

PH0355640 ~~PH0355640~~

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 20 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

**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

****** Cokato Temperance Hall (Cokaton P.R.S. Onnen Toivo Raittiusseura)

AND/OR COMMON

Cokato Temperance Hall (Cokaton P.R.S. Onnen Toivo Raittiusseura)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3 mi N of Cokato at jet of SR 3 and SR 100
(Temperance corners)

Jct. of County Rd. #3 & 100

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cokato

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Wright

CODE

171

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Warren Edblom

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 75E

CITY, TOWN

North Branch

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wright County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1973

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

Saint Paul

STATE

Minnesota

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 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Temperance Hall is located on the southeast corner lot at the intersection of Wright County #3 and 100. It is a simple, two storey frame building with gable roof. With the exception of a pair of arched windows placed centrally within the second storey, no ornamentation is employed on the exterior of the building. A small vestibule measuring approximately eight feet by ten feet forms the only projection on a rectangular plan. (Approx. 25 feet by 45 feet.)

The interior of the Temperance Hall consists of one assembly room with a small stage at the eastern end. The assembly room is lighted by four windows regularly spaced on north and south walls. As is the case with the exterior, decorative treatment is almost absent from the interior, and is only found in the simple, fluted door casings with round medallion corner plates.

Access to the second floor, which formerly served as a make-shift dining hall is by means of a narrow staircase in the northeast corner of the building. This space has been unused for a number of years, however, it is evident that it never was a finished space in that there is no form of wall or ceiling covering (structural system exposed).

The Temperance Hall has undergone only minor modification since its construction in 1896, primarily in the removal of a half-gable, false front and the transformation of this to a simple gable. With this exception, the hall has retained exterior and interior integrity. The hall now serves as a seasonal meeting hall for a religious group.

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/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		

SPECIFIC DATES 1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cokato Temperance Hall is significant not only for the role it played as a temperance organization, but also as a fraternal, social and cultural immigrant association for the Finnish settlers of Wright County.

In 1866 the first permanent settlement of Finns was established in Cokato and within a decade great agricultural progress was made in western Wright County. Among the Finns, however, such achievements were insignificant if there was little or no social and cultural advancement as well. The temperance movement eventually provided the agency for the community's social and cultural life.

By the 1890s this movement had advanced to a point where, in September, 1896, a Temperance Hall (the Cokaton P.R.S. Onnen Toivo Raittiusseura) was built. While ostensibly established to combat drunkenness, the temperance movement among the Finns in Cokato served more as a focal point of community social and cultural life. The temperance hall provided the location for this activity.

The methodology of this temperance society was no different from others. Originally its mission was to recruit members to take the pledge, detect intemperance, reprimand but forgive offenders and educate the youth to the evils of alcohol. The organization also provided community programs designed to keep the youth away from drinking and dancing and the humorous plays, recitations and athletic events that were presented are still remembered by the now retired people who once participated in them. In addition, the hall was used for township meetings and school events.

The temperance organization also served as an aid society, holding basket and pie socials and auction sales for needy causes. Meals were served in the second storey dining room for the participants who in many cases walked from town or farms to attend. During World War II when foreign policy prevented the shipment of government supplies to Finland, the Cokato "Helping Hand" Society did relief work in the hall preparing tons of food and medical packages to be privately shipped to Finland.

The society did more than introduce the temperance movement to Wright County. It was the agency that held many of the first generation Finns together and gave them the opportunity to enrich their often rigorous rural life with familiar Finnish activities. After World War II the activities of the society lessened and the hall was rented out to other community organizations. The hall has now passed into the hands of an evangelical, religious group, but the membership ledgers and meeting minutes, all written in Finnish, are cherished property of the Finnish community.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kolehmainen, John I. "The Finnish Pioneers of Minnesota", in Minnesota History, 25:317-328 (Dec., 1944).

_____, "Finnish Temperance Societies in Minnesota", in Minnesota History, 22:391-403 (Dec., 1941).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1
UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
---	---

4	0	6	1	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	9	9	7	1	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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

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

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

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

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

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian and Susan Zeik, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Minnesota Historical Society

28 August 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Building 25, Fort Snelling

612-726-1171

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Saint Paul

Minnesota

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

DATE

State Historic Preservation Officer

10/1/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

12/12/96

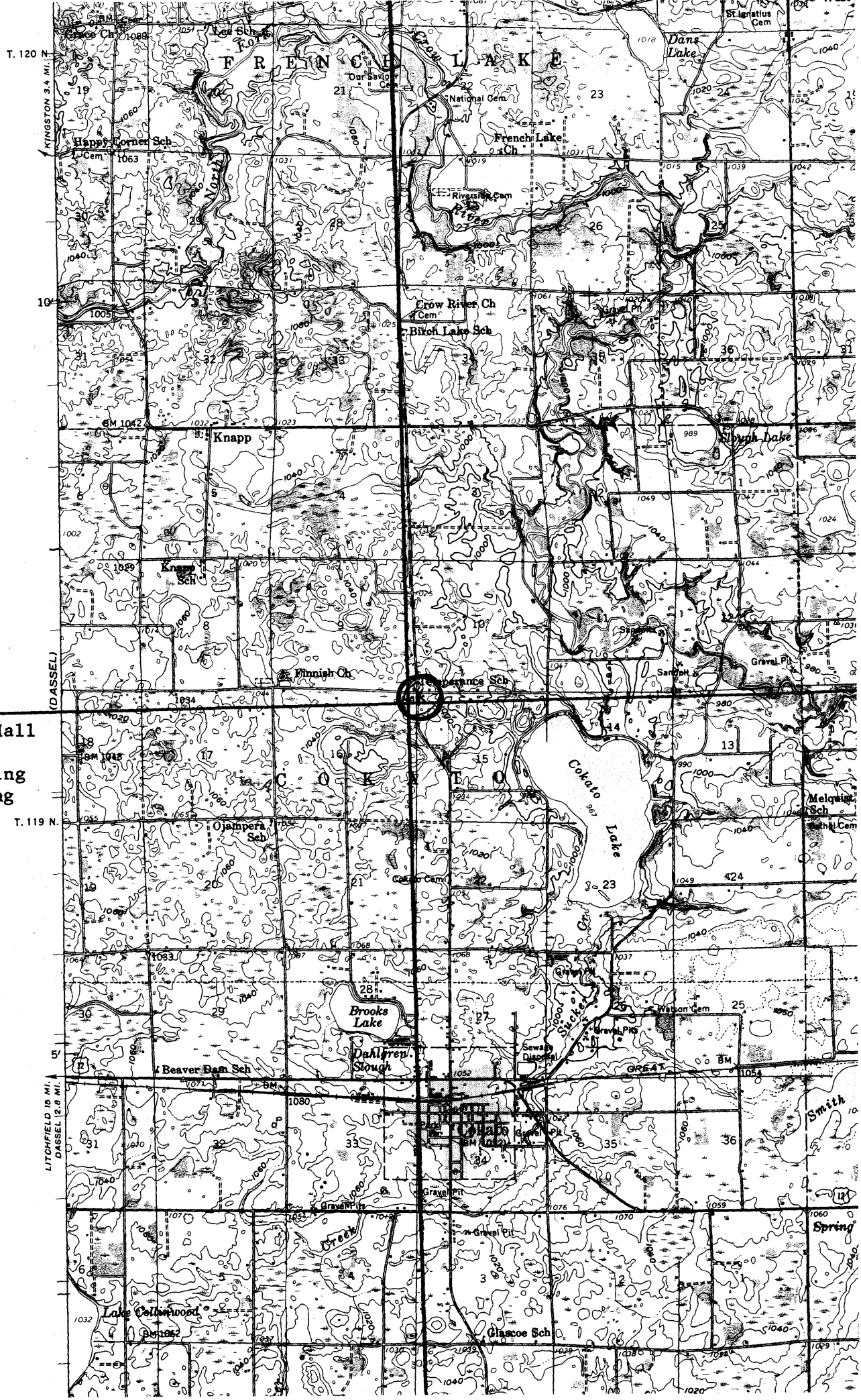
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

12/10/96

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Cokato Temperance Hall
Cokato, Minnesota
15/4997150 Northing
15/406150 Easting

T. 120 N.

10

T. 119 N.

LITCHFIELD 15 MI.
DASSEL 12.8 MI.

(DASSEL)

KINGSTON 3.4 MI. W.