

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.

other names/site number Centralia V.F.W. Hall, Petroleum Building

## 2. Location

street & number 328 East Broadway

city or town Centralia

state Illinois

code IL

county Marion

code 121

zip code 62801

not for publication

vicinity

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Anne E. Naatz 9.16.11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
 Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
 County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:)

*Barbara Coyatt*  
 Signature of the Keeper

11-7-11  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private  
 public - Local  
 public - State  
 public - Federal

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall  
 COMMERCE TRADE/Business

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other: LIMESTONE

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

Centralia Lodge 493 of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, commonly referred to as the Centralia Elks Lodge, located at 328 East Broadway, Centralia, Illinois, is a former social meeting hall constructed in ca. 1930. It is located on the east one half of lots four and five in block 18 of the original town of the city of Centralia, as laid out, platted and recorded by the Illinois Central Railroad Company, situated in Marion County, Illinois. The Classical Revival building faces south toward East Broadway, and one of the city's main business districts. The building is two-part commercial brick with decorative limestone details evoking the revival styles that were popular during the early part of the twentieth century. The Centralia Elks Lodge is basically rectangular with another smaller rectangle section on the west side. That section of the building is recessed from both the front/south and the back/north of the building and is not flush with either the north or south facades. The building has two stories and a partially elevated basement. There is an entrance to the basement to the west of the front porch and on the east facade. The front/south façade of the building is brick with three windows on the second story and an integral porch over the windows and main entrance of the first story. On the front/south façade of the smaller recessed rectangular portion there is one window on the second story concrete steps leading to a door which opens on to the first story. There are also steps leading to the porch (directly east of the entrance on the recessed section) covering the whole front façade. The porch is supported by four square brick columns with two round cement columns flanking the stairs. Above the center window, raised from the level of the flat roof is a cement oval entablature surrounded by scrolls enlivening the skyline. The exterior of the building has kept almost all of its historical integrity with the exception of the block glass windows of the basement and the doors to the west of the main entrance which were replaced after the fire of 1951 and the removal of the Elks Head and addition of the VFW sign when the building was purchased by the VFW in 1946.

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

---

## Narrative Description

### General

The Centralia Elks Lodge is a two-story brick building with a partially elevated basement. The bricks are in a pattern of alternating headers and stretchers. The front façade faces south on Broadway, while the east façade faces Elm. The building is 5,635 square feet. Two belt courses encircle the building. The one above the second story windows adorns the south and east facades only while the one below the first story windows encircles the whole building.

### Front/South Facade

The three bay front of the building (south façade) with the integral porch projects slightly from the main building. This section is also marked by a cornice-like decoration, although it is below the roof, not touching it, and is only found on this front section and over the East façade basement entrance. The center window and door are set off by a pilaster that projects forward slightly. In the center of the pilaster is a concrete section wider than the belt course where the letters V.F.W. are engraved. Above this is an empty shield adorned with scrolls. This shield was also adorned with an Elk head before the 1950s. Below this is the center window with a segmental pediment. The architrave trim is in the form of scrolls and the stone sill is supported by scroll trim. The two flanking windows have triangular pediments and the same trim and scrollwork.

The porch is flush with the front of the building. A stairway of concrete leads up to the porch. The porch is supported by four square Tuscan columns with bases. The corners of the building are cantons with the masonry projecting to make them appear as the other columns. Between the columns is an iron railing two decorative iron ovals split center between each column except at the head of the porch stairs. The railings of the stairs leading to the porch are of brick masonry and match the rest of the building with caps of concrete. In the center, at the top of the porch steps are two round, unfluted Tuscan columns that taper slightly at the top. These columns also have bases. The ceiling of the porch is plaster and in the center is a single light. In the center of the building under the porch are two doors. These doors are glass and surrounded by full transom light entablatures. The doors still have the Elks doorknobs with a clock set to 11:00 above an Elk Head. On either side of the doors are matching windows. They are each four sets of double-hung windows with ribbon windows above them. On the southwest corner of the porch is a cornerstone engraved B.P.O.E. 1900-1929.

To the east of the porch is a concrete staircase leading up to a small door with a ribbon of three windows above it. The doorway has always been there, but the door appears to have been replaced after the fire of 1951. On the second story there is a single unadorned double hung window. In front of the smaller rectangular portion of the building that sits back from the main south façade there is an entrance to the basement. A canopy over this entrance was added recently.

### East Facade

The east façade which faces Elm shows the jutting center section on the south end, where a porch column and canton, a second story window, and a basement window are. The window on this projecting section is unadorned compared to the south façade windows. It is outlined in brick with a brick lintel and wedge-shaped white keystone. The basement window is completely unadorned. The section of the east façade that is not part of the southern projecting section contains ten second story windows and eleven first story windows all decorated with the same lintel and keystone pattern as the previously described second story window, however most of these windows are now covered with plywood. Two downspouts topped with decorated basins are also visible on the east façade. The eleven basement windows are also unadorned and have been replaced with block glass. This renovation took place in the early 1950s.

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

On the north end of the east façade is a door, which leads to a stairwell that has access to the basement, first, and second floors. Over the door there is an awning perpendicular to the façade to protect the doorway. This door occupies another projecting section of masonry. On this projection are the door (wooden with no windows), one basement window (with a vent), two first story windows, and two second story windows. This projection also features the cornice-like decoration above the second story windows, but not actually touching the roof. The windows on the projection are no different than the other east façade windows.

Just south of the projected masonry (under the first window that is not part of the projection) is a coal door. Also on the east façade at ground level are the gas meter, and air-conditioning unit.

### **North Façade**

The north façade of the building faces an ally and a park. This façade houses a stairwell and has only a few unadorned windows. The lower belt-course encircles this façade, and the projecting masonry of the east façade wraps briefly onto the north façade. Other than this there is no decoration on the north façade.

### **West Façade**

The west facade of the building faces another building. It looks similar to the east side, but without the additional entrance and decorated windows. The windows, however, are intact. There is a rectangular section that protrudes from the western facade. This rectangular section looks like the rest of the façade and houses a staircase. There is less than three feet between the west façade the neighboring building where the smaller rectangle of the building juts out.

### **Interior First Floor**

Unless otherwise stated all floors are wood and walls are plaster with a baseboard running around the bottom of the walls.

Immediately inside the front doors is a general front area shared by all the leasees. This vestibule area is divided into three sections separated by doorways. The center section showcases the large front doors with elk handles. The west section was outfitted as a waiting room with seating under the windows. This room is a pale yellow and the windows are the original dark wood. This room opens into the first set of offices (on the north end of the room) and a stairwell (on the west side of the room) as well as into the center section of the front area (on the east section of the room). The secondary south door opens into this area in front of the large stairwell. The eastern section of this front area is blue and the window encasements have been painted. In this area there is an ornate fireplace on the eastern wall. The opening of the fireplace is an ogee arch. On either side of the top of the arch is a design of leaves, flowers, and vines. This design is repeated and elaborated with the addition of grapes on the entablature. The entablature is supported by rounded columns.

North of this entrance area is a long hallway with office doors on either side. Each office is of a similar size, but outfitted for the different lessees. The doors are wooden with a large frosted glass window with the previous lessee's business names painted on the glass. The first floor six offices were leased starting in 1945. Each office is much as the last tenant left it. Many of the fixtures are original. Antique switch plates and lights can be found in some offices, others have been stripped bare. There is some damage to various rooms, including superficially broken plaster and damage to the floors.

At the north end of the main hallway is a storage area. In this back end of the office area is a bathroom (on the west side) and a stairwell leading to the east entrance, second floor, and basement.

### **Second Story**

The second story holds a large ballroom/gym with a raised and recessed stage at the north end and a lounge/restrooms on the south end. The room is large with views from the second story windows. The floor is wood and the walls are plaster. There is a drop ceiling and florescent lights which were installed in the early 1950s. The northeast stairway leads directly to the backstage area and the only way to enter the main ballroom

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

from that stairway is through the stage. The main ballroom is still painted for the VFW (as it was redone in the early 1950s). On either side of stage are VFW symbols incorporating eagles and the American flag. The main ballroom occupies most of the second floor, but there is a coat room and lounge on the east end. The coat room with has a window facing the ballroom (facing south) and doors on the east and west sides. Above the coat room is a projection room with a projection window directly above the coatroom's window for showing movies. Beyond the coatroom is a large lounge area that sits over the porch. There are two entrances to this room from the main ballroom on either side of the coatroom. This room has three windows on the east side and one window each on the west and east sides. There are drop ceilings and florescent lights in this room as well. All of the florescent lights were added during the renovations of the early 1950s (after the fire). To the west of this room are two bathrooms and the southwest stairwell leading to the first floor and basement.

### **Basement**

The basement has been renovated several times and currently consists of a large open space that served as a bar in the late nineteen-nineties and a kitchen. Drop ceilings are falling down and the linoleum floor is patchy. After a fire in 1951 the basement was converted from a bowling alley to a gym. In 1954 the basement was turned into club rooms and florescent lights were added. In the 48' by 46' front end of the basement a club room and ladies lounge/TV lounge were added. The rest of the basement was converted to two recreation rooms, a room for the VFW quarter master, a cloak room and a ladies "powder room." Both the first and second floors were left intact during these renovations. Robert Barton made minimal changes to the basement to convert it to the Rags to Riches bar, including the addition of the canopy over the basement entrance. He also combined most of the club rooms to make a large bar area. The walls are painted brick with mirrors attached to the lower half of the walls. In the south end of the basement is an industrial kitchen . Three sides of this kitchen are covered with counter space and a stainless steal sink. There is an island in the center of the room and a fume hood occupies the fourth wall the floor is linoleum and the walls are painted brick. The main bar area is largely open and in poor condition with debris and hanging wires scattered throughout.

### **Integrity**

The Centralia Elks Lodge has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. From the outside the building looks very much the same as it did in ca. 1930 when it was built. It is nearly impossible to distinguish modern pictures from the early pictures without careful study. The only changes visible from the exterior are the block glass windows in the basement windows, the door to the east entrance, the absence of the elk head in the roof entablature, and the VFW letters above the center window. The inside contains many of the original elements and fixtures, especially on the first floor which suffered the least amount of damage during the fire of 1951.

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1930

**Significant Dates**

Ca. 1930

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Damon, E. L.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance is ca. 1930, the year the lodge was built.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Centralia Lodge 493 of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, commonly referred to as the Centralia Elks Lodge, was constructed by builder E. L. Damon for the local Elks chapter between 1929 and 1931.<sup>1</sup> The Classical Revival style building is identified by its window treatments, featuring segmental and pediment window hoods with bracketed sills on the primary façade on the second floor and keystone lintels on the second story windows of the secondary façade, stone cornices adorning above the first and second floor, Ionic columns on the entry, and a cartouche adorning the roofline. The Centralia Elks Lodge meets The National Register requirements of Criterion C, for architecture, as a good local example of the style that possesses a high degree of integrity, having undergone minimal changes since it was built. The period of significance is ca. 1930, the year it was completed.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

*History of Centralia*

Centralia takes its name from the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1851 the Illinois Central Railroad began linking Illinois from Cairo to Chicago and in 1853 the Illinois Central laid out the town of Centralia proper. The town grew up around the railroad station, which is located on Broadway. Centralia was a central stop where many lines converged on their way across the country through Chicago, St. Louis, and Cairo. During the Civil War the Illinois Central's regular service stopped, "it was used by the army to move 31% of the troops and 30% of the supplies through Cairo."<sup>2</sup> A quarter of the town's population worked for the railroad by the end of the nineteenth century. Other major employers were the coal and steel industries and some smaller manufacturing companies.<sup>3</sup>

By 1929, the fortunes of Centralia like much of the country had taken a turn for the worse. The railroads began to lose their dominance over the country and Centralia was no exception. The Depression hit Centralia hard. It was around this time that Centralia's mascot became the orphan. There are many local legends about the origin of this name, but most agree that the name dates from the 1930s. Some state that the athletes from Centralia did not have matched uniforms and the other teams compared them to "a bunch of orphans."

After the discovery of oil in 1937, the fortunes of Centralia and the building changed drastically. The discovery of oil saved Centralia's economy from the ravages of the Great Depression. The new jobs created by the oil industry caused Centralia's population to swell. "At its peak, the Salem-Lake Centralia oil field was the largest producer east of the Mississippi."<sup>4</sup> During the oil boom Centralia's population increased from 13,820 to 17,945. The oil industry's presence was felt in every part of Centralia. Men worked in the oil fields and offices.

---

<sup>1</sup> Several reports indicate that the building was completed in 1929, but the November 24, 1929 issue of the *Centralia Sentinel* reported that the building's cornerstone laid the day before. A recent article in the paper (February 29, 1996) by past exalted ruler R.E. Wilson dates the lodge to 1931, but mentions that construction of the building was not started until after February of 1931.

<sup>2</sup> Illinois Central Historical Society, "Significant Milestones in Illinois Central Railroad History," <http://www.icrrhistorical.org/milestones.html> accessed 19 Feb 2008.

<sup>3</sup> "Community Profile," *2011 Annual Budget, City of Centralia, Illinois*, <http://www.city.centralia.il.us/index.pl?iid=4032>, page 29.

<sup>4</sup> Mary Rickard, "Future Shocked: Pummeled by Globalization Centralia Adapts Old Resources to New Technology," Illinois Times Website <http://illinoistimes.comhttp://illinoistimes.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A4859>.

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

Even Centralia's female working population found employment in the oil offices. The oil boom lasted until the 1950s, when manufacturing stepped in to fill the breach.

Centralia may best be known for one of the worst coal mining disasters in the United States. On March 25, 1947, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, "an underburdened shot or blown-out shot ignited coal dust... At the time of the explosion 142 men were in the mine. Of those, 65 were killed by burns and violence and 45 by afterdamp. Eight men were rescued but one died from the effects of afterdamp. Twenty-four escaped unaided." 111 coal miners were killed. Few escaped the disaster without the loss of a loved one.

### *History of the Centralia Elks Lodge*

The Centralia Elks club, which was chartered in 1900, laid the cornerstone for the building that currently stands at 328 S. Broadway on November 23, 1929. The section of Broadway where the lodge is located was mostly residential in the early days of Centralia, but as the town grew, more businesses developed further along down Broadway. As the main business district moved along Broadway, the Elks tore down their residential mansion and built the more commercial looking building that would serve the community in various incarnations throughout the twentieth century. Hard times descended on the Centralia Elks before the building was even completed. A tornado damaged the building raising the cost from the original estimate of \$70,000 to nearly \$100,000.

Shortly after the building was erected the Depression hit Centralia. Between 1938-1939 the Elks decided to sell the property at 328 S. Broadway to "some oil men."<sup>5</sup> The building was sold to Centralia businessmen Ben Ober, D.B. Eberts, and A.V. Kaney who then leased the building to Shell Oil Company and officially renamed it "The Petroleum Building." Many Centralians worked in the building, as well as attending events and/or dancing lessons in the ballroom and frequenting the bowling alley which operated in the basement. One Centralia resident fondly remembers pushing open the elk head door handles on her visits to the "The Petroleum Building." She visited the building frequently to visit her aunt who worked there or to take dance lessons in the big ballroom.

By 1945 the owners of "The Petroleum Building" were leasing offices to local business. The first tenants of the first floor were W.C. McBride Inc., Plumbers and Steamfitters local 653, The Credit Bureau of Centralia, Selective Service, Conrey Drilling Co., and C.G. Hardin, Geologist.

In 1946 the Centralia Veterans of Foreign Wars purchased what was then known as the Petroleum Building. Both the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary were active in the community after the war, hosting many events at the VFW Hall located on 328 S. Broadway. Returning soldiers continued their involvement with the VFW and the VFW Hall was vibrant with activities, including hosting many dances in the second floor ballroom. The first floor offices continued to be rented out for office space and the bowling alley continued to operate in the basement.

On November 9, 1951, the building caught fire with damages estimated at \$20,000. Part of the auditorium was damaged as well as the ladies lounge. The renovations, which occurred over the next five years, repaired damages, but did not make any major changes from the original building. Water and smoke damage on the first floor were repaired as well as damage to the ballroom floor.<sup>6</sup> The bowling alley in the basement was closed after the fire, but the VFW continued to use the basement for youth activities such as boxing. The VFW has since relocated. Currently, the building is vacant.

<sup>5</sup> George Ross, 100 Years of Elkdom in Centralia Illinois, 1899-1999. Centralia, IL: Centralia Elks Lodge Printed by Mitchell Printing, 1999

<sup>6</sup> "\$20,000 Loss on Day before Big Celebration" *Centralia Sentinel*, 9 November 1951.

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

### Architecture

Classical architecture --architecture that is inspired by that of ancient Rome and Greece-- has long been popular in the United States since its inception, with the Federal Style architecture mastered by Benjamin Latrobe, the Early Classical Revival works of Thomas Jefferson, through the Greek Revival of the early to mid 1800s. A revival of the style, referred to as Classical Revival or Neo- Classical, became popular in the United States after the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The fair's Court of Honor, referred to as the White City, showcased classically styled architecture from many prominent architects, including Richard Morris Hunt, Solon Spencer Beman, and Charles McKim. The style, which remained popular through 1940, often used columns of Greek or Roman architecture, pediments, arches and temple fronts, and more permanent materials like stone and brick. Other revival styles of the area that used classical features include Beaux Arts, named after the Ecole des Beaux Arts, with more organic details and elaborate adornments, and Renaissance Revival, which are reminiscent of European architecture of the Renaissance. These buildings were usually massive and the style was popular for more public and commercial properties than residences.<sup>7</sup>

The stone details of the Centralia Elks Lodge --the pediment and segmental arched window hoods, Tuscan columns, keystones, heavy cornices and central cartouche in the center of the front façade—identify the building as Classical Revival. There are several other examples of the style in downtown Centralia. The temple front, as seen on the Carnegie Public Library (1902) and the Old National Bank Building (1926) downtown, have two –story columns. The bank has had two small additions added in the 1950s; the library has two wings, one on either side of the front façade, that are not historic. The storefront of the Merchant's Bank Building (1928), also located downtown, has been completely remodeled, but the upper storefront still retains its classical features, particularly the stone pilasters, that identify its style. The five-story, tripartite City National Bank Building (1920) accentuates the divisions in the wall planes through varying materials and ornament, and features Roman arches, dentils, and scrolled brackets.

The Centralia Elks Lodge compares favorably to these examples. It has the classical ornamentation as the others do, but what sets it apart is its full width, recessed front porch, which is an uncommon variation, since most examples either have porticoes projecting outwards or elaborate door surrounds, emphasizing the front entrance. The building has excellent integrity, with only minor changes to its interior and exterior since its construction, and merits listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

---

#### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

N/A

---

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“\$20,000 Loss on Day Before Big Celebration,” *Centralia Sentinel*, 9 November 1951.

---

<sup>7</sup> Indiana Department of Natural Resources, “Neo-Classical Revival Style.” <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/4262.htm>

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

“Centralia Elks Lodge has flourished here since 1899.” *Centralia Sentinel*, February 29, 1996.

“Community Profile,” *2011 Annual Budget, City of Centralia, Illinois*,  
<http://www.city.centralia.il.us/index.pl?iid=4032>.

“Cornerstone of Elks’ Home Here Laid Yesterday.” *Centralia Sentinel*, November 24, 1929.

Illinois Petroleum Resources Board. “The Search for Illinois Oil and Gas.” Available from:  
<http://iprb.org/history.htm>. Internet; accessed 5 September 2006.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, “Neo-Classical Revival Style.”  
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/4262.htm>

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Rickard, Mary. “Future Shocked: Pummeled by Globalization Centralia Adapts Old Resources for New Technology,” *Illinois Times Website*.

<http://illinoistimes.com><http://illinoistimes.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A4859>. Accessed on 3 June 2008.

Ross, George. *100 Years of Elkdom in Centralia Illinois, 1899-1999*. Centralia, IL: Centralia Elks Lodge Printed by Mitchell Printing, 1999.

Ross, George. *Centralia: A Pictorial History*. St. Louis, MO: G. Bradley Publishing Inc, 2001.

Sandborn Fire Insurance Maps. Centralia, Illinois, 1938.

“VFW Completes Remodeling of Building Here,” *Centralia Sentinel*, 10 March 1954.

“VFW Post Licks Depression, Now Boast 700 Membership,” *Centralia Sentinel*, 24 August 1954.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles: Revised Edition*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1992.

Williams, Leigh Ann. “Area Buildings recognized for Their Designs and Details Former Community Center, Salem Theater Among Those Featured in Magazine,” *Centralia Sentinel*, 10 July 2007.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: Centralia Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_



Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

---

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.

City or Vicinity: Centralia

County: Marion State: IL

Photographer: Jessica O'Brien

Date Photographed: June 2007

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 10

Exterior Photos

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH01 – Looking northeast; south façade, main entrance and porch, the tower is not part of the building

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH02 – Looking north; south façade, second story windows

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH03 – Looking north; south façade, close-up of the cornerstone

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH04 – Looking west; east façade, close up of second story details and windows above the east entrance

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH05 – Looking west; east façade, close up of second story window

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH06 – Looking southeast; east façade and neighboring building

Interior Photos

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH07 – Looking south; main doors original fixtures

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH08 – Looking west; first floor lounge fireplace detail

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH09 – Looking north; second floor ballroom and stage

IL\_MarionCounty\_EVFWH10 – Looking north; picture of Elks meeting from 1933, porch columns and rails can be seen in the background

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.  
Name of Property

Marion County, Illinois  
County and State

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Southern Illinois Properties  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone 618-937-4300  
city or town West Frankfort state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.

Name of Property

Marion, IL

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

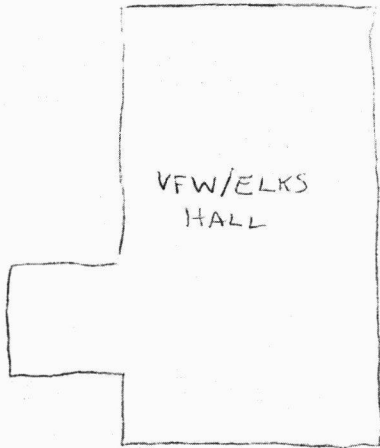
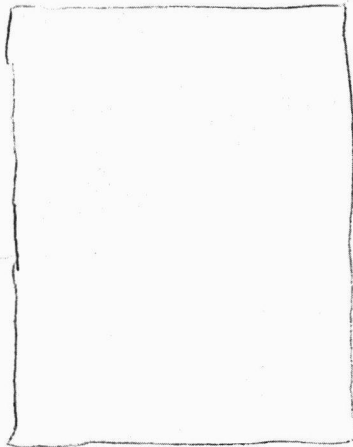
Section number Floor plans Page 15

CENTRALIA  
ELKS/VFW  
HALL

BELL  
TOWER

PARK

ALLEY



ELM  
STREET

EAST BROADWAY

SITE PLAN  
J O'BRIEN  
NOT TO SCALE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.

Name of Property

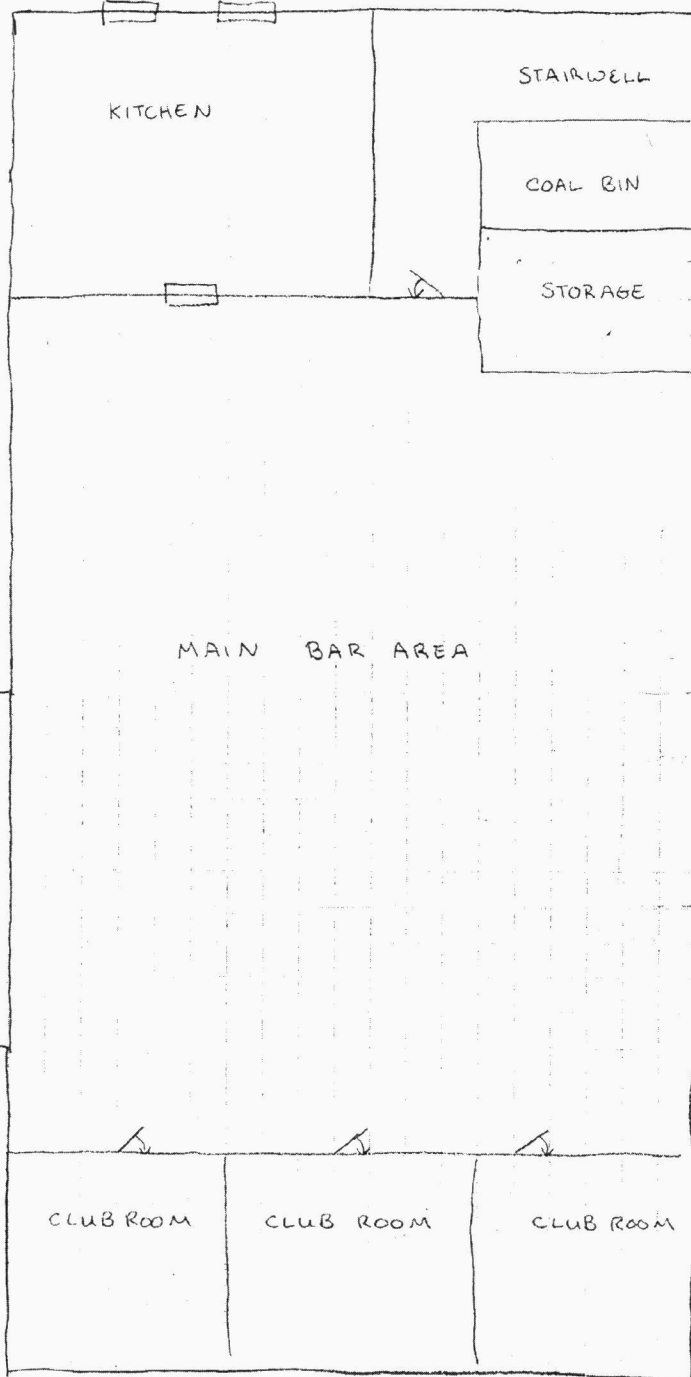
Marion, IL

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Floor plans Page 16

Centralia  
Eks VFW  
Hall



BASEMENT  
J. O'BRIEN  
NOT TO SCALE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.

Name of Property

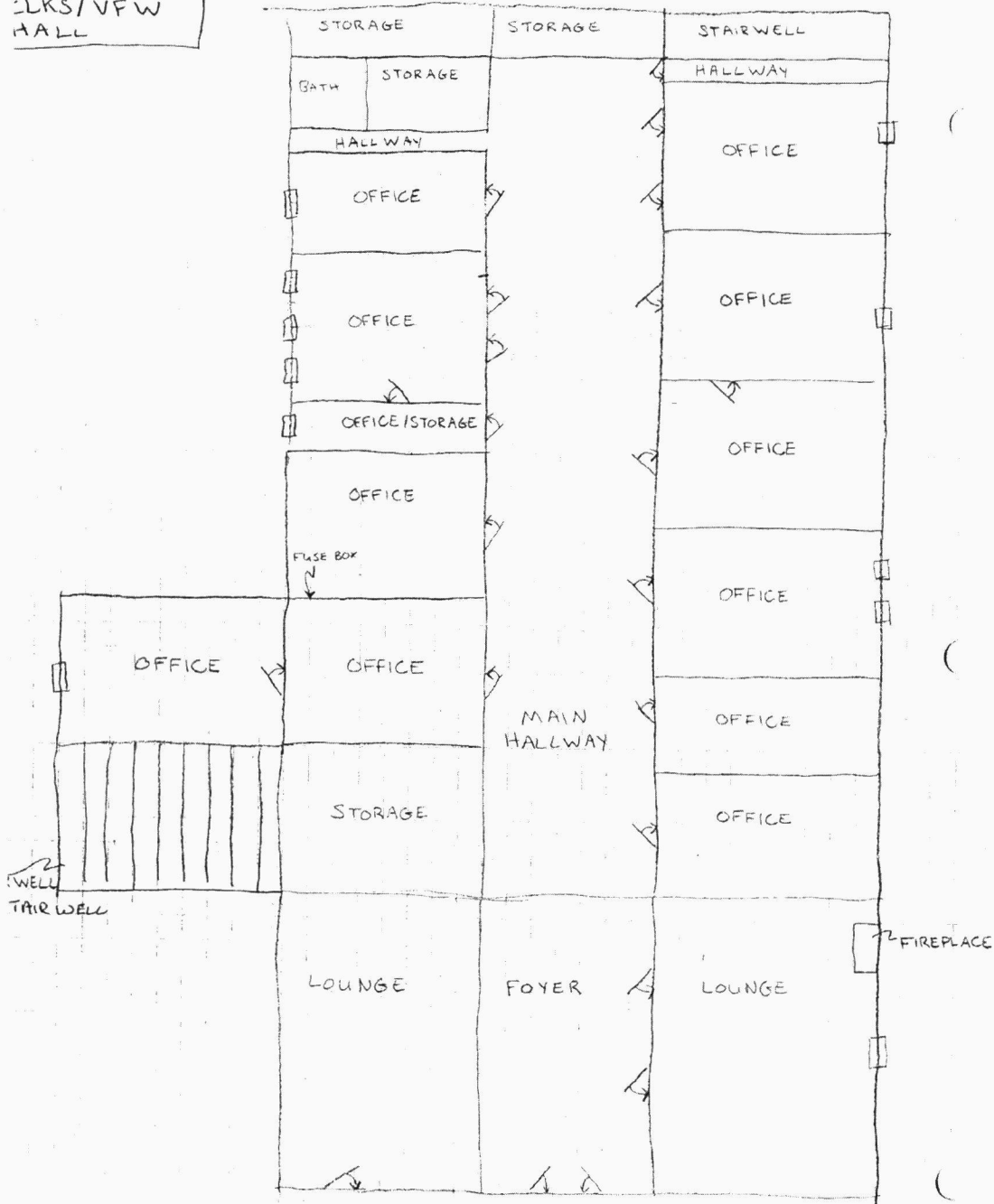
Marion, IL

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Floor plans Page 17

UNFINISHED  
CLKS/VFW  
HALL



1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR  
J. O'BRIEN  
NOT TO SCALE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Centralia Lodge 493 of the B. P. O. E.

Name of Property

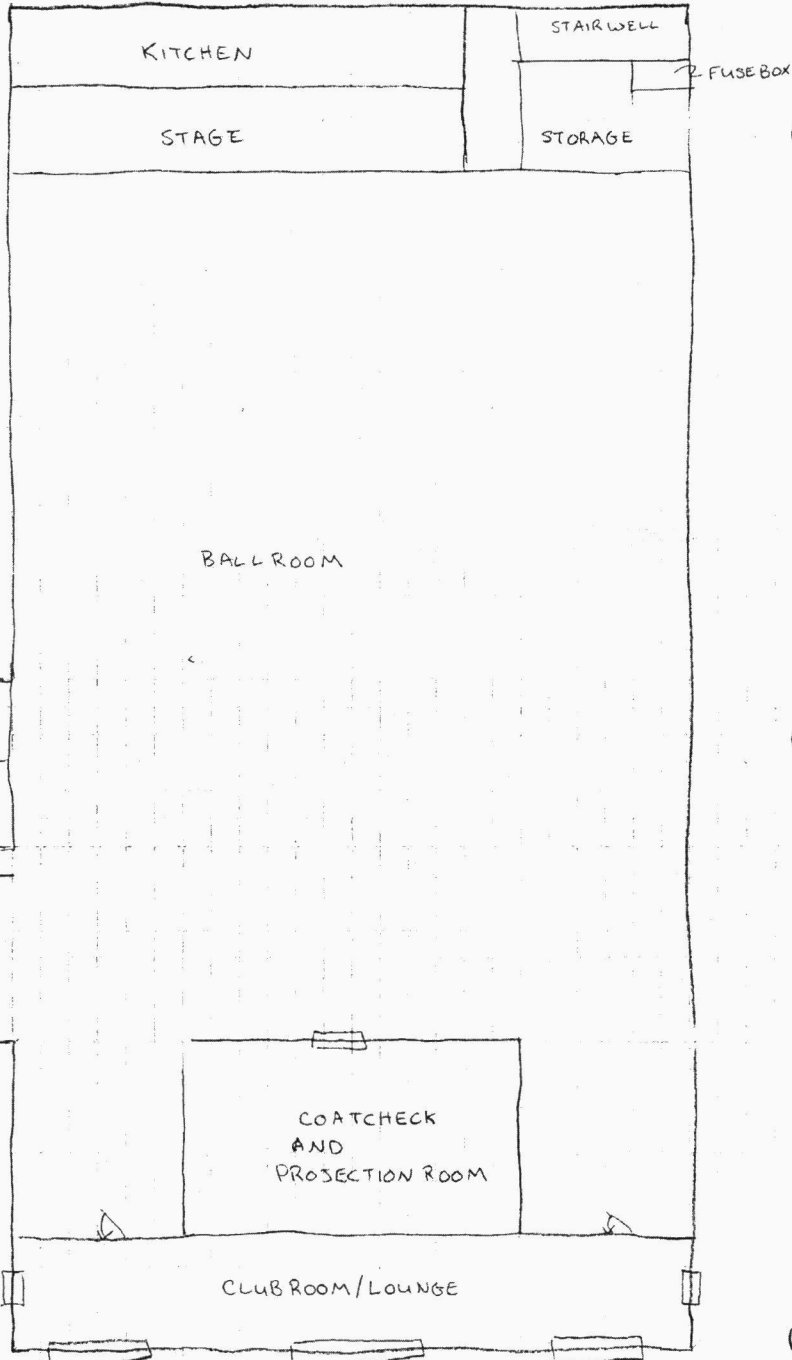
Marion, IL

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Floor plans Page 18

CENTRALIA  
ELKS/VFW  
HALL



2nd FLOOR  
J. O'BRIEN  
NOT TO SCALE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Centralia Elk's Lodge, The  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Marion

DATE RECEIVED: 10/31/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/19/08  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/04/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/14/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001171

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 12-12-08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Return:**  
**Please see the attached**  
**National Register Evaluation/Return sheet**  
**for detailed comments.**

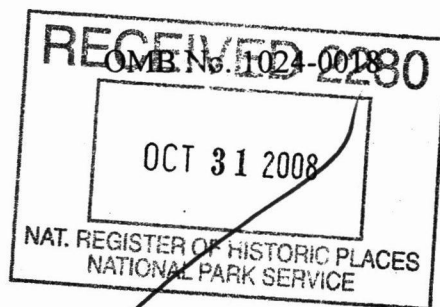
RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER Barbara Dwyer DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE 202-354-2252 DATE 12-12-08

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name **The Centralia Elk's Lodge**

other names/site number **The Petroleum Building, Centralia VFW Hall**

#### 2. Location

street & number **328 East Broadway** \_\_\_\_\_ Not for publication

city or town **Centralia** \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Marion** code **121** zip code **62801**

#### 3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide  locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*William L. Hahn SHPO*  
Signature of certifying official

*10-28-08*  
Date

#### 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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
American Indian Tribe



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

### Comments Evaluation/Return Sheet

**Property Name:** Centralia Elk's Lodge  
**Property Location:** Centralia, IL  
**Reference Number:** 08001171  
**Date of Return:** 12-12-08

#### Reason for Return

The nomination for the Centralia Elk's Lodge is being returned because of the problems listed below.

1. On page 3, Architecture is identified as an Area of Significance, but only Criterion A is checked as applicable. The building appears to be potentially eligible under Criterion C, but this Area of Significance is not justified in Section 8.
2. On page 8-13, the role of the former Elks Lodge during the war years is described, implying that because the building was owned by the VFW it served as a rallying point for departing soldiers (first full paragraph). However, during the war years the building was known as the "Petroleum Building," and the VFW did not purchase the building until after the war, as noted at the top of the same page. The paragraph that begins with "In the 1940s . . ." needs to be corrected.

The same confusion is evident on page 8-14. In the second paragraph it is stated, "Soon after the United States entered the Second World War, this building was again re-named. When the VFW bought the building, it again became a center of the community's identity. Farewell dances and dinners were held for the soldiers and many veterans and other members of the community supported the war effort at the VFW Hall." Elsewhere in the nomination it is said that the building was known as the "Professional Building" during the war years and the VFW acquired it after the war. Please make corrections necessary to eliminate these discrepancies.

3. The Elks Club/VFW Hall is considered significant in the history of Centralia's social history; however, a context for this significance is not given. What other fraternal

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Comments**

2

**Property Name:** Centralia Elks Lodge  
**Property Location:** Centralia, IL  
**Reference Number:** 08001171  
**Date of Return:** 12-12-08

---

organizations and social opportunities were available? What else remains that reflects Centralia's social history, particularly during the years of significance? Did the Elks remain active after selling the building and, if so, is its later building significant? Please provide a context for social history and identify any buildings that are associated with it, particularly during the Period of Significance.

4. The Period of Significance ends in 1958 "the fifty-year cut-off date for the National Register" (page 8-9). However, some critical information has not been provided. How long did the VFW remain in the building? The organization does not seem to own the building any more and, if so, their departure date would terminate the Period of Significance. If the Period of Significance extends well beyond the 50-year mark, exceptional significance needs to be justified under Criteria Consideration G.
5. The Verbal Boundary Description is not clear. Please see pages 55 and 58 of the NR Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. Generally, in an urban setting the legal description is adequate (lot and block). If this is not provided, a map with dimensions can be used. Dimensions should be given for lot lines (not the distance to adjacent buildings, as in the nomination). The Verbal Boundary Description references "South Broadway," although the map seems to indicate that "East Broadway" is correct.

Please call me at 202-354-2252 if you have any questions.

Barbara Wyatt, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places  
12-12-08

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Centralia Elk's Lodge, The

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Marion

DATE RECEIVED: 9/23/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/08/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001171

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 11-7-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Centralia Elks Lodge is listed in the National Register for its architectural significance under Criterion C. Built in about 1930, the Classical Revival building is a good local example the style, with very good integrity.

RECOM./CRITERIA C  
REVIEWER Barbara Depitt DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE 202-354-2252 DATE 11-7-11

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



14 Marion County Elks/VFW Hall 01



12 Marion County Elks/VFW Hall 02

B. P. O. E.

No. 493

1900-1929

1L Marion County Elks/VFW Hall 03



12 Marion County Elks/VFW Hall 04



12 Marion County Elks/VFW Hall 05



14 Marion County Elks/VFW Hall 0366



IL Marion County Elks/VFW Hall 07



IL Marion County Elks/VFW Hall 08



12 Marion County Elks/VFW Hall 09

...wing away...  
Christmas, the Salvation Army held a dinner for 200 who were less fortunate. The Elks, telephone employees, and P.T.A.'s sent out baskets.

...resident's Birthday  
...ll. (F.D.R.) was  
...ld at the Elks.

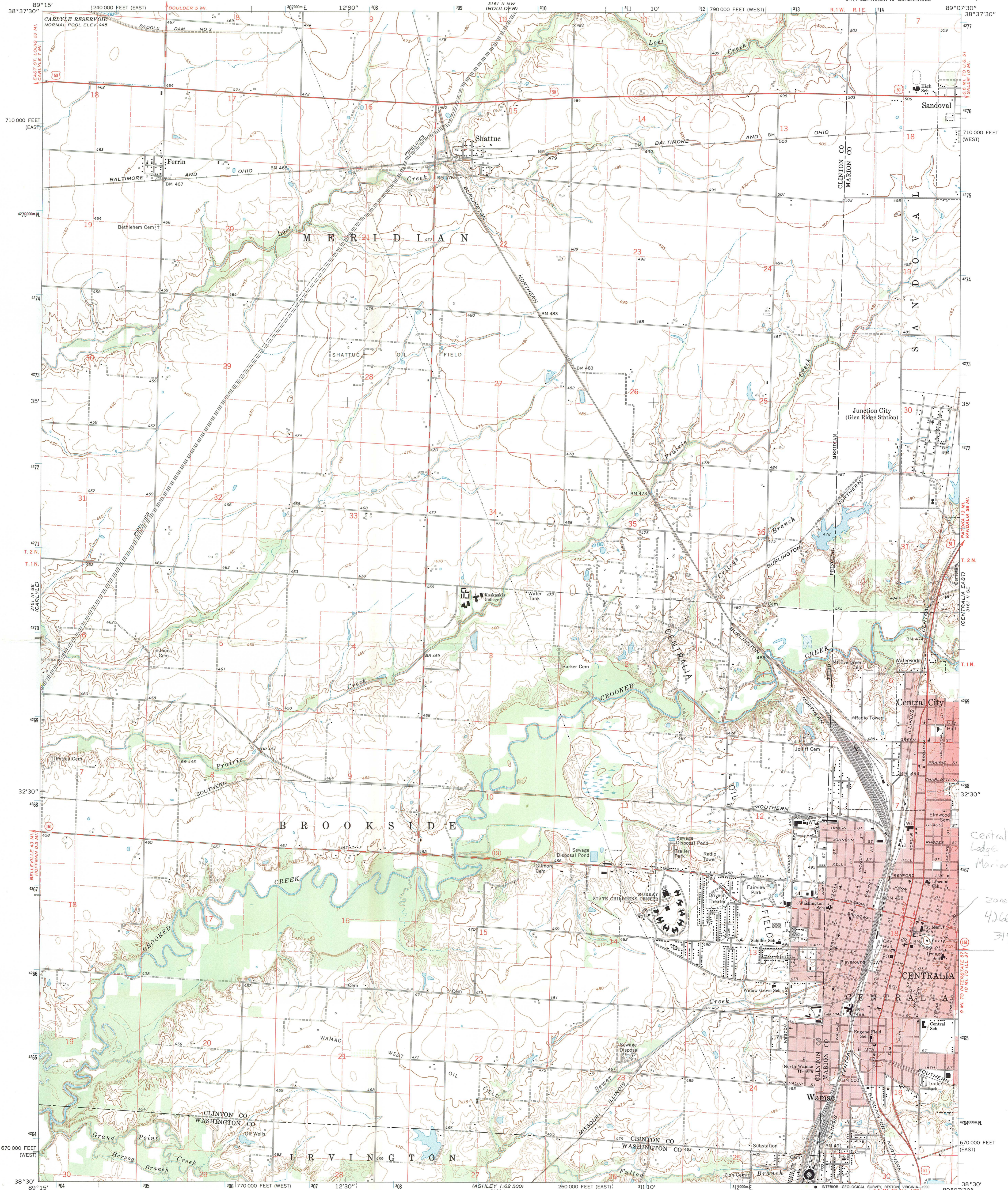
J. Sandifer, local  
...ther, was accepted  
...residence at the  
...e's National Home  
Bedford, Virginia.



■ On April 16, 1933, a district meeting was held at the Elks home at which Grand Exalted Ruler Floyd E. Thompson and Grand Secretary J. Edgar Masters were in attendance. Grand Exalted Ruler Floyd E. Thompson stands on first step.

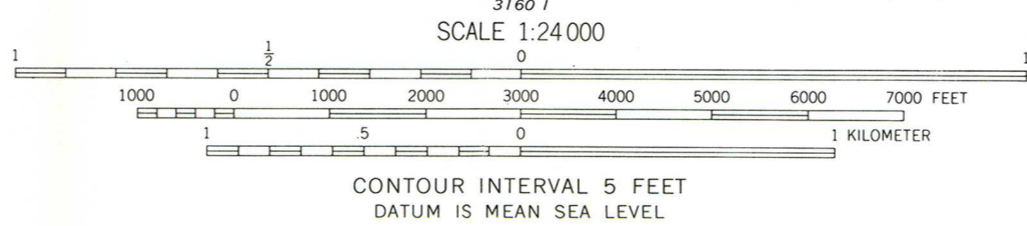
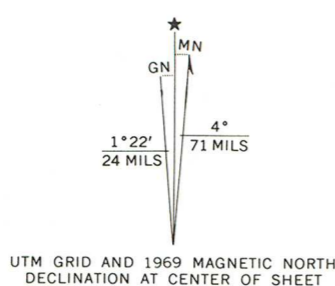
IL Marion County Elks/ VFW Hall

10



Centralia Elk's Lodge  
Marion Co., IL  
zone 16  
4266 500 E  
314 220 N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1969  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, west and east zones  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject to controlled inundation  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Map photospected 1981  
No major culture or drainage changes observed



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface  
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather  
U.S. Route  
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61820  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CENTRALIA WEST, ILL.  
SW/4 CENTRALIA 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3830-W8907.5/7.5  
1969  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1981  
AMS 5161 II SW-SERIES 9863