

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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 Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall

AND/OR COMMON Memorial Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 211 - 215 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN Rockford VICINITY OF 16th; Congressman Anderson

STATE Illinois CODE 17 COUNTY Winnebago CODE 201

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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Winnebago County

STREET & NUMBER Winnebago County Courthouse, 400 W. State Street

CITY, TOWN Rockford VICINITY OF Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER Winnebago County Courthouse, 400 W. State Street

CITY, TOWN Rockford STATE Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Architecture Before WWII in Winnebago County

DATE October 1974 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State of Illinois, Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN Springfield STATE Illinois

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Memorial Hall is situated in downtown Rockford on a lot 100 feet wide and 156 feet deep. The building, which was constructed in 1903, costing a total of \$59,136.00, contains three exterior levels. Architecturally, the building is neoclassic in design, and is constructed of Bedford stone. The pillars are approximately 3 feet in diameter and 30 feet high. The basement walls are limestone and the footings are crushed limestone.

On the lower level of the building are located a kitchen and a dining room with seating for approximately 240 people. There are also game and card rooms located on the lower level. The main floor contains a Post Room used by various Veterans groups for meetings. This room is decorated with oak carvings and paintings relating to the Civil War. The furniture in this room is original and extremely unique. On the main floor there is also a main hall that serves as the major display area for War Memorial artifacts. The artifacts relate not only to the Civil War, but also to other wars as well. The remainder of the first floor is comprised of a large reading room and several smaller rooms used by the various Veterans groups as headquarters.

The third floor is entirely devoted to a large auditorium with a beautiful balcony with antique folding pedestal seats. The capacity of the auditorium is in the neighborhood of 600 people. The auditorium has a large stage and all floors are maple.

When the building was constructed and for many years after, it was the social focal point in Rockford. The kitchen and dining rooms were used in conjunction with the auditorium for weddings, dances, parties and funerals. All segments of Rockford used the building. Presently the building is the home of many Veteran-related groups. These groups meet at night and use the kitchen facilities for meals and then use either the auditorium or Post Room to hold their meetings.

The only alteration to the exterior of the building is that it was sandblasted and a fire escape was installed in 1965. On the interior, a new boiler has been installed and electrical work has been done. Other than these changes, the building has been maintained in its original form and design.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Memorial Hall is significant in several areas. The military significance is threefold. First, the Hall contains extensive artifacts of the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. An extensive collection of Civil War uniforms and weapons outline the collection, which also contains several Civil War diaries. Even today, Civil War researchers use Memorial Hall as an information center.

Secondly, both today and in the past, the building has been the focal point for the meetings of all Veterans groups and posts in the area. Each Post has a room that it uses as its headquarters and then holds its monthly meetings in the Post Room.

The third area of military significance is that, after extensive research, it is believed that Memorial Hall was the first War Memorial building that was dedicated to the veterans of all wars. Unlike other War Memorials Memorial Hall is a living tribute to all U. S. Veterans and is not dedicated to the veterans of the Civil War only. It is in this fact that Memorial Hall achieves its greatest significance.

From the standpoint of political significance, Memorial Hall has one episode in its history. That is the building was dedicated on June 3, 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt. President Roosevelt spoke from the front steps of Memorial Hall and praised the efforts of the citizens of Rockford. In 1903, it was a major undertaking for the President to travel and for him to come to Rockford for this dedication adds greatly to the National significance of this building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Dedication Exercises at Memorial Hall," Rockford Register Republic, June 30, 1903.
- "Veterans Will Ask Memorial Hall Addition," Rockford Register Republic, March 4, 1939.
- "Memorial Hall County Puzzle," Rockford Register Republic, Feb. 8, 1940.
- "Teddy Roosevelt Dedicated Memorial Hall Here in 1903," R.R.R., Feb. 15, 195

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	3,27	3,9,5	4,8	8,19	3,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C				D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Duane Hanson, Administrative Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Winnebago County Board

DATE

June 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Winnebago County Courthouse, 400 W. State Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Rockford

STATE

Illinois

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

July 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JAN 31 1975

Name

Location

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall

Rockford
Winnebago County

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson
Hon. John B. Anderson

WN-H-67

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

SURVEY USE ONLY

200682

1. Name of Site: Memorial Hall
Common now for Veterans of all wars
Historic

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

2. Location:

Street and Number Township Section
 211-215 N. Main St. Rockford
City or Town Zip Code Range 1/4Section
 Rockford 61101
County
 Winnebago

3. Classification:

Category (Check one)

Integrity (Check one)

- District Building
- Site Structure

- Altered Unaltered
- Moved Original Site

4. Ownership

Status (check one)

- Private
- Public

- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

Access to Public **DAILY except Sat. & Sun.**

- Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)

- Agricultural Industrial Religious
- Commerical Military Scientific
- Educational Museum Transportation
- Entertainment Park Other (specify)
- Government Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property

Owner's Name **owned by Winnebago Co**
Street and Number **supervised by supervisors** Phone Number
City or Town
State County Zip Code

6. Description

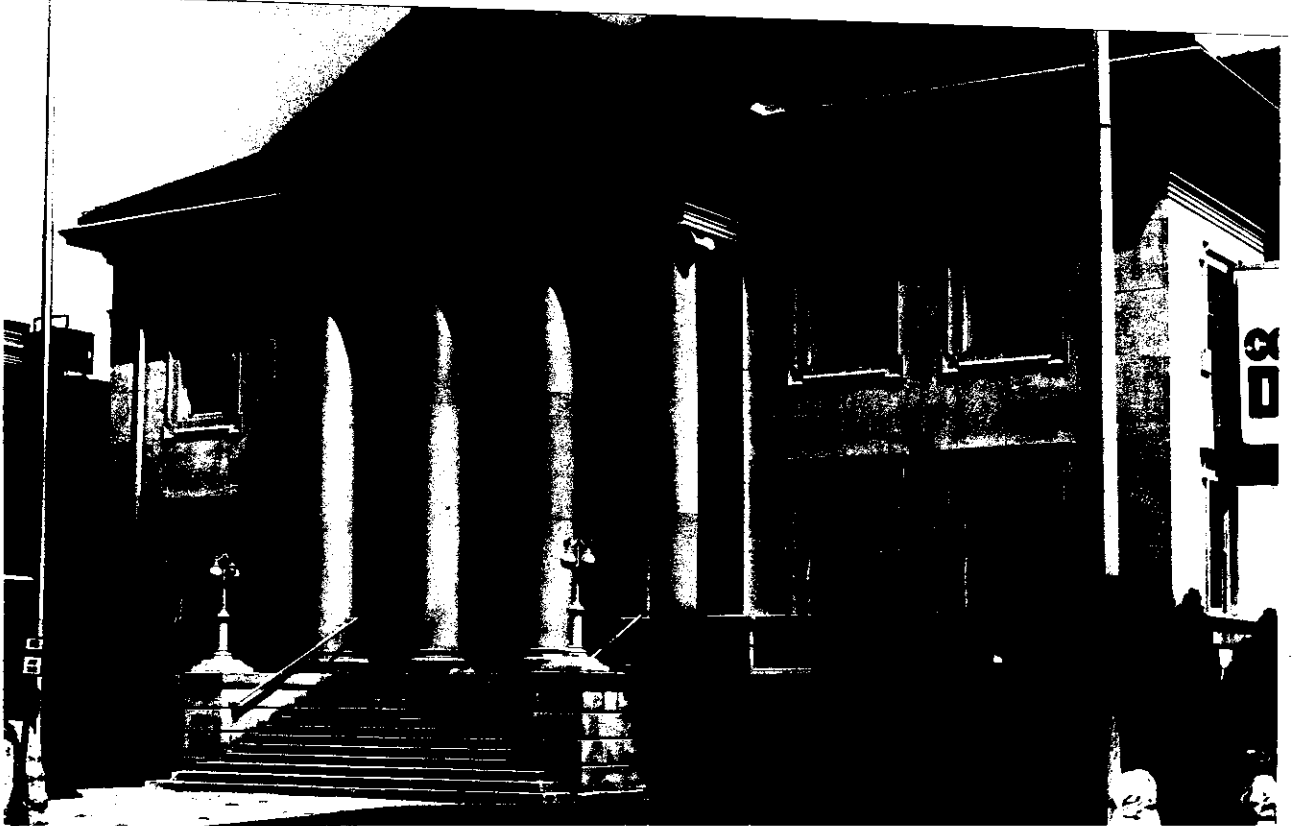
Condition

- Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

For further information call Howard Nordvall - 399-2178

FRATERNAL



7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Archaeological Site | (pre-Columbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Archaeological Site | (post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | French Influence | (1673-1780) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois Frontier | (1780-1818) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois Early | (1818-1850) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Illinois Middle | (1850-1900) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Illinois Late | (1900-present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Famous People | (Give names & dates) |

8. Specific Date: 1908

Areas of Significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Landscape Architecture | | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates). Use additional sheets if necessary. **probably is the only building in this area that was donated by a Pres. - Theodore Roosevelt, June 6, 1903. In memory of the sa & soldiers of Winnebago Co**

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: Howard Nordvall - 1012 Highview Date: 6/12/72

Organization: Winnebago County Historical Society

Street and Number 211 N Main St.

City or Town Rockford County Winnebago Zip Code 61107

Phone Number 815-399-2178

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

