

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall

other names/site number Austin Community Hall

2. Location

street & number Missouri Highway T [n/a] not for publication

city or town Austin [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cass code 037 zip code 64725

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered
significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

Date 17 April 2000

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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 certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

Social/meeting hall

Current Functions

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

no style

Materials

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

☒ **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

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Social History

Periods of Significance

1892-1911

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person(s)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	386675	4262260			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title see continuation sheet

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Austin Baptist Church

street & number Highway T telephone _____

city or town Austin state MO zip code 64725

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

Summary: The Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall, is located on Missouri Highway T in Austin, Cass County, Missouri, in the heart of western Missouri's Osage Plains. The one-story, T-shaped frame building measures approximately 50' x 20', with the "T" measuring 10' x 15'. The building sits on an east-west axis, with the T protruding from the center of the south wall. Built in 1892, the building sports a gable roof and displays little ornamentation, typical of rural vernacular buildings. The foundation is constructed of native limestone. Weatherboards cover the white frame building. The fenestration is typical four over four double-hung sash, and all of the windows appear to be original to construction. There are three doors; one on the T facing south, one on the east end, and one on the west end, and all are typical panel doors. The interior retains most of its original features, including exposed oak flooring, but the plaster walls and ceiling have been covered with paneling and ceiling tiles, respectively. There are five elements on the property which are not counted: a teeter-totter, a merry-go-round, swing set, concrete well cap with a cast iron pump, and a propane tank. These elements were placed on the property after the period of significance. Their scale and size does not impact upon the visual integrity of the property and they are therefore not counted among the resources. Post 180 sits in the spot of its original construction at the center of the small farming hamlet, and the exterior retains more than sufficient integrity to convey its role as a meeting hall of the Grand Army of the Republic lodge.

Narrative: The Stumbaugh Post was designed in simple restrained style of the late nineteenth century for utilitarian use as a meeting hall. The main entrance is located on the T-wing that faces south onto Sugar Creek Street. The façade of the T, which measures 15' across is dominated by a simple four panel door on the right half of the façade and 4 over 4 double hung sash window measuring 2 ½' x 6' feet on the left half. The west wall of the T, and the south wall that runs west of the T have no elaboration what so ever. The west elevation of the building, while being taller than the south, mirrors the design of the south facade in that a doorway is placed on the right side of the wall and a window on the left. The doors differ in that the west door is a five cross-panel door. The north wall is the longest continual span on the exterior of the building, and three windows of previously mentioned description are equally spread over the wall. The east elevation has only a 5-cross panel door that sits on the left half of the wall. The south wall to the east of the T and the east wall of the T both have windows of the same design as the rest of the building.

Asphalt shingles replaced the original roof some years past; it is uncertain what material originally covered the roof, although it has been speculated that it may have been metal. There are two brick chimneys, one at each end of the east - west axis. The eaves of the gable roof extend about 12" out from the wall surface, and the fascia boards are of small stock (1"x4"). The clapboards are simple 6" stock running horizontally, and each corner is covered with a simple vertical corner cap. In front of each door is a limestone step. Awnings once hung above the south and west doors, and while the south awning remains on the ground next to the door, both were removed from the wall some years past. The white exterior paint is severely peeled, flaked, and blistered, and the lower clapboards are showing signs of deterioration.

The interior retains its original 6" oak plank flooring, but the plaster walls and ceiling have been covered; the walls with sheet paneling and the ceiling with 12" acoustic tiles. In the 1950's a modern kitchen was installed in the T-wing. Despite these minor changes and the deteriorated state of the building, the Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. hall retains more than sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

Summary: Stumbaugh¹ Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall, Austin, Cass County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of social history. From 1892 to 1911 the building served the local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) as the veterans meeting hall. The G.A.R. chapter served Austin and the surrounding countryside, advocating for relief of disabled and indigent veterans, promoting a positive portrayal of the war in popular culture, and always espousing patriotism. The local G.A.R. Encampment, or "Bean Eatin'" as it was popularly known, was held each summer during the last decade of the nineteenth century and first decade of the twentieth century, and the event reportedly attracted thousands of citizens from surrounding region to celebrate the sacrifice and patriotism of the Union Army's veterans. In 1911 the G.A.R. donated the building to the community, leaving it in the care of the two local churches. The hamlet of Austin used the building as a voting precinct as well as a community center until 1996, when the owner, the Austin Baptist Church, closed the building for public use. Presently the building sits vacant. Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall is the only surviving G.A.R. hall identified in the state of Missouri. The period of significance dates from construction until the G.A.R. donated the building to the community.

Narrative: Cass County was created as Van Buren County, in honor of President Martin Van Buren, on September 14, 1835 from part of Jackson County. However, in 1848, Van Buren was nominated as the presidential candidate of the Barnburner faction of the Democratic Party, which supported the Wilmot Proviso which would have limited the extension of slavery in the territory acquired from Mexico; in addition, Van Buren was the nominee of the Free Soil party. Missouri was a slave state and, although slave owners were a minority of the state's population,² they wielded political power out of proportion to their numbers. In response to Van Buren's perceived defection to the antislavery forces, therefore, the Missouri General Assembly the following year changed Van Buren County to Cass County, in honor of Michigan Senator, Democratic presidential candidate, and popular sovereignty advocate Lewis Cass.

The earliest settlement in what would be Austin township was before 1839, when Major John M. Clark located about three miles east of the present town of Austin on Sugar Creek. The earliest settlers were often from southern or border states, such as Christopher Clark from Kentucky and Alexander Barnard and his father from Tennessee. In 1854, John T. Phillips built the first building in what became Austin for Harrisonville merchant Charles Keller, who established a general store. Following the establishment of the store, Phillips laid out the town in the fall of 1855. Keller employed two clerks, William Austin and Aaron Patton. Austin was apparently instrumental in laying out the town plat, and the town was subsequently named for him.

¹Spellings for Stumbaugh are numerous. The most common variant spelling is Stambaugh.

²In 1860 in Missouri, the average number of slaves per slaveholder was only 4.66. Only one family in eight owned slaves, as compared to one in two in the lower South. Nearly three-fourths of slaveowners in the state owned fewer than five slaves, while only 540 owned more than twenty and thirty-eight owned more than fifty. From 1830 to 1860, the percentage of slaves and freemen declined from 17.8 percent of the total population to 9.8 percent. Michael Fellman, *Inside War: The Guerrilla Conflict in Missouri during the American Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), p. 7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

With the platting of the town, other merchants and entrepreneurs followed. A blacksmith shop was erected in the fall of 1855 by Esquire Jackson, and A.H. Deane and T.A. Manning established a plow factory the following year. The first school was conducted by Dr. Phillip Slaughter beginning in 1856. In 1857, the second business house in Austin was established by Lewis Berdine Huff. Huff, who was born in 1814 or 1815 in New York, was a successful businessman and contractor in his home state. He reportedly constructed a plank road from Philadelphia from New York. Between 1852 and 1855, he came to Cass County. The community also included a saloon, with John Whalen as proprietor, and Dr. Talliferro as physician. By the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 the hamlet had established itself as the commercial center for the surrounding agricultural community. Businesses and craftsmen included: a blacksmith, a plow factory, a saloon, a hotel, a livery stable, post office, four carpenters, three doctors, two wagonwrights, three cabinetmakers, and three stonemasons.

Cass County had already been the focus of sentiment against the antislavery movement, based on the earlier controversy over the county name. During the prolonged conflict over the organization of Kansas as a territory, Missouri Militia Adjutant General G.A. Parsons and Colonel A.G. Blakey, Division Inspector for the Fifth Military District, Missouri Militia, toured the border counties of Missouri and found conditions "deplorable indeed . . . a large strip of country within our state is almost entirely depopulated, our citizens driven from their homes and in many instances property taken, and they are threatened with death should they return." Parsons and Blakey organized or assisted in the organization of a number of militia companies in Bates, Cass, and Vernon counties. In Austin, Blakely organized a company of volunteer militia, which was christened the "Austin Blews."³ With the outbreak of war, citizens of Cass and surrounding counties found themselves in the midst of a devastating partisan conflict, and the small community of Austin was not spared from the conflict. On December 31, 1861, two companies of irregular Union troops under the command of Colonel Andrew G. Newgent⁴ camped at Austin.

In 1861, Albert Castel estimated that from one-third to over one-half of the people who resided in western Missouri were either loyal to the Union or neutral in their sentiments. However, before the end of the year,

³G.A. Parsons and A.G. Blakey to R.M. Stewart, Commander in Chief of the Missouri Militia, June 16, 1858, copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO.

⁴The marriage of George Stumbaugh and Jane Huff was performed by Jane's uncle, the Reverend Andrew G. Newgent or Nugent. See below. Although Newgent's command was ostensibly Union, it was not welcome by the regular Union command. On February 2, 1862, Major General Henry W. Halleck wrote to Major General David Hunter, commander of the Department of Kansas, "If Colonel Newgent's command is in your department please muster them out. If I can find them in my department I will do the same. I wish to get rid of all these irregular, illegal, and fragmentary organizations as soon as possible. They are of great expense and of very little use. . . . Keep the Kansas troops out of Missouri and I will keep the Missourians out of Kansas. They can't agree, and make infinite trouble. The only way is to keep them apart." Official Records, series 1, volume 8, p. 829. Carolyn M. Bartels, The Civil War in Missouri Day by Day, 1861-1865 (Independence, MO: Two Trails Publishing, 1992), p. 40, mistakenly identifies Newgent's troops as Confederate.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

the raids of such radicals as Senator Jim Lane and Charles R. Jennison had converted many former Unionists to Confederates.⁵

George Washington Stumbaugh

Sometime between 1837 and 1840, Lawrence Stumbaugh moved to Van Buren (Cass) County with his wife and children, who may have numbered at many as eight⁶. Stumbaugh may have originally been from Virginia, but also resided for a time in Kentucky. He died in 1849 (the same year the county name was changed to Cass). George Washington Stumbaugh was born September 18, 1836, in Kentucky, and was Lawrence's second son.⁷ On October 24, 1857, George married Jane Huff, the daughter of Lewis Berdine Huff, who established the second business house in Austin in that year and was reportedly the wealthiest man in Cass County.⁸ Jane, one of nine children, was born on January 29, 1839, near Terra Haute, Indiana. After George and Jane married, George bought a town lot in Austin and built a house and store; he was a carpenter by trade. George and Jane had three children: Catherine (Kate), born July 28, 1858; a son, Lud, born about March 1860; and a daughter, Tessie. Lud and Tessie both died in infancy.

On February 1, 1862, George volunteered for duty in Harrisonville, enlisting as a private in Company F (commanded by Captain Franklin Mix), 2d Battalion, Cavalry, Missouri State Militia.⁹ The 2d Battalion was

⁵Albert Castel, *A Frontier State at War: Kansas, 1861-1865* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1958; reprint ed., Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1979), p. 61.

⁶Stumbaugh is listed in the 1840 census as Laurence Stumbo, and his household included eight persons under twenty years old. Only five children's names are known:

Artesmia (Arty), who married J.M. Harrison on November 15, 1859, in Cass County

Andrew Jackson, born about 1831 in Virginia

George Washington, born September 18, 1836, in Kentucky

married Jane (Jennie) Huff on October 24, 1857, in Cass County

Martha Jane, born about 1837 in Virginia

Mary (May), born about 1827 in Virginia

married Sanford J. Morris on September 7, 1848, in Cass County.

According to the 1850 census, after Lawrence Stumbaugh's death, Martha and Andrew Jackson Stumbaugh lived with Mary and her husband, Sandford Morris. The household also included Sandford's three brothers and one sister, as well as Lucinda Jackson, a thirteen year old girl born in Indiana.

⁷There is no entry for George Stumbaugh in Cass County in the 1850 census.

⁸At least a portion of Cass's wealth could be measured in land. In 1857, he entered patents for federal land at the land office at Warsaw for 517.68 acres. Land Patent Report, Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States, General Land Office, http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/asp/patinfo.asp?AccessionNumber=MO1850_174-176 and 256. Accessed October 20, 1999.

⁹The 2d Battalion was organized from March 17 to May 5, 1862. Stumbaugh may have enlisted on February 1, but only been attached to the battalion later, or his enlistment date may not be accurate. "Missouri Volunteer Forces in the Civil War with Federal Service (Union): 2nd Battalion MO State Militia Cavalry (MSM)," Missouri Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the US, <http://www.usmo.com/~momollus/>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

organized at Harrisonville and Kansas City and attached to the District of Central Missouri, Department of Missouri. It participated in several scouts and actions in west and southwest Missouri, and a detachment of the battalion was present at the First Battle of Independence on August 11, 1862.¹⁰ However, George Stumbaugh was not present at Independence. On the same day as the battle, he was on scout in his home community of Austin. While there, he was shot, apparently by Confederate guerrillas, and died within two hours of his wounds.

On George's death, Jane went to live with her parents in Kansas City. Lewis Huff also owned property in Kansas City, where he had already moved and remained for the duration of the war. During the war, he operated the Farmers Hotel. Three of Huff's daughters--Jane, Rebecca, and Sarah--were widowed by the war. By the spring of 1865, Jane was teaching school in Kansas City.¹¹

Guerrilla warfare in western Missouri intensified following the death of George Stumbaugh. On August 25, 1863, General Thomas Ewing Jr., Union commander of the military district which included Cass County, issued General Orders, No. 11. The order mandated the evacuation of all persons living in Cass, Jackson, and Bates counties, and part of Vernon County, except those residing within one mile of Union-held towns. In addition, all grain and hay in the area affected was to be moved to military stations or, if not relocated, destroyed. Many dwellings and other buildings were also destroyed. Although the order was rescinded later in the year, its damage had largely been done, creating a "Burnt District" in the western counties of the state and solidifying already hardened sympathies on both sides of the conflict.

After the war was over Austin experienced a period of rapid growth as veterans from both sides returned to their homes and began to concentrate on farming. The First Baptist Church, which had been organized in 1855 one-half mile southwest of Austin, was disrupted by the war and its congregation scattered. After the war, Lewis Huff returned to Austin and was one of the charter members of the reorganized church, which relocated in Austin. In 1884 a local chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic was established in Austin and named in honor of George Washington Stumbaugh.

The Grand Army of the Republic

MOREG/C008.html. Accessed April 13, 2000.

¹⁰At the First Battle of Independence, following an attack by Confederate forces under Col. J. T. Hughes, the surviving Union forces under Lt. Col. James T. Buel surrendered and were paroled. From November 8 to 13, 1862, the 2d Battalion participated in an expedition into southeast Missouri and north Arkansas. It was mustered out of service on March 31, 1863. The battalion lost a total of three officers and forty-eight enlisted men in action, and an additional officer and 109 enlisted men from disease, for a total of 161 men.

¹¹On July 6, 1865, Jane married John E. Sawyer. Sawyer, born in 1833, in Calais, Maine, was a gold miner at the outbreak of the war and he enlisted in Parkville, Colorado Territory. Jane and John Sawyer had three children. Sawyer died June 28, 1877. Jane then married William Harris on March 13, 1881, who she divorced on November 23, 1901. She died July 7, 1927, in Kansas City. Catherine Stumbaugh married Samuel Charles McKee, also of Austin, on February 24, 1875. They had fourteen children. Samuel died on June 19, 1926, at Merwin; Jane died July 5, 1940, at Amsterdam in Bates County. Cass County, Missouri, Families (N.p.: Cass County Historical Society, 1976), pp. 151-152, 226, and 308.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

One of the most powerful and influential social lobbies of the late nineteenth century, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was founded in Decatur, Illinois in 1866 by Dr. Benjamin Stephenson, a surgeon who served with the federal army during the Civil War. For over 50 years, GAR veterans collectively influenced how the United States dealt with veterans affairs, the legacy of the Civil War, and engendered a surging sense of patriotism and nationalism in the country. Its platform of fraternity, charity, and loyalty, while not blatantly political, worked very well with the objectives of the Radical Republicans of the North after the war.

In its first years, the GAR concentrated on the creation of state homes for disabled veterans and care of the widows and orphans of Union veterans. The GAR pushed for veterans pensions, official days of remembrance, and public monuments to the sacrifices of veterans. To help accomplish these goals, the GAR published two newspapers, *The Grand Republic* and *The Grand Army Journal*. In 1868 the GAR was instrumental in having Decoration Day (later Memorial Day) recognized as a time to honor the war dead. The GAR would also become the leading champion for the establishment of Flag Day, and the organization was the leading advocate of public school flag displays and drill teams. In 1888 the GAR lobbied vehemently for "historically correct" textbooks in public schools and subsequently formed the Teaching Committee to push state governments toward making their view of the Civil War as the one that was included in state public school curriculums. Local posts also participated in this effort by establishing Patriotic Institution committees that oversaw the "accurate" teaching of the war in local schools. By the beginning of the twentieth century, no other single force had more greatly influenced the teaching of American History than the GAR.

To accomplish its goals, the GAR was set up in an ascending hierarchy of posts, departments, and national headquarters, which included the Council of Administration. At its height in 1890, the GAR boasted 427,981 members and 6,928 posts nationally, with Kansas leading all other states in membership. Over 11,000 members hailed from former states of the Confederacy, and posts were founded in as unlikely places as Canada, Mexico, Peru, and Hawaii. The GAR's women's auxiliary, the Women's Relief Corps, preformed acts of service for soldiers' homes, and was the catalyst for establishing the Pledge of Allegiance as a national rite in public schools.

The GAR was designed as a special organization for Civil War Union veterans. Thus, when the opportunity presented itself to admit veterans of the Spanish American War, the organization declined, with GAR Commander-in Chief John P.S. Gobin stating at the time, "there can be no merit in their becoming members of our organization, founded under different auspices and based upon entirely different principles." This stance marked the death knell for the GAR. Congress chartered the GAR in 1924, many years after the height of the organization's influence. The GAR ceased to exist in 1956, with death of Albert H. Woolson of Minnesota, its last known living member.¹²

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 GAR and Austin

The first GAR post in Missouri was organized in St. Louis and was named in honor of Missouri Congressman and Civil War general Frank P. Blair. Eventually, nearly 500 posts were chartered in

¹²David M. Gosoroski, "Union Vets Lead Nation into Next Century," *VFW* 84 (May 1997), p. 27.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

Missouri. Most were in small, rural towns, with few members. Cities and some larger towns had more than one post.

The Austin chapter of the GAR was organized in 1884 and initially met in the home of one of its members. On August 20, 1892, the members appointed a building committee of Comrades Hewitt, Apt, and Stevens to locate a building and procure materials. On September 3, post commander W. L. TenBrook instructed the committee to inquire into the possibility of purchasing the north part of lot 3. On September 17, the wives of Apt and TenBrook, representing Women's Relief Corps No. 13, presented the post twenty dollars toward construction of the building. At the same meeting, Comrade Stevens presented plans for the building, which the post members accepted without changes. On September 24, the members agreed to go to D.K. Hall's timber tract near Page's Mill the following Tuesday and cut the required lumber. About ten members reported for work, under the direction of Comrade Apt. In two days sufficient logs were cut and, after a number of problems with their wagon, were eventually hauled to the mill. Much of the labor on the building was done by members of the post, including excavation of the site. When dressing the foundation stone proved to be too difficult, the material was purchased for fifteen dollars. Total money expended on the construction was only thirty-five dollars.¹³

The legacy of the GAR in Austin is primarily one of nostalgia. Surviving residents of the community remember little about the ongoing activities of the post during its years of activity. As stated by one older citizen of Austin who was a child when the chapter was active: "The hall was used for meeting and to store guns and many relics. Other GAR posts would visit and important issues were discussed." Apparently, oyster stew suppers were a popular activity sponsored by the GAR, with the proceeds from the suppers going to help the indigent of the community. But the greatest legacy of Stumbaugh Post No. 180 was the "Bean Eatin".

In 1885, shortly after the organization of Stumbaugh Post No. 180, the members held what was then termed a "Campfire". The campfires were originally organized as reunions for Union veterans and their families and were held outside of town in the park like atmosphere of Clark's Grove where beans with bacon would be cooked over open fires in large, cast iron kettles. The beans would be served with hardtack and coffee, in essence, to show wives, children and grandchildren what life was like for the veterans when they were on campaign. At first the events were exclusive to the veterans and their families, but as time went on, the campfires grew to a point of including all members of the community. The reunions took on a carnival atmosphere, with hawkers of games and trinkets and even a carousel being brought in for amusements. The Cass County Democrat reported that the event "... has done more to close the breach between those of Northern conviction and the sympathizers of the South than anything in this section of the country." The "Bean Eatin", as it became popularly known around Austin, was the center of the community's social life.

A record of what was probably a typical encampment, held in 1895 at the post's grove north of Austin, has been preserved. Extending from Tuesday, August 6, to Thursday, August 8, it was proclaimed "like all other gatherings held by this post ... a decided success in every respect[,] the attendance reaching probably between twelve and fifteen thousand." The programs included prayers and songs, such as

¹³"History of the rebuilding of hall, by Stumbaugh [sic] Post No. 180, Dept. of Mo., GAR," handwritten manuscript, copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

"When Sherman Marched Down to the Sea" and "Battle Cry of Freedom," a welcome address by Post Commander G.F. Whitman, as well as address by department commander of the state of Missouri Louis Benecke, and a number of recitations, such as Miss Minnie Barnes's rendition of Sheridan's twenty mile ride. Entertainment was provided by the McGruder Colored Minstrels, the Harrisonville and Raymore bands, Mrs. Hudson's music class, and the Raymore glee club. A British Union Jack was presented to the Austin post by Reuben Smith, and unexploded shells were on display so that "some of the sons of veterans were thus enabled to see some of the missiles that made the old man dodge so when he was 'in the war'." A steam merry-go-round completed the festivities.¹⁴

In the years proceeding World War I, the "Bean Eatin'" began to slowly die. In 1911, as the GAR began to dwindle in membership, it deeded the hall equally to the Methodist and Baptist churches. As the driving force behind the "Bean Eatin'", as the GAR dwindled, so did the "raison de etre" for the celebration. By 1920, the "Bean Eatin'" was no more.

In just a bit more than thirty years, the Stumbaugh Post did more for the sense of community of Austin and the surrounding countryside than any other force. In recent years, in memory of the GAR's service and legacy to the community, a smaller bean soup supper is held each year at the GAR Hall and is enthusiastically attended by the local population. The hall and the grounds have served the community well over the past century, at times serving as a community center, a polling place, family reunions, chili and oyster stew suppers, 4-H meetings, and church socials.

In the 1940s the Austin Methodist Church deeded their half of the property to the Austin Baptist Church, which retains full ownership to this day. In 1996, because of perceived building neglect, the owners of the building closed it to public use. The hope of the local community is that by listing the property in the National Register of Historic Places a revived sense of recognition will ensue, and that the building can be maintained for generations to come as a reminder of the sacrifice and dedication of the veterans of the American Civil War.

The Austin post is the only building constructed as a GAR post which has been identified in Missouri. The Stumbaugh post was typical in many respects of the few GAR posts in Missouri for which records survive. For example, the post in DeWitt, the Stephen Estle Post No. 178 GAR, was formed in 1884 and lasted until 1906, while the post in Meadville, the C.G. Harker Post No. 88 GAR, was formed in 1883 and lasted until 1907. The Col. Hassenduebel Post No. 13 GAR, in St. Louis, was founded by members of the St. Louis Turner Society and met in that group's hall.

¹⁴"The Camp-fire," copy of clipping, source unknown, labeled in pen "1895" and "Campfire 1896 Book B Page 90." Copy in Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10 Page 9

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

9. Major Bibliographic References

Cass County Democrat. Harrisonville, MO. 1905.

Cass County Missouri Families. Cass County Historical Society, n.d.

Castel, Albert. A Frontier State at War: Kansas, 1861-1865. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1958; reprint ed., Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1979.

Fellman, Michael. Inside War: The Guerrilla Conflict in Missouri during the American Civil War. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.

Gosoroski, David M. "Union Vets Lead Nation into Next Century," VFW 84 (May 1997), pp. 24-30.

History of Cass and Bates County. St. Joseph Steam Printing Company, St. Joseph, MO. 1883

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The north eighteen (18) feet of Lot 3 and the south one-half of Lot 2, Original Town plat, Austin, Cass County.

Boundary Justification: The boundary encompasses the portions of the two town lots that have been historically associated with the Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

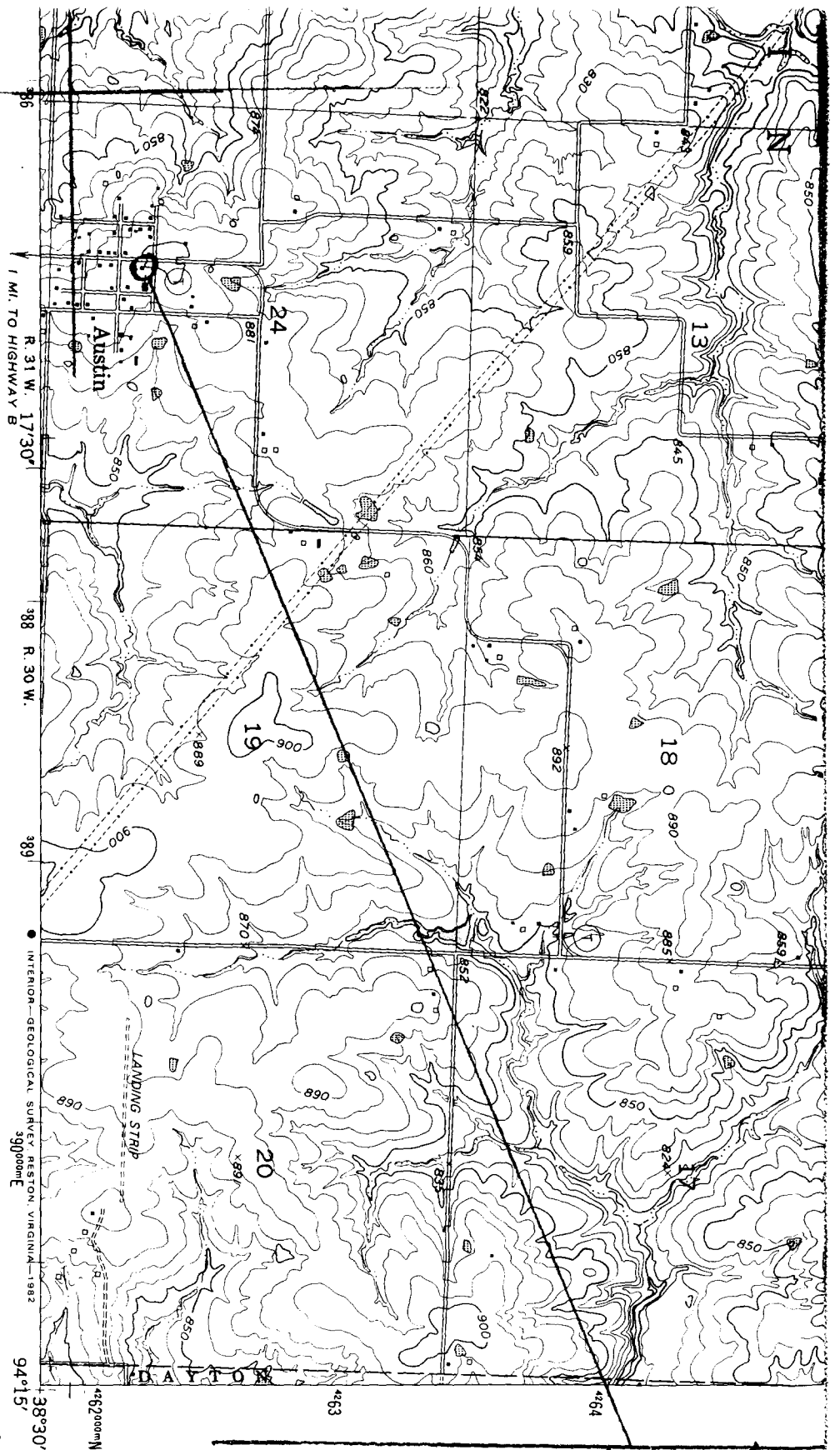
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 10

Stumbaugh Post No. 180 G.A.R. Hall
Cass County, MO

1. Harris O. Stevens
32414 South St., Route T
Garden City, MO 64747
March 19, 1997
draft nomination
2. Deborah G. Morgan
32617 South St., Route T
Archie, MO 64725
March 19, 1997
186/862-8676
draft nomination
3. Allen Tatman/Preservation Planner\
Historic Preservation Program
Division of State Parks
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573/526-6096
August 1999
revisions, items 1-11
4. Steven E. Mitchell/Assistant Director
Historic Preservation Program
Division of State Parks
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573/751-4692
October 1999
Editor and revisions, items 1-11

G.A.R. HALL
15/386675/4262260



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— 4 LANE 6 LANE Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— 4 LANE 6 LANE Unimproved dirt ———
U. S. Route State Route

000
4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
1 MILE
10 FEET
AL DATUM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

AUSTIN, MO.
N3830-W9415/7.5

1954
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 7181 III SE-SERIES V879

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,
AND LAND SURVEY
SOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system,
west zone

zone 15, shown in blue

move the projection lines 1 meter north and

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1980. Map edited 1981. This information not field checked

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIC
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER
AND THE DIVISION OF GEO
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

STUMBAUGH POST 180 G.A.R. HALL

MO. Hwy T

CASS CO., MO

A. TATMAN 8/97

NEG. LOC. : MOSH/PO

DETAIL OF NORTH WALL

#10



STUMBAUGH POST 180 G.A.R. HALL

CASS CO. MO

A. TATMAN 8/97

NEG. LOC.: MOSHPO

~~FRONT (NORTH) DOOR, 17-18-19-20-21~~

DETAIL OF WEST DOOR

#11



STUMBAUGH POST 180 G.A.R. HALL

MO. Hwy T

Cass Co, MO

A. TATMAN, 8/97

NEG. LOC: MO SHPO

DETAIL OF BACK (EAST) DOOR

#12



STUMBAUGH POST 180 G.A.R. HALL

MD. HWY. T

CASS CO., MD

A. TATMAN, 8/97

NEG. LOC.: MD SHPO

DET. OF WEST WALL

DETAIL OF NORTH WALL

#13



STUMBAUGH POST 180 GAR HALL

Asst. Cass Co, MO

A. TATMAN 8/97

NEG. LOC.: MOSHPO

2nd (NORTH) DOOR, LOOKING SOUTH

DETAIL OF EAST DOOR

#14



STUMBAUGH POST 180 G.A.R. HALL

CASS Co., MD

A TATMAN 8/97

NEG. LOC.: MD SHPD

DETAIL OF WINDOW
ON NORTH WALL

#15



STUMBAUGH POST 180 G.A.R. HALL

CASS CO, MD

A. TATMAN 8/97

NEG. LOC.: MOSHPO

WEST 1/2 LOOKING NORTH

NORTH ELEVATION LOOKING EAST

#16



STUMBAUGH POST 180 G.A.R. HALL

CASS CO. MO

A. TATMAN 8/97

NEG. LOC.: MOSHPO

DETAIL OF N.E. CORNER OF BLDG.

#17



STUMBAUGH POST 180 G.A.R. HALL

CASS CO, MO

A. TATMAN 8/97

NEG. LOC.: MO SHPO

NORTH WALL, LOOKING SOUTH



6504-DNR-HPP-Lee

Staumbaugh Post GAR

Cass county

Photographer: Lee Gilliland

Date: 2000



EXTRA
PHOTOS



















