

Wash. D.C.
7/6/88

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Allentown Union Hall
other names/site number Allentown Hall

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication
city, town Allentown (unincorporated) vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Tazewell code 179 zip code 61568
On Township Road 400 feet south of County Highway 5 (Allentown Road) (Tremont)

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] _____ Date June 27, 1988

Signature of certifying official

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture-AuditoriumSocial-meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social-meeting hallRecreation & Culture-auditorium**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls woodroof asphalt shingles

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Allentown Union Hall is located on the west side of a township road near the south end of the unincorporated Village of Allentown, Tazewell County, Illinois. The one story white wood frame building measures 36 feet north and south by 60 feet east and west. It remains on its original location on a lot 4 rods north and south by 6 1/2 rods east and west. The building has been relatively unchanged from its original construction in 1892.

The building rests on a brick foundation. The exterior is covered with narrow clapboard siding with exposed portion of each clapboard being approximately 4 1/2 inches wide. There are 4 large windows on each side of the building, equally spaced. There are 2 windows on the front of the building. The windows measure 8 feet high by 4 feet wide and consist of 4 panes of glass.

The front of the building is symmetrical on each side of the steep gabled roof which has a slope of approximately 1 vertical to 1 horizontal (45 degrees). There is a concrete stoop approximately 10 feet wide and extending about 6 feet from the building in front of the double front doors which have a total width of 5 feet. Above the front doors there is a transom with 2 glass panes about 15 inches high. The 2 windows on the front are located about 5 feet from each corner of the building. There are circular decorative wood pieces and fluted corner blocks on the lintels of all 10 windows and above the transom at the front door.

The rear of the building has no openings except for an emergency exit door in the center. The bottom of the door is at stage height and approximately 6 feet above the ground on the exterior.

There is a crawl space under the front 42 feet of the building. The rear 18 feet, under the stage, was excavated in about 1929 to allow for the addition of a furnace. At the same time a brick chimney was added behind the stage just inside the rear wall several feet north of the center of the building. Access to the area was provided by an outside door on the south side of the building near the rear with several steps down and a small lean-to covering the steps. Another access was provided from the interior of the building via a small door about 3 feet high in front of the stage with steps leading to the lower area.

The ground is almost level with a slight slope downward to the west (toward the rear of the building).

The interior of the building consists of a narrow hallway across the front of the building, a large open area and a stage at the rear elevated approximately 3 feet.

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The front hallway is 6 1/2 feet wide. The north 10 feet was enclosed for a storage area for chairs and tables. The south 12 feet of the hallway was opened into the large room in about the 1940s to provide for a mini-kitchen or serving area.

The main room or auditorium is an open area 35 feet by 35 1/2 feet. The ceiling is 15 feet high. There are three windows on each side of this area. The lower 3 1/2 feet of the walls are covered with brown varnished wainscoating consisting of narrow vertical boards with wood trim on the top.

Paneling has been added to the east wall and part of the entrance hallway above the wainscoating.

At the west end of the room there is a stage about 3 feet above the floor of the auditorium 18 feet deep and extending the full 35 foot width. There is access to the stage at each side via steps adjacent to the outside walls and extending into the auditorium. There is a door on each side at the top of the steps leading to the backstage. The sidestage areas are enclosed by a wall between the stage and the auditorium. There is a window on each side of the backstage. The front curtain extends within several feet of the ceiling. The border around the front of the stage consists of decorative wood trim with rounded top corners.

The side and back stages are separated from the main stage by movable curtains. Photographs from circa 1900 and 1988 reveal that this area is unaltered except for replacement of the curtains.

The building was originally heated by heated stones that were brought into the building. Later a potbellied stove was used until installation of the furnace in about 1929.

Originally lighting was by use of oil lamps. At an unknown date electricity was added, and electric lights and fans were installed.

One of the doors between the hallway and the auditorium was converted into a double door by addition of a narrow door. That was done to accommodate caskets when funerals were held in the Hall.

There is no plumbing in the building and no water on the premises except for a rain barrel on the outside at the northwest corner.

There are two privies on the premises outside and near the rear of the Hall. One is located 2 feet west and 5 feet in from the corner of the building. It measures 5' - 3" east and west by 6' - 2" north and south with a door on the north side. It has a gabled roof and a height of 7 1/2 feet at the eaves and 9 1/2 feet at the ridge line. The inside consists of a "two-holer" with one being at a lower height for children. Outside is covered with 2 1/2" wide weatherboards, and small louvered ventilation on the west and east sides just below the eaves. It is believed that it was constructed at the same time as the Hall. The other privy

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is offset 2 1/2 feet west and 5 1/2 feet south of the southwest corner of the Hall. It measures 5' - 4" east and west by 6' - 4" north and south with a door on the east side. It is 7 feet high at the eaves and 9 1/2 feet at the ridge line of the gabled roof. The outside is covered with 6" horizontal boards. There are small lowered openings on the north and south sides, the top of the openings being below the ridge at about eaves height. It is presently a "one-holer". Time of construction is unknown, but is believed to be shortly after the Hall was completed.

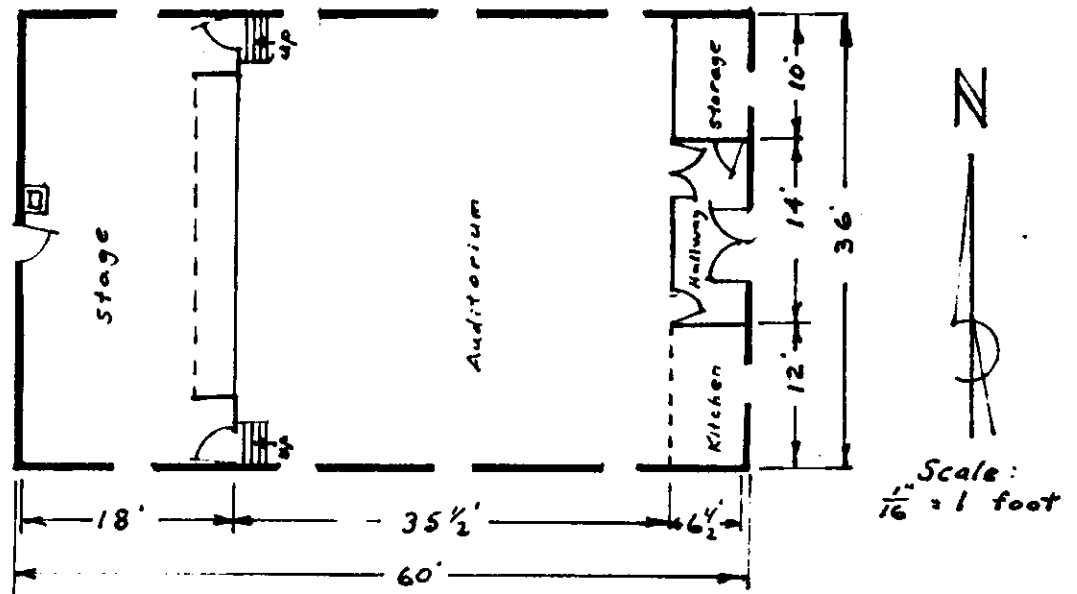
The building is basically structurally sound. The integrity of the building is excellent. It remains relatively unchanged since its original construction in 1892. The unaltered stage area, retention of original wainscoating, original distorted glass panes in the windows, no plumbing from its beginning all serve as a need for historical preservation, thereby reinforcing learning for younger people of the lifestyle of the era almost 100 years ago.

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*Allentown Union Hall
First Floor*



8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Education

Period of Significance

1892-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

White/John Will

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Allentown Union Hall meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a locally significant building associated with a period of American history in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when an important and widespread change was taking place, particularly in rural areas and small communities. It satisfied the need to set up networks for communication. Chautauquas, revival meetings the advent of women's organizations all came about during the late 19th century.

People in these rural communities began to broaden their interests to include people and events outside their own small area.

The building is significant as it portrays an era almost 100 years ago at which time an importance was placed in providing educational, social, and cultural entertainment not otherwise available to the community. It demonstrates the comraderie of the times and a need for a closer association or "union" as expressed in the name "Allentown Union Hall". The architecture portrays the type utilized in the late 19th century for community buildings, which is not used today. The building continues to be used for a number of community events including biennial homecomings that were started in 1950.

Lillian Blair, recalling events of her childhood and adult life writes:

The Hall was the hub of social life of the whole community from as early as I can remember....It had a great importance after it was built. It drew from a large area: Mackinaw, Minier, Tremont, Morton, rural communities, Peoria and Pekin. Sunday school and church services were held....Dances were held in the Hall and people came from miles around. The young people put on stage plays in the Hall. The Hall was used as a voting place for County, State and National elections.²

It is significant that the founders included "Union" in the name of the Hall; clearly their intention was for a structure to serve as a way to unite the area. It can be determined that this intention became a reality. The Allentown Union Hall served as a catalyst for bringing the people of the entire county and surrounding counties together and it is important in educational and entertainment/recreational history in Allentown.

The period of significance is from the dedication, upon completion of construction of the Hall on October 12, 1892, until 1938, the 50 year cutoff date for historical significance.

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HISTORY OF ALLENTOWN

The history of the area, that is now the north part of Tazewell County, was influenced by the migration to the west. From approximately 1830 to 1836 there was a steady migration of land and home seekers to this part of the country, including the region near the established communities of Mackinaw, Washington (IL), Pekin and Tremont. Some came directly from England, others of English descent came from Ohio and New York. Many settled on the land under the Homestead Act.³ In the early 1860s to 1875 there was another wave of settlers of Swiss and German descent.⁴

A little log cabin built on the Illinois prairie in 1851 was the first home in what is now the Village of Allentown.

In 1873 Edward Allen donated land for a school and the one-room schoolhouse was moved from "Smoky Row", southwest of here, to Allentown. In 1873 the shrill whistle of a locomotive was heard here for the first time. The Illinois Midland (later Vandalia and Pennsylvania Railroad) carried passengers, mail and freight.⁵

Excerpts from the 1877 diary of Esther "Et" Sperry Warner, wife of Francis Seth "Put" Warner of Allentown. (Actually 2 miles away) reveals the desires for education, attendance of social and recreation events, and the close association and comraderie of the time. The diary states:

In January 1877 Put and Et went by horse and buggy to Lyceum at Allentown Grade School--where orations, debates, etc. were enjoyed during the winter months. The diary relates the hardships of the times--death from scarlet fever, meager medical assistance, coal oil lamps, winding dirt trails, ruts and mud in the springtime all contributed to the trials and tribulations of the time. Yet a comraderie existed in their lives and there was always the need and desire for better education, social and religious well being.

July 3rd (1877) We are cooking for the 4th. July 4th--Extremely warm and still. We went down to W. C. Broyhill's pasture for 4th of July celebration. The oldest person at the celebration was Parthena Hotchkiss Sperry, grandmother of Esther and her brother, Bert Sperry, and their cousin, Billy, (William Denison Sperry). William D. Sperry's obituary--Feb. 2, 1904--mentioned the 1877 4th of July picnic and his 97 year old grandmother, Parthena Sperry--"this old lady was present with five generations of her posterity."⁶ (Note: Allentown gathering have truly been a place for the young and old to unite. The register of the 1986 re-union with about fifty in attendance, indicates ages from 2 months to 99 years).

The above background is a vivid indication that the area was in tune with the National trends of the times--the lust for better and more fulfilling life, one that included culture, social, education, entertainment, and religious activities.

The desires and needs for a meeting place for all these events grew until fulfilled by construction of the Allentown Union Hall in 1892.

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In 1890 a grain elevator was constructed. It burned in 1914 and a smaller elevator was built. In the early days there were 2 blacksmith shops, a fence factory, a scoopboard factory, a general store and post office.

Because of poor road conditions in the 1890s and into the early 1900s, people of the area could not travel to surrounding larger towns. "Before roads permitted travel by automobile, Sunday School was held in the Hall. In the early 1890s and for thirty years after that the area had only dirt roads and for three or four months in the winter and spring, traveling the muddy roads was very difficult. Getting to Peoria, Pekin, or Bloomington was almost impossible, and even the extra distance to Morton, Tremont or Mackinaw was difficult, so Allentown became a shopping center for many."⁷

The electric line was started in 1903 and completed through Allentown in 1907. It was known as the McKinley Interurban System. Later it was the Interurban Traction System and the Illinois Terminal Railroad.⁸ It provided passenger service on one to six electric trolley cars and local freight service from 1907 until service ended in 1951. The completion of the railroad ensured transportation to the area and made the Hall accessible to a larger area of influence.

The Village of Allentown is unincorporated. It consists of 15 to 20 homes. Being unincorporated there has never been an official census of the village. Its population has always been "an estimated 85".⁹ There are two roads through Allentown; an east-west County road and a north-south Township road that extends south from the County road and passes in front (east) of the Allentown Union Hall. The village, in a rural setting, has seen little change over the years. A large house over 100 years old is prominent on the landscape.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

The trends that existed leading to construction of the Hall are the same trends of the nation as shown on the bookjacket of The American Renaissance 1876-1917, which states:

This was an era marked by vast physical and social changes--urbanization, industrialization, bureaucratization, and growing American nationalism and imperialism. Religion was brought into question. In all areas of learning, and especially in those defined as liberal arts--literature, history, religion, and art--a scientific rigor, inquiry, and definition became evident. There was an attraction to foreign cultures that was expressed through cosmopolitanism. The idealistic nature of the American genteel tradition, with its search for beauty, morality, and "the best that had been thought and said in the world," eagerly fastened on the concept of the Renaissance as the guiding principle for the future of America.

The text of the same book states: With the approach of the Centennial, the American past could almost be said to have been discovered. Organizations emerged that presented in different ways the American past: The American Historical Association (1882), the American Protective Association (1887), the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (1888), the Daughters of the American Revolution (1890), and the Colonial Dames (1890).¹¹

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....Concerned with elevating aesthetic standards, the genteel tradition contained many of the operative elements of "high culture" of the period; it sought an art filled with moral content that would keep the forces of barbarism at bay. Underlying the genteel tradition was a fear of national inferiority, a belief that culture and art were indexes of civilization.¹²

The idea of inquiring into literature, history, religion and the arts showed a reason for the Hall to become a reality.

Mary P. Ryan's Womanhood in America from Colonial Times to the Present provides insight into the needs and desires of late 19th century American women for better education and involvement. Much of this was accomplished through women's organizations.

By 1890 signs of restlessness among America's mothers of civilization were cropping up even in a genteel ladies magazine.¹³....In 1887 seven graduates of Smith College met at a class reunion and launched a direct assault upon the real world, founding the College Settlement Association. A week after these women and their recruits set up America's first settlement house, Jane Addams and Ellen Star chose an old Chicago mansion as the site of Hull House. All these young women were driven by what Addams called "the subjective necessity of social settlement" to provide an outlet for the sentiment of universal brotherhood.¹⁴....A similar transformation was occurring in other segments of woman's world. The little bands of women's reading groups across the country were organized into the massive General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1890.¹⁵

Katherine Aird Miller and Raymond Montgomery in their book A Chautauqua to Remember informed us of the movement which was designed to provide educational events primarily for rural areas (such as Allentown) that did not have access to lectures, operas and the theatre.

When John Vincent, a powerful Methodist minister, and his friend, Lewis Miller, a wealthy industrialist, opened the first Chautauqua in 1874, it was the modest beginning of what would eventually become one of the most innovative educational movements of the 19th and 20th centuries....Located in rural New York State, the first Chautauqua originated as an outdoor meeting camp for Methodist Sunday School teachers. But it soon burgeoned into a mecca for anyone seeking cultural growth....Miller believed that every man, regardless of economic or social status had the right to an education. As a result of his egalitarian philosophy independent Chautauquas, patterned after the one in New York began to flourish across the country....The Chautauqua furor was largely a rural phenomenon--lectures, operas, and theater were easily accessible in urban areas.¹⁶

An organization that had much effect on the lives of the women of Allentown, resulting in their influence on the construction of the Hall, was the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons.

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The History of the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons, Year 1886 to 1930 by Sara F. Gugle tells us that the Order was founded on the thirteenth day of January 1886 in New York City.¹⁷ It was formed as an interdenominational organization for spiritual life and stimulation of Christian activities.

The Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, states:

The badge of service the Order decided upon, was a small Maltese Cross of silver tied with purple ribbon, the color of royalty. The watchword "In His Name" the initial letters I.H.N. being inscribed on the emblem, and the significant date, 1886. The mottoes for action were, Look Forward and Not Back (Hope), Look Out and Not In (Charity), Look Up and Not Down (Faith)--Lend a Hand (Fraternity). They decided that the chief aim of the Order should be the breaking down of barriers between the rich and the poor; that membership should include women and girls of all classes and conditions.¹⁸

Originally it was known as "The King's Daughters".¹⁹ In 1887 men and boys began seeking admission and it became known as "The King's Daughters and Sons".²⁰ The earliest Circle in Illinois was founded in 1887 in Chicago. In 1891 the Order effected a change in its organization from a National to an International organization, as many Circles had been formed in foreign countries.²¹

The women of Allentown were in concert with the National and International movement. Mrs. Kate Amsbury of Allentown read an article in the Ladies Home Journal about formation of a King's Daughter Circle in New York by 10 Christian women. She obtained more information and gathered 16 women of Allentown together in the home of Charlotte Broyhill and organized the "Helping Hand Circle" on March 25, 1891.²² A photograph taken inside the Hall, in 1900, shows the symbol of the Maltese Cross with the initials IHN prominently displayed over center stage, and a banner on the wall with the inscription "Bear ye one anothers Burdens". The name, "Helping Hand Circle" was also a display of their accord with the objects of the Order; to stimulate Christian characters and lend a hand to those less fortunate.

HISTORY OF ALLENTOWN UNION HALL

Certain events in Allentown in the late 19th century indicated a need for a gathering place--the 1877 July 4th celebration in a pasture was an example. Rural one-room schools could not always accommodate the needs of the community in the area of group meetings such as women's groups, social events such as ice cream socials, and even the educational programs such as plays, musical performances and readings that were so popular during the 1890s. A newspaper article concerning the "King's Daughters" of Allentown stated:

True to their name, "Helping Hand Circle", they were involved in numerous community services. The Allentown Helping Hand Circle was responsible for the Allentown Hall which was used for the 60th anniversary celebration, and which was dedicated in 1892.When construction of the building began, the Circle raised \$300 for it, and the

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remainder was done by subscription. To earn the \$300, the women held ice cream socials, (home made ice cream); served mush and milk suppers; sewed carpet rags, and made rag carpets to sell; held oyster suppers; and gave home talent plays.²³

The Allentown Union Hall Association was organized and first certified as a corporation on February 1, 1892. (Secretary of State files Box 574, No. 24066). Construction of the Hall took place in 1892. It was dedicated on October 12, 1892.²⁴

On December 14, 1892, the corporation was dissolved to enable changes. On January 4, 1893, a statement for a new corporation was filed with the Secretary of State with the provision for subscription of 150 shares of stock at \$10 per share. Forty-four shareholders were listed totalling \$1500. The new corporation was certified by Secretary of State William H. Hinrichsen on March 22, 1893.

According to the charter, the object for which the corporation was formed is for "Social, Moral, Political, and Intellectual purposes and to promote the same by holding meetings, entertainment, and lectures and to do all things necessary to carry out the aforesaid affects". The original Directors were Williams S. Russell, William J. Finks and Seth L. Allen.

The Allentown Union Hall also served as a social center for the entire area. The era from 1890 to 1938 is filled with interesting social events that were typical of the entire country. Dances, parties, ice cream socials, dinners, women's meetings, medicine shows, and plays, to name a few, were popular around the nation. The Allentown Union Hall became the center for all of these national pastimes. Dances were social events during the time since strict dating etiquette was required from the young people. Letters from people who remember such events indicate many socials. In the early 1900s until about 1920, national traveling medicine shows appeared at the Hall. For two weeks the show troupe stayed in Allentown, boarding at various homes, giving a show and selling their Dr. Emerson's Health Giver.

The Allentown Hall records show the enormous use of the Hall for acting, recitation speaking and music. Plays were held often. Not only did school children perform plays, the rage of the time was for adults to act in plays also. Vaudeville of the 1900s, literary plays, minstrels and musical performances were all performed in the Allentown Union Hall. Halloween masquerade parties were held every October for many years.

There were many talented people in the area that participated in programs. Music was very much a part of the home, including singing, and piano and violin playing. The outstanding tenor voice of Charlie Broyhill and before that the male quartet composed of Charlie, the Lackland brothers and John Russell were heard both at funerals and at more joyous occasions.²⁵ The melodious strains of the violin of Charles Broyhill were heard on numerous occasions from 1892 to 1932 inside the walls of the Allentown Hall, as was the flowing piano and organ music of his children, Bill Broyhill, Mabel Broyhill Augustin and Hazel Broyhill Stecker from the late teens to 1938 and beyond.

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Every person who once lived in this Allentown area probably has some vivid memory of an important event in their life which took place in this Allentown Union Hall.

Bertha Frank fondly remembers her parents sitting in the crowded audience (in the teens or 1920s) proudly watching her and her sisters and brothers perform in Christmas and Children's Day programs on the stage of Allentown Hall.²⁶

An annual Children's Day program was held in the Hall. The programs included recitations, songs, plays and complicated drills. All of the children from the area were invited to participate so this served as a way for young people to meet others from the area and form bonds that joined families together. The close ties between the families of the area are still apparent today when one visits the Hall. Not only did the children meet, but also mothers who helped to direct the Children's Day programs were given the chance to form closer bonds.

It was at the Allentown Union Hall that the 8th grade graduation ceremonies were held; for the Allentown school as well as for outlying one-room schoolhouses, from the mid 1920s or earlier, until 1939, the last class was held at Allentown school before it burned in 1940.

The National Order of Modern Woodman, a fraternal organization met monthly until 1928.²⁷ Clearly, the Hall served as a union for both the people to meet from the surrounding area as well as to unite with the national movement towards more associations and organizations.

The Allentown Hall also provided a site for political rallies. In 1900, Congressman Bill Moore and Hiram Warner, Jr. debated in the Hall. Since there was no polling site, the Hall became the place for voting for County, State and National elections.

The Hall was used for this purpose from near its beginning and is still being used for voting today.

During World War I women of the community met at the Hall to wrap bandages to be used by the Army. About that time meetings were held with outside of the area speakers urging people to buy Liberty Bonds to finance the war.²⁸

This was the only building, other than private homes, used for religious purposes in Allentown. Religion was an important part of their lives and the community wasn't large enough to support a church. As in many rural communities of the 1890s and early 20th century that did not have their own minister, they would rely on visiting ministers. Allentown Union Hall provided the place to hold religious services for the area. Reverend Sam W. Crabtree of the Mackinaw Christian Church came to preach in 1916.²⁹ In the 1920s Dr. B. G. Carpenter from the Peoria Universalist Church came to Allentown Hall. Until the last 1930s, Sunday School was held every year during the warm months.³⁰ For the services, a pulpit and matching ornate red plush chairs were provided for the ministers. (A photograph taken in April, 1988 shows that the pulpit still exists in the Hall).

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Until the late 30s, most funerals in the area were held in the Hall. Weddings were performed in the building around the turn of the century. Records also show a wedding on June 18, 1932, and more recently on May 21, 1982.

The objects, for which the Allentown Union Hall Association was formed, of social, moral, political and intellectual purposes and to promote the same by holding meetings, entertainment and lectures were certainly met and exceeded by including theatrical, literary educational, church and Sunday School in their activities.

The Pekin Daily Times article in April, 1951 stated:

"It has been used as a meeting place for the welfare of the community, Sunday School, church and funerals; also suppers and plays. It is used by the Community church and its programs and potluck dinners".³¹

The King's Daughters' quarterly publication of September, 1944 stated:

During all these years this community house has been the center of the community life and the service which it has rendered invaluable. True to their name, the Helping Hand Circle has given money and hours of service to keep their community house an influence for good. Because they are loyal King's Daughters, the Christian spirit has prevailed over this locality.³²...An example of the work in which the Circle is involved includes participation in their scholarship programs and the King's Daughters home in Moline. The Chautauqua Scholarship for this year (1944) was awarded to Miss Lois Anderson of Moline. This means six weeks in Chautauqua, New York, where the student has many educational, cultural as well as spiritual advantages. Chautauqua programs are famous the country over for outstanding personages appearing. The studies are really an extension course of the University of New York and it is a rare privilege for any girl to have this opportunity to study and earn credits from New York University.³³

In 1986, the Allentown reunion was held in the Allentown Union Hall. Forty-eight attended ranging in age from 2 months (great-great-great-grandson of Broyhills that donated land for the Hall) to 99 years. After dinner, each person spoke about his/her memories of the Hall. One person present had only been in the Hall one other time when she was a little girl. "I can remember my grandmother and her brother playing the piano all afternoon with no music in front of them".³⁴

The Hall served as a forum where opinions were expressed, emotions revealed and addressed, pleasure obtained, instructions received and many decisions made which molded the way of life for generations.

The people expressed and fulfilled a need to band and work together for support and fellowship and to satisfy cultural, social and educational desires. They were in tune with and participated in National movements of the time.

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All was accomplished by a unique and talented group of people, not of great wealth, but sincere and well known in a wide area of the State as cultural, Christian folks sharing with each other.

When our forefathers built the Allentown Union Hall, they planned and built well. They said, "Allentown is too tiny to have a church, an opera house, a banquet room and a town hall--so let's build one building which will serve all of our needs".³⁵ And build it they did! It served the community well and is still serving its needs.

Addendum

The Allentown Union Hall is reported to have been built by John Will White, a carpenter and builder of reknown in the area during that period of time. He was born about 1841 at Reynoldsville, Ohio and lived in the Allentown area most of his adult life. He died in 1928. He attended Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington and served a term in the Illinois legislature (submitted by Lyle White, grandson of John Will White)

A scrapbook shows a picture of the Allentown Union Hall with a date of October 14, 1982. A caption under the picture states "Allentown Union Hall, Built by Kings Daughters, Erected by J. W. White. (Presented by Virginia Beth Sperry DeMoss, Bowen, Illinois, descendent of J. W. White)

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ENDNOTES

1. Betty Russell, January 1988 letter. (Granddaughter of William S. Russell, one of the Directors who signed the original charter of incorporation on February 1, 1892).
2. Lillian Sparks Blair, January 1988 letter. (Greatgranddaughter, born 1902, of William C. and Charlotte T. Broyhill who donated land for Allentown Hall in 1892).
3. Morton Illinois Centennial 1877-1977, Morton, Illinois, Tazewell Publishing Company, 1977, Part I, pg. 3.
4. Ibid, pg. 7.
5. Gertrude Warner Frederick, Allentown Homecoming - June 1, 1986, from Allentown history by Seth Allen given in the 1920s to Leonard Russell who in 1951, gave it to Mrs. Frederick, a descendent of Allentown pioneers.
6. Gertrude Warner Frederick, Allentown Reunion - June 17, 1984, from diary of Esther "Et" Sperry 1977.
7. Edward Allen, January 15, 1988 letter. (Grandson of Seth Allen, one of the Directors who signed the original charter of incorporation on February 1, 1892).
8. Morton Illinois Centennial 1877-1977, op. cit., 1977, Part II, pg. 7.
9. Peoria Journal Star, Peoria, Illinois, June 11, 1976. pg. A-4.
10. Richard Guy Wil , The American Renaissance 1876-1917, Brooklyn, New York, Brooklyn Museum, 1979, bookjacket.
11. Richard Guy Wil , Ibid., pg. 28.
12. Richard Guy Wil , Ibid., pg. 29.
13. Mary P. Ryan, Womanhood in America From Colonial Times to the Present, New York, New Viewpoints, 1975, pg. 198.
14. Mary P. Ryan, Ibid., pg. 228.
15. Mary P. Ryan, Ibid., pg. 230.
16. Elizabeth Bettendorf, The State Journal Register, Springfield, Illinois, December 27, 1987, pg. 20, from Katherine Aird Miller and Raymond Montgomery, A Chautauqua to Remember, Silent River Press.

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17. Sara F. Gogle, History of the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons, Year 1886 to 1930, Columbus, Ohio, Stoneman Press, 1931, pg. 22.
18. Harriet J. Walker, continued by Georgiana Post Gardner, The Early History of King's Daughters Home for Women, Springfield, Illinois, N.D., pg. 4. Reprinted from Journal of the Illinois Historical Society, Volume 23.
19. Sara F. Gogle, op. cit., pg. 23.
20. Sara F. Gogle, Ibid., pg. 46.
21. Sara F. Gogle, Ibid., pg. 58 and 209.
22. Pekin Daily Times, Pekin, Illinois, April 1951.
23. Pekin Daily Times, Ibid.
24. Gertrude Warner Frederick, op. cit., Allentown Homecoming - June 1, 1986.
25. Gertrude Warner Frederick, Ibid.
26. Gertrude Warner Frederick, op. cit., Allentown Reunion - June 20, 1982.
27. Edward Allen, op. cit.
28. Edward Allen, Ibid.
29. Lillian Sparks Blair, op. cit., and Mackinaw Christian Church, A History, Mackinaw, Illinois, 1971.
30. Gertrude Warner Frederick, op. cit., Allentown Reunion - June 20, 1982.
31. Pekin Daily Times, op. cit.
32. The King's Daughters - Edited and published quarterly in the interest of the International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons, Inc., Peoria, Illinois, September 1944, pg. 1.
33. The King's Daughters, Ibid., pg. 4.
34. Cinda Klickna, Impressions of the 1986 Allentown Reunion, 1988. (Great-great-granddaughter of William C. and Charlotte T. Broyhill).
35. Gertrude Warner Frederick, op. cit., Allentown Reunion - June 20, 1982.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Blair, Lillian Sparks, Letter. Mackinaw, Illinois: January, 1988.

Frederick, Gertrude Warner, Allentown Homecoming -- June 1, 1986. Creve Coeur, Illinois, 1986.

Frederick, Gertrude Warner, Allentown Reunion -- June 17, 1984. Creve Coeur, Illinois, 1984.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 1/8 acre.

UTM References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at the middle of the Public Highway, twenty-two and one-third (22 1/3) rods south of the NE corner of the West half (1/2) of the NW quarter (1/4) of Section twelve (12) Township 24 North, Range 3 West of the Third Principal Meridian; thence west six and one-half (6 1/2) rods, thence south four (4) rods, thence east six and one-half (6 1/2) rods, thence north along the center of the highway to the point of beginning, measuring one-eighth (1/8) acre of clear land exclusive of the highway. See continuation sheet
(Note: the east 25 feet of the legal description is occupied by the highway).

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the lot that has historically been associated with the property. Reference: Warranty Deed conveying property from William C. and Charlotte T. Broyhill, his wife, to the Allentown Union Hall Association dated the twenty-ninth of June, 1892. Tazewell County Recorders Office Book 121, Page 221.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Raymond J. Ackerman date May 3, 1988
 organization _____ telephone 217-546-4594
 street & number 2128 Fairway Drive state _____ zip code _____
 city or town Springfield, Illinois 62704

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Russell, Betty, Letter. Pekin, Illinois: January, 1988.

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The World Book Encyclopedia. Chicago, Illinois: Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, 1961.

ILLINOIS

Tazewell County
Allentown Union Hall
2 mi. E of IL 121
Allentown 8/12/88 88001228

Warren County
Carr House
416 E. Broadway
Monmouth 8/11/88 88001229

INDIANA

Grant County
Wilson, J. Woodrow, House
723 W. Fourth St.
Marion 8/11/88 88001218

KANSAS

Greenwood County
Eureka Carnegie Library
Carnegie Libraries of Kansas TR
520 N. Main
Eureka 8/10/88 88001170

MISSOURI

St. Louis Independent City
Stockton, Robert Henry, House
3508 Samuel Shepard Dr.
St. Louis 8/10/88 88001177

NEW YORK

Oswego County
Sloan, George B., Estate
107 W. Van Buren St.
Oswego 8/11/88 88001237

OKLAHOMA

Osage County
Hominy School
200 blk., S. Pettit St.
Hominy 8/12/88 88001183

Sequoyah County
Ellison #2 Site (349085)
Address Restricted
Short vicinity 8/11/88 88001234