis: H. C. Cooper, Jr., & Co., 1922.
- Heinze, Robert H. V. Personal letters, 1984.
- Miller, Kenneth D. The Czecho-Slovaks In America. New York: George H. Doran Co., 1922.
- ✓ Snobl, Josef F. "Historie Řádu Hvězda Wisconsinu, Čís. 100, ZČBJ, v Haugen, Wis," Bratrský Věstník, August 8, 1964, p. 30; September 9, 1964, pp. 21-23.
Translated by Robert H. V. Heinze, Haugen, Wisconsin.