

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 21 1986

date entered MAR 20 1986

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

1. Name

historic Lodge Záře Zapádu No. 44

and/or common Bohemian Brick Hall

2. Location

street & number on County Highway 30

N/A not for publication

city, town Hayward Township

vicinity of Hayward

state Minnesota

code 22

county Freeborn

code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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	N/A 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: fraternal lodge

4. Owner of Property

name Western Bohemian Association #44

street & number c/o James Benesh Rt. 3

city, town Austin

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota 55912

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds - Freeborn County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Albert Lea

state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of  
Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society-Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input 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			N/A

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

The Bohemian Brick Hall is on the east boundary line of Section 25 in Hayward township on County Road #30 approximately 2.5 miles north of the town of Myrtle in southeastern Freeborn County. It faces east on County Road #30.

The building is yellow brick with no basement and stands one and a half stories tall. The front facade is two stories tall with a mezzanine along the front facade at the second story. The interior is one large hall with a stage at the rear of the building. The mezzanine (or balcony) looks down on the hall and the stage area from the front of the building. The building is very plain and functional. The roof is slightly gabled, but appears flat from the front facade. The north and south lateral walls have 5 high windows with an additional door on the south side toward the front. The front facade is symmetrical and consists of a double door entry with two flanking windows on the first floor and three windows above on the second floor. The front doors are made of vertical wooden planks. The windows were originally wood double-hung 2-over 2, but were replaced in 1984 with vinyl-clad 1-over-1 windows. The building was also retuckpointed in the summer of 1984. Window and door heads and sills are stone. The front facade is surmounted with an elaborately corbelled brick cornice and parapet. Four brick piers begin at the bottom of the cornice and project above the parapet suggesting a division of the facade into three bays.

In the middle bay is a carved stone name and date plate set in the raised central portion of the parapet. The carving reads "CSPS-Sin Radu 1894--ZÁŘEZÁPAU--Císlo 44 1897 Z.C.B.J. 1909." "CSPS" is an acronym for Čecho-Slovanská Podporující Společnost, or the Czech Slovak Protective Society, the oldest fraternal Czech organization in the United States. The Z.C.B.J., Západní Česko-bratrská Jednota, or Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, emerged from the CSPS in 1897, hence the "1897" on the name and date block. "Sin Radu" is "Council Hall". "Císlo" is "number"; hence, "Z.C.B.J. Council Hall Number 44." "ZÁŘEZÁPAU", according to lodge members translates as "Glow of the West," the name of this particular lodge. The date 1894 refers to the year a group of people visited Freeborn County and interested the local Czechs in forming a lodge affiliated with the newly formed insurance association known as the Workman's Bohemian Society (CSDPJ). This first lodge was known as lodge #6, and met in the school house in District #116 nearby. Finally, the year "1909" on the date block is the year the present hall was built, for a cost of just over \$3,300.

Behind the Brick Hall was once a large horse barn with stalls, which was eventually torn down. Presently, there is a small wood frame gabled storage shed to the rear of the hall. This was moved from a quarter mile south when the old Wood Hall was demolished several years ago.

The stage area on the interior of the Brick Hall is intact. The stage has a hand-painted mural of a castle in Bohemia thought to be a representation of the Karlstejn Castle southwest of Prague near the River Berounka, in the former royal forest grounds of Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor in 1348. The castle was rebuilt in the 16th century with Renaissance elements and again remodelled in 1888-99 with romantic re-Gothization. The lodge members recall that early in this century a Mr. Avery (first name forgotten) arrived by horseback to paint the mural. He was a perfectionist and did the painting twice, earning himself very little money for the project.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 1909

Builder ~~XXXXXX~~ Architect ~~XXXXXX~~ Builder: Z.C.B.J. Lodge #44

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Z.C.B.J. Council Hall #44 is significant as the last of three fraternal lodge buildings which served as social and recreational centers for a community of immigrants from the Bohemian provinces of what was then Austria-Hungary who settled, beginning in 1854-6 and continuing into the 1870s and 1880s, in the border area where Hayward, London, Shell Rock and southern Oakland townships meet in Freeborn County. Lodge #44, associated with the Západní Česko-bratrská Jednota (Z.C.B.J.), or Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, featured an annual festival and parade and became a social and cultural center, providing solidarity and security (through insurance policies to members) to the Czech community in southeastern Freeborn County.

The C.S.P.S. or Čecho-Slovanská Podorující Společnost is the oldest Czech fraternal organization in the United States. It was started in 1894 to provide life insurance and sick benefits to members and, generally, to aid immigrants in getting settled in their new homes. The Z.C.B.J., or Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, split off from the C.S.P.S., or Czech-Slovak Protective Society on July 4, 1897. The new Z.C.B.J. organization reformed the old C.S.P.S. bylaws to insure a more democratic and fiscally sound organization. Z.C.B.J. members would pay insurance premiums according to age. Women were accepted as regular insurable members instead of as social members. A sinking fund was created. A medical director was appointed to screen applicants.

The Z.C.B.J. was organized by dissident younger members who demanded the reforms they eventually pushed through. The improvements in the business of C.S.P.S. had been supported by John Rosicky, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, who with 13 young dissidents, mostly single men, had started a lodge named Záře Zapádu (Glow of the West) #210 in April, 1896 affiliated with C.S.P.S. This lodge met at the home of Joseph Rayman, Sr. in section 5 of London Township. At about this time, John Rosicky began publishing the newspaper Pokrok Zapádu (Advancement of the West). The basis of his support was among the more liberal members centered in Nebraska. At a C.S.P.S. convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, Rosicky was elected editor of C.S.P.S. as a way to assuage his reformist tendencies. The ploy was unsuccessful and he was relieved of his post. The local Czechs nominated him to attend the next convention in Omaha. At the convention at Omaha, Nebraska in February, 1897, the dissidents demanded that if the C.S.P.S. did not reform their organization by July 1, 1897, a new organization would be organized. The C.S.P.S. was not responsive to this ultimatum and on July 4, 1897, a new fraternal group named the Z.C.B.J. and headquartered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa was organized. The movement spread quickly throughout the midwest and active Z.C.B.J. lodges were established in Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North and South Dakota.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet p. 3.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Myrtle, Minn. 1982

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 486340 4828165  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The property nominated is all that which is located in a strip of land 16 rods east and west and 15 rods north and south in the northeast corner of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 102 North, Range 20 West, Hayward Township.

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A
	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Norene A. Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc.

date July 24, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve

telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55410

# 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

*Russell W. Fridley*

title Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2/13/86

For NPS use only

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

*Joyce M. Melherson*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 3/20/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

Lodge Zare Zapadu No. 44

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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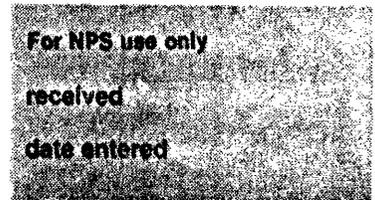
Continuation sheet                      Resource Count                      Item number                      7                      Page                      1

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Lodge Zare Zapadu No. 44 Nomination contains  
1 contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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Lodge Zare Zapadu No. 44 Freeborn County, MN



Continuation sheet    Significance    Item number    #8    Page    1

Both the C.S.P.S. and Z.C.B.J. emerged from the Freethinking Movement in Bohemia and were active in preserving Czech culture and language in the midwest. Czechs came from an area east of Moravia, then known as Slovakia. In the United States many Bohemian immigrants felt themselves to be spiritual decendants of the Hussite warriors who were anti-Roman Catholic. This nationalistic movement originated with John Huss, a Bohemian religious reformer. They chafed under a government which demanded that they send their children to Catholic schools and suffer under the dominance of a stern, corrupt, and unyielding clergy. In the old country, the followers of Huss were mostly peasants, farmers, and tradesmen. In the United States the Z.C.B.J. functioned as a social center, an upholder of Czech nationalist solidarity (including perpetuation of language and customs), and a surrogate church, in a sense.

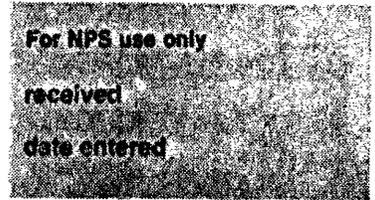
The Czech community in southeastern Freeborn County began in 1854-6 when Daniel Chapek, Joseph Chemlik and Joseph Rayman St. came to settle the county. They were joined by Albert Sveykovsky, Peter Chmelik and others who travelled from around Oconomowoc, Wisconsin and later from Bohemia to form the nucleus of the settlement which grew in all directions in southeastern Freeborn County. In the Czech community there, the first fraternal lodge was organized in the spring of 1894 as lodge #6 of the newly-formed Workman's Bohemian Society (CSDPJ). This group met in the schoolhouse of District #116. The group outgrew the school and erected a building known as the "old hall," which was torn down years ago. The Záře Zapádu group, meanwhile, broke away from the CSDPJ group and, as reformists, met at Joseph Raymond, Sr.'s farm. In 1896, several members of the original group erected the "new hall" or "wooden hall" in Section 36 of Hayward township which was used for meetings and dances by the old CSDPS #6 lodge. The wooden hall stood a short distance south of the current brick hall. It is the wooden hall, or new hall, that was razed several years ago. The dissident group of Záře Zapádu transferred to the Z.C.B.J. with 30 members after 1897 and received its number 44 designation.

Membership in lodge #44 grew and in 1908-09 it became apparent that a new building was needed. They approached the CSPJ members at a December, 1908, meeting to see if the original group in the wood hall might be willing to merge and build a larger lodge hall. Their idea was flatly rejected. They originally planned a wooden structure, but one member, Vaclav Sucha, a bricklayer by trade, lobbied for a brick hall. Members were wary of the additional cost and drayage necessary to build a brick structure. Finally, another member, J. R. Lukes, who owned and operated a grain elevator in London, declared that he would erect the building for \$3,300 if the stone and brick were made. The lodge jumped at the offer and Lukes was elected to do the job. Members were assessed \$10 each, payable at one dollar annually and bonds were sold to other lodges to finance the cost of the structure. By January, 1960, the membership of Lodge #44 reached 360 members with 41 paid up insurance policies.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Lodge Zare Zapadu No. 44 Freeborn County, MN



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

#8

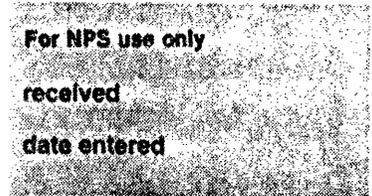
Page

2

The wood hall and brick hall helped to preserve the language and customs of the old country, along with the Bohemian National Cemetery, about a quarter mile north of the brick hall. The two halls became centers for dances, family reunions, theatrical productions, meetings, and suppers. Lodge meetings were held on a regular basis during the month. Yearly festivals were sponsored by both halls. The wood hall celebrated Kolachy Day each Labor Day. The brick hall celebrated Fourth of July with a parade, band concerts, and ball games. July 4th was the organization date of the Z.C.B.J.. Regular schedules of dances were held at both halls and Lawrence Welk once appeared at the brick hall.

Today, the brick hall is seldom used. Membership in the lodge began to decline in the 1950s and 1960s. It is available for rental and has a fully equipped kitchen. Edward Flusek of Hayward, Anton Belshan, who lives close by, and Jim Benesh, Sr., who lives across the road from the brick hall, are active in preserving the hall in good repair today.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**National Register of Historic Places  
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Lodge Zare Zapadu No. 44 - Freeborn County, MN

Continuation sheet Major Biblio. References Item number #8

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"'Brick Hall' Serves as Preserve of Once Thriving Bohemian Community." Albert Lea Tribune. December 9, 1984, p. 3.

"The Bohemian Settlement." Typescript of John R. Lukes, 1960. In possession of Edward A. Flusek, Box 374, Hayward, Minnesota, 56043

Correspondence from Susan Steinwall, Archivist, University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center to Norene Roberts, August 1, 1984 and selected pages of Records of Ethnic Fraternal Benefit Associations in the United States: Essays and Inventories (St. Paul: Immigration History Research Center, 1981).

"Lost Era Echos in Old Halls." Albert Lea Tribune. July 16, 1970.

"Tabor Hall." Typescript provided by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Note: These changes apply to  
Lodge Zare Zapudu No. 44 in  
Freeborn County, Minnesota.

REFERENCE NUMBER: 86000479

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Freeborn

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Hayward

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

*Nina M. Archabal*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nina M. Archabal  
State Historic Preservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUN 17 1988  
Date