

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

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

For NPS use only

received JUL 13 1983  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic The Farmers Club

and/or common The Farmers Club

**2. Location**

street & number 105 S. Chestnut Street N/A not for publication

city, town Seymour N/A vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Jackson code 071

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: American Red Cross

**4. Owner of Property**

name Agricultural Community (Seymour National Bank, Trustee)

street & number Corner Chestnut and Second Streets

city, town Seymour N/A vicinity of state Indiana 47274

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse, Recorder's Office

street & number Main Street

city, town Brownstown state Indiana 47220

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Farmers Club faces west near the southeast corner of Chestnut and St. Louis Streets. Located one block west of the intersection of the Conrail and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroads, it is in the central business district of Seymour.

The building, which is Beaux-Arts classic in style, is one-and-one-half stories high, faced in stone colored brick laid in common bond and embellished with Indiana limestone. It has a rectangular plan, a three-bay facade and a flat roof. The facade is symmetrical except for a basement-level door, added in the early 1950's, on the north bay of the facade. The building has a raised basement, the front wall of which is faced in smooth limestone and topped with a molded limestone water table.

A pedimented central pavilion is defined by two rectangular, projecting brick piers. The main entry, centered within this pavilion, is framed by Ionic columns. These are surmounted by a limestone entablature which runs between the piers, and includes a molding with an egg-and-dart design. Above the entablature is a pediment with cornice returns. The tympanum has a tablet and laurel leaf design. Springing from the entablature is a round-arch transom which has a limestone surround with egg-and-dart molding, and a console keystone.

The entry has a pair of doors, each with a panel on the lower half of the door, and a large glass area on the top half, with 24 triangular lights formed by vertical, horizontal and diagonal muntins. The transom has two main vertical divisions, and has divisions like those in the door glass within these.

The piers on each side of the entry have capitals enriched with a cartouche and laurel leaf design, with pendants, and an egg-and-dart echinus. Above the capitals is a full Doric entablature which includes triglyphs and guttae, and mutules on the soffit of the cornice. Centered on the entablature, which extends the entire width of the facade, are the words, "Farmers Club," surrounded by a projecting stone band. The pediment above the central pavilion also has mutules on the soffit of the cornice. The tympanum has a cartouche and laurel leaf design. There is a parapet wall with molded limestone coping, and projecting limestone band in panel-like arrangements (one on each of the end bays, and a wider one running the width of the central pavilion). Each of the end bays has a window with a limestone sill and glass divisions identical to those in the main doors. About two feet above each of these windows is a smooth limestone rectangle set flush with the facade and bordered on the bottom with guttae. Below the window on the north bay of the facade is the 1950's door, which is a four-panel door with four lights in a horizontal row at the top of the door, itself.

A porch, onto which the main doors open, is the width of the central pavilion and is reached by two sets of steps, one on each side. An iron fence is set on the limestone wall of the porch between limestone pedestals. Originally, iron grillwork in a pattern like that of the window divisions was in the place of the iron fence. Extending from and perpendicular with the south end of the facade is a section of fence, also with limestone pedestals, which retains the original grillwork. There were originally iron gates between this and the porch wall. There was a like arrangement on the other side of the porch. The fence which extended from that side of the facade is presumed to have been removed when the basement door was added.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1914 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance ~~(Historic Property)~~

The Farmers Club is significant as a long-time social center of Seymour, and as a good example of the Beaux-Arts style of classicism.

The building was built to be used as a comfort house for the families of farmers who were doing business in town. It was constructed in 1914 and deeded by the Blish family to the farmers of Jackson County in memory of Captain Meedy W. Shields, the founder of Seymour. The Blishes were descendants of Shields and members of a Seymour family which, in 1856, established the first mill in the city. The Blish Mill, which operated until 1970, was the largest, continuously operated flour mill in the United States, operated by one family, and its products were exported worldwide.

The Farmers Club was built in an era when farm families had to wait long hours while the farmers conducted their weekly business in town. There is a strong local attachment for the Farmers Club, especially among the older farm population. Cherished stories are told about the many hours spent by women and children, socializing and eating while waiting for their husbands and fathers to return for their long journey home.

After the advent of the motor car, the need for the Club, as originally stated, was outmoded. It was used by the farm families until World War II, when it housed the U.S.O., after that the Teen Canteen, and presently the American Red Cross.

Also important for its architecture, the Farmers Club is the only representation in Seymour of the Beaux Arts style.

The Seymour Heritage Foundation currently has plans to renovate the building and adapt it for use by the Greater Seymour Chamber of Commerce.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Seymour

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

South forty-five feet (45') of Lot Four (4) in Block 0 in the City of Seymour.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edwin J. Boley, SHF Board Historian

organization Seymour Heritage Foundation date January 11, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 485 telephone 812/522-5415

city or town Seymour state Indiana 47274

# 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 J. M. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 7-11-83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 8/11/83

for Allene Byer  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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The main doors lead to a domed vestibule, on the south side of which is a stairway leading to a basement, presently used for storage. This stairway is not thought to be original. Through another pair of double glass doors is the great hall, which has terrazzo floors. There is dark oak paneling covering two-thirds of the wall, with plaster the rest of the way to the ceiling. Oak beams mounted on the ceiling form eight-foot squares (three rows of five squares each). In the second and fourth squares of the center row are stained glass skylights (now covered over by the roof). The focus of the living room is a rough-faced, dark brick fireplace, centered on the east wall of the room. Above the stone mantel is a bronze tablet reading, "1805-1866/The Farmers Club/A Memorial to Capt. Meedy W. Shields/Founder of Seymour and a Leading Farmer of His Day."

There are three large windows each on north and south sides of the living room. These are double-hung with 20 lights in each sash and a 10-light transom. Though these windows are unaltered on the interior, they have been bricked up on the exterior. It is not known when this lateration was made.

Opening off the great hall, on either side of the vestibule, are two small rooms which were originally used as nurseries and are now used for storage. Opposite are two hallways leading from the great hall, on either side of the fireplace. Between the hallways is a kitchen, which has counters with the original copper sheeting, and oak cabinets hung above. Beyond the kitchen is a large banquet hall.

The original heavy mission oak furniture is still in use.

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Boley, Edwin J., The First Documented History of Jackson County, 1816 to 1976,  
Publisher: Author. (Seymour, Indiana, 1980.)

"A Leading Farmer of His Day: Meedy W. Shields, Founder of Seymour." From the address delivered at the dedication of The Farmers Club. October 8, 1914. Pamphlet (Indiana State Library, Indianapolis).