

APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS A LANDMARK

(Please print)

I. Applicant

A. Applicant's Name Enterprise Grange

B. Mailing Address 209 E 5th St, O'Fallon, IL 62269

C. Telephone Number 632-4491

D. Please check (✓) under which capacity you are filing:

1. The recorded owner of the property, as of _____ (date)

2. Other. (Explain fully) Lessee and maintainer of building

Signature _____ Date _____

II. Property Information

A. Street address of property being considered: 209 E 5th St

B. Legal description of property. Applicant to provide deed to property. (attach supplementary sheet if necessary.) _____

Situated in north part of parcel 04-29-328-001 in W1/2 SW1/4 Sec 29 T2N R7W, City of O'Fallon, also known as O'Fallon Community Park. Map attached.

C. Present Use. Meeting place of Enterprise Grange and hall for community use.

III. Applicable Landmark Criteria.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.

The following criteria as set forth in Section 151.31 of ORDINANCE 3043 of the City of O'Fallon will be considered in designating an area, place, building, structure or other object as an O'Fallon Landmark:

1. Its significant value as part of the historical, cultural, artistic, social, ethnic, political, or other heritage of the community, state or nation;
2. Its location as a site of a significant local, county, state or national event;
3. Its identification with a person who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state or nation;
4. Its identification as the work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual work has influenced the development of the community;
5. Its embodiment of elements of design, detailing, materials or craftsmanship that renders it architecturally significant or innovative;
6. Its archaeological significance to the community, county, state or nation for information has yielded or is likely to yield important to history or prehistory;
7. Its character as a particularly fine or unique example of utilitarian structure including, but not limited to, farmhouses, buildings or other commercial structures with a high level of integrity or architectural significance;
8. Its establishment of a sense of time and place unique to the City.

IV. Landmark Request

- A. Describe present and historic physical appearance. (Attach supplementary sheet.)
- B. State significance of property and justify criteria selection. (Attach supplementary sheet.)
- C. Plat. Two copies of a plat of the lot or area shall be filed with the application.
- D. Names of neighboring property owners: (For district nominations only.) If the application is for a landmark district, the application must be accompanied by a list of the names and addresses of the owners of record lying within the district.
- E. Photo. Include a photo of the proposed landmark.
- F. Note: The O'Fallon Historic Preservation Commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Applications for designation must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days prior to the date of said meeting.

American Legion – Grange Hut 209 E Fifth Street, O’Fallon, Illinois

Description, History and Significance

The American Legion – Grange Hut, as it is popularly known, is located in Community Park on 5th street facing the south terminus of Apple street. It is a 28 by 28 foot cabin of exposed log and mortar construction with pitched shingled roof, frame windows and rustic-style wooden doors on the north and west sides. The interior complements the exterior rustic theme by featuring walls of exposed logs and a wagon-wheel chandelier. The logs used in the cabin’s construction were electric poles from the electric railway (trolley) which ran through O’Fallon from 1903 until its dismantling began in 1928.

The hut was built in the fall of 1934 by H. Edward Fischer Post 137, American Legion as a place for post meetings and activities. Originally called the American Legion Memorial Home, it was “dedicated to the memory of the O’Fallon township boys who made the supreme sacrifice on the battlefield in the World War.” It was originally located at the northeast corner of Washington and Vine which was the southeast corner of the old City Park. The general contractor was E.A. Bohnenstiehl. The materials cost was \$1,800 with labor being donated by post members and others. At its original location, the hut featured a 7 foot high basement with a log ceiling, contained furnace room, dining hall, kitchen and restrooms. The original gutters and downspouts were of wood. The hut was opened for use in December 1934. From 1935 to 1942, a distinctive feature next to the hut was a 7,420 lbs long-distance French cannon obtained from the Rock Island Arsenal. It was sold for scrap to support the war effort during World War II.

Having built a new facility at 109 N. Penn, the American Legion began leasing the hut to the Jaycees in 1960. In 1968, the Jaycees turned over the lease, now administered by the City of O’Fallon, to the Enterprise Grange which had been meeting in the hut since 1958. In 1976, to make way for a new police station, the hut was moved by Cruikshank House Moving of East St. Louis to its present location in Community Park. A new basement and foundation was constructed at the park prior to the move. The Grange started meeting again in the relocated hut in 1978. Since 1968, the hut has been nicely maintained by the Grange which continues to use it as its meeting place. It is also available for public use. Over the years, it has been the popular site of countless meetings, celebrations, displays, parties, reunions, etc. It was even a polling place at one time. It is a distinctive feature of Community Park and has long been cherished as an important landmark in O’Fallon.

Brief History of Enterprise Grange

Enterprise Grange was officially organized on March 10, 1956 as a local unit (Subordinate Grange) of the National Grange of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry. The Grange is a fraternal organization founded in 1867 with original purpose of unifying private citizens to improve the economic and social position of rural America. The Grange played an important role in breaking up railroad monopolies and was instrumental in starting rural mail service. They also allowed women to vote in all Grange meetings since the Grange’s founding. Over

the years, the Grange has evolved into including non-rural families and communities. It has the reputation of being a family friendly organization open to all ages working for the benefit of the community in which it is located. Enterprise Grange was so named because it originally met in the old Enterprise School house on Scott-Troy Road northeast of O'Fallon with the intent of making that their permanent meeting place. That idea, however, was abandoned. In June 1957, they began meeting at old City Hall and then at the American Legion hut on November 15, 1958. With the exception of two years at the time the hut was being relocated to Community Park, the Grange has met there ever since. Community service projects the Enterprise Grange has been involved in over the years include making cancer bandages, sponsoring 4-H Clubs and Scouts, cleaning cemeteries, Red Cross and Heart Fund Drives, making floats and serving hamburgers for the O'Fallon Homecoming for over 45 years, furnishing a room and contributing to bake sales for the Grange Nursing Home, heading the O'Fallon Township Bloodmobile Drive for many years, sponsoring First Aid and CPR classes, donating NIE subscriptions for various schools and heading a dinner/dance evening for a leukemia patient. Currently, they sponsor the distribution of dictionaries to every Third Grade student in O'Fallon Community Consolidated District 90, St. Clair Catholic School, Central School and Shiloh Grade School. They may be best known, however, for their signature fundraiser – the annual making and selling of apple butter. Enterprise Grange meets the first Saturday and third Friday of each month at the American Legion – Grange Hut, often featuring programs of interest to and open to the public. The current Master or President is Kenneth A. Joseph.