

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0680737

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RECEIVED JUL 31 1978
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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

AND/OR COMMON

Liederkrantz

(HL06-8)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

401 West 1st Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Grand Island

VICINITY OF

3rd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Nebraska

31

Hall

079

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Liederkrantz Society

STREET & NUMBER

401 West 1st Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Grand Island

VICINITY OF

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Hall County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Grand Island

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Liederkrantz hall in Grand Island, Nebraska was built 1911-12 to house the many activities of this German singing society.

Designed by architect Oscar Kirche, a Liederkrantz member, this brick building reflects influences of the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture. Distinctive features include the engaged Corinthian columns framing the main entrance, the semi-elliptical arched doorway and the pediment which incorporates the symbolic lyre motif.

Geometric designs of stone are placed directly below the cornice line. An arched marquee made of metal trimmed with glass plates spelling the word "Liederkrantz" on 3 sides shelters the entrance. Gothic-like buttressed pilasters strengthen the east and west walls. The fly space above the stage projects above the roof line at the rear of the building. An annex also designed by Kirsche, was added in 1915.

The exterior is in near original condition and retains its historical integrity. The interior has been substantially remodeled over the years to accommodate the active society.

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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Ethnic (German) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1911-1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Oscar Kirsche

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grand Island, Nebraska area was settled in 1857 by a colony of German immigrants. These settlers had a strong desire to preserve the customs of their homeland. In 1870 several of them met to organize a German singing society or "Liederkrantz" to provide musical and social entertainment and to cultivate the members musical talents.

The Liederkrantz is the oldest male chorus club in the United States. The first society was founded in 1835 in Philadelphia. Germans in Baltimore and New Orleans soon followed suit and gradually during the 19th century many other Liederkrantz societies were organized across the nation.

There were forty charter members in the Grand Island Society. All meetings, programs, etc. were conducted in German until World War I when English became the official language. The group met in rented buildings for a short time and then in 1871, negotiations were made with the Union Pacific Railroad for the donation of a site for a hall. A frame building preceded the present brick structure.

The Liederkrantz Hall has long been a community meeting place for Grand Island residents, an auditorium for many civic activities and a polling place at election time.

Though the small German colony who settled on the "grand island" along the Platte River has grown to a city of 33,000 residents, Liederkrantz members continue to preserve their German heritage in the still very active society. This Grand Island organization is the only known Liederkrantz in Nebraska.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Grand Island, Nebraska

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 551541310 4153011410
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet Jeffries Spencer, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Nebraska State Historical Society

July, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1500 R Street

402/432-2793

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Lincoln

Nebraska

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

Marion E. Knott

7/14/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. Henry
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-30-78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William A. Abraham 11-29-78

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography . ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Centennial Souvenir Book Committee, Grand Island Liederkrantz, 100th Anniversary, n.p. 1970.

Gwinn, Erna Ottl, "The Liederkrantz in Louisville 1848-1877", Filson Club History Quarterly, Vol. 49, No. 3, July 1975, Louisville, Ky.