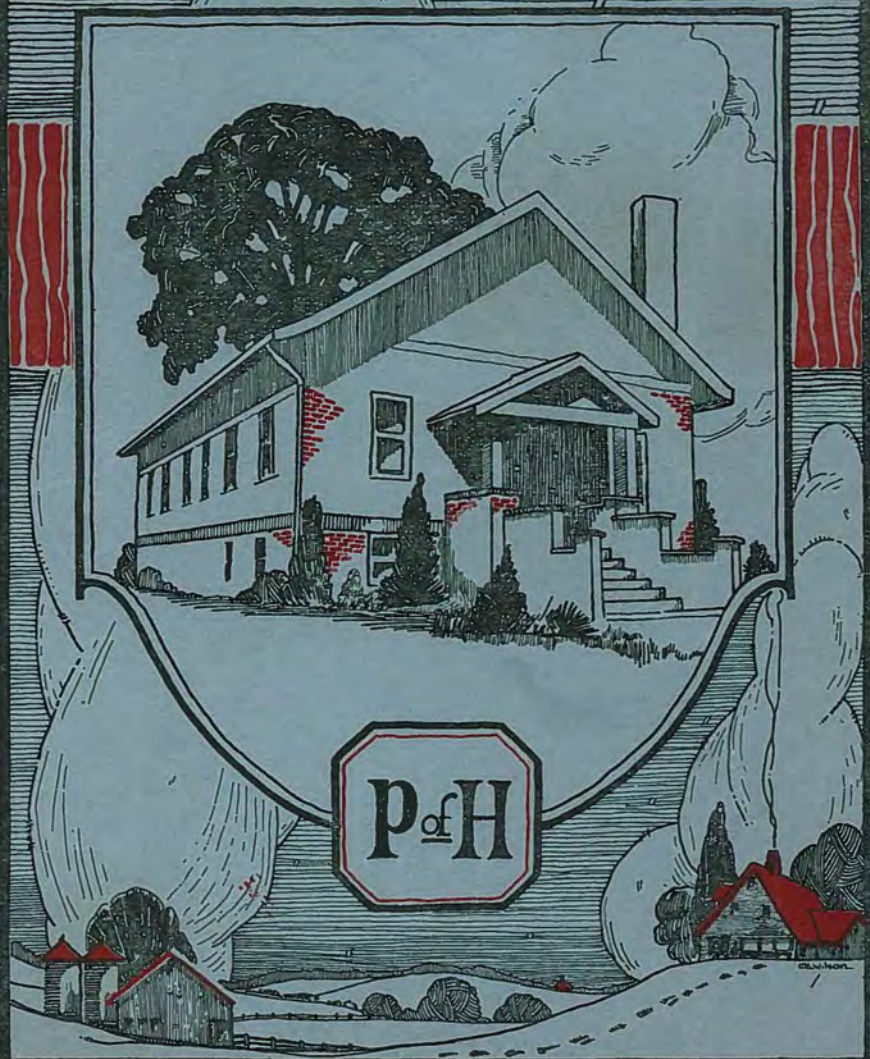


# Grange Hall Suggestions





## Foreword



IN the stone age man dwelt in caves. The nomad pitched his tent wherever he could find good pasture. The first mark of development was a permanent home for the family, and the standard of any civilization can be determined largely by the character of the homes of the people.

In governments we have found that capitol buildings, halls of justice, and similar temporal evidences of the seat of government, have been essential to the growth and development of nations. Every step in the progress of a race from barbarism toward civilization, has been marked by a corresponding advance in the type and character of its architecture.

We read in Sacred History that although the children of Israel lived in the Promised Land and were guided and directed, in part at least, by the prophets, yet as a nation they could not reach their highest development until a temple was erected as a permanent house of assembly and worship. History since then has indicated the value of building temples and churches as a necessary part in the growth of religious organizations.

In the early days of our Order, private homes, schoolhouses, and rented halls seemed to fill Grange needs, but in time it was found that the community and organization needed a home just the same as the church, government, or individual. The building of Grange halls has marked a definite step in the progress and permanency of our Order.

More than fifty years ago the National Grange appointed a committee to consider plans for Grange halls, but it was decided that it was better to leave this matter to the states and communities, encouraging them to select their own designs and plans.

At first the halls were small in size and unattractive in design. Then they were combined with stores and similar institutions. In

"All good architecture is the expression of national life and character; and it is produced by a prevalent and eager national taste or desire for beauty."

—*Ruskin.*

some states the Grange hall became the village center. It was often a combination of auditorium with Grange hall, and sometimes a store-room was added. In other states expensive and attractive buildings have been erected, but there has been no uniformity of design, interior or exterior, and much was left to be desired in some of the halls erected.

This booklet of suggestions is prepared in order that mistakes may be avoided, and that a Grange planning to build a hall, may build more than just a mere hall. It may build a home for itself and a home for the community in which it is located. This home should be comfortable, convenient, and attractive; suited to the needs of the immediate present, and capable of development, in taking care of the needs of the future.

Rural sections are entitled to a community home in which all can take satisfaction and pride. Our Grange halls should be of such character that those who are not members of our Order, will be willing to contribute to the construction and maintenance of buildings that will be a distinct addition to adjacent territory. The Grange has a large membership; it has behind it years of worth while accomplishment; it has before it an unlimited opportunity to serve agriculture and rural life. Grange buildings, therefore, should be of character and equipment to make it possible for our Order to render the service that opportunity offers.

There have been built in the United States more than three thousand Grange halls, with a total replacement value of twenty million dollars. Such an investment suggests the need of careful thought and supervision, in order that Grange halls of the future may be so constructed that they will care for the expanding needs of agriculture.

## The Ideal Country Crossroads



**T**HERE is no place where such a free, satisfying, and abundant life may be lived as in the open country, if the community is so organized as to take advantage of its opportunities. The better farm homes of today have every comfort and convenience of the better city homes, and in addition offer advantages in location and surroundings which are the envy of the urban dweller. The cities, in fact, are spending millions of dollars to obtain for their people a little of the open space that the farm folk have in abundance for, after all, is not each farm home located in a park of its own?

But man is by nature a social creature, and as such demands something more in the way of human contacts than can be obtained solely within the family circle. And it is to supply this social need that I am making my plea for the ideal crossroads, or four corners suggested in the drawing. I once asked over five hundred farm boys and girls in their early teens what they would need to have promised to them so they could look forward to a life on the farm with pleasure, and most of their replies (expressed in my own words) were to the effect that they would want an income which would make possible four things, desired of every boy and girl, or man and woman either, for that matter. And these four things were: (1) a home as comfortable and convenient as the better homes of the city; (2) good schools adapted to the needs of country boys and girls; (3) an attractive social life; and (4) satisfying religious opportunities.

Three of these things call for group action, and it is to satisfy

these needs in the best and richest way that I suggest the ideal community four corners or crossroads, with the School, the Church, the Grange hall, and the community recreation and picnic grounds, each occupying one of the four corners. The family that lives near such a crossroads is indeed fortunate, because a community with such a group of activities at hand, needs only to realize its own opportunities for satisfactions to find itself blessed beyond expression.

We want in the open country, as elsewhere, boys and girls, men and women, who are strong physically, mentally, religiously, and socially, and with church, school, and Grange working together to this end our farm children will have still greater reason to be thankful for the great heritage of a childhood on the farm.

A well conducted Grange is one of the best social forces of a country community but such a Grange, to realize its powers to the utmost, must have its own hall located in the midst of the people that it serves. I am not thinking of a hall that is used only once every week or two for the regular business meetings of the Grange, but of one that glories in being in constant use-for a variety of the activities of the neighborhood. Neither am I thinking of a Grange that is content with its regular meetings and its weekly or bi-weekly program, but of a Grange that is a virile force in the community; that renders many services beside those of the usual program; that enlists its young people in interesting, entertaining, and satisfying activities; that stands back of the school and the church; that encourages and fosters every movement that is for the good of its community; that stands for a broad, rich life for the folk on the farm.

With such a Grange, that hall on its corner of the crossroads will be in almost constant use, and will house activities which may well be placed side by side with the school and the church in the up-building of the ideal community, and the enriching of country life.

## *Grange Hall Suggestions*

**N**O farm can be a true success without a happy home. Neither can a Grange reach its highest development and usefulness unless it owns a hall or can secure a hall or building under such conditions that there exists the feeling of ownership and stability which makes possible the attainment of the best Grange ideas and practices.

The live, wide-awake Grange must have proper facilities and equipment to do the work. These cannot be supplied unless the Grange owns its own hall, or can have reasonable control over the property. For example, kitchen equipment, stage equipment, musical equipment, are all reasonably dependent upon permanency of occupation of the hall.

Then there are many other advantages that go along with the building of a Grange home. The Grange takes on new life and standing in the community; the membership has something for which to work and strive. In the building of a hall there comes the enthusiasm of joint effort. After the hall is completed, there comes the struggle to pay the debts and completely possess the property. After this is done, there is constant opportunity for development and improvement of the hall facilities; consequently, experience tells us that nine times out of ten, the building of a Grange hall starts a Grange on the highway of success and usefulness.

### COMMUNITY VALUE

A Grange hall must be more than just a Grange home; it should be a community home; it should be constructed in such manner that it can be used as a local community building. It should become the center around which radiate the rural activities of a given community. Experience indicates that Grange halls should always be owned and controlled by the Grange, but be rented at a reasonable cost, for any worth while community movement.

Frequently, Granges make the mistake of not providing sufficient facilities for public meetings. Dining-room and kitchen equipment may be satisfactory for the Grange, but are too small for Farmers' Institutes, community suppers, or some event of that nature. Build a Grange hall—but, when possible, build more than a Grange hall. Build a Grange home plus a community home, and it will add dollars to the value of every acre of real estate for miles around.

## METHODS OF FINANCING

There have been almost as many methods of financing the building of Grange halls, as there have been halls erected. No definite rule can be suggested. In every case it must be worked out by plans suited to a given state and community. The most universal method is a combination of donation, entertainment, and membership loans. For example,—some member may donate land; others may donate stone, gravel, or lumber. All members will give freely in accordance with their means, in enthusiasm, in money, and in time. In nine out of every ten of our Grange halls that have been built, there have been no charges for excavation and grading, for hauling, or much of the rough labor. This has reduced the expense items very greatly.

Suppers, entertainments, and socials, for the purpose of building or paying for Grange halls, have been the most popular sources of securing revenue. We know a Grange which each month furnishes chicken dinners, the members donating the chickens and the women doing the work. In this manner they are paying the hall debt rapidly. It is arranged so that once a year each member gives two chickens or their equivalent in cash. Through other donations, and fine culinary skill, they put on a dinner that attracts wide attention and brings a very substantial return.

We have known of young people putting on entertainments in their own and adjacent halls, and collecting a large amount of money to apply on the Grange debt. Rummage sales, the sale of quilts, sale of supplies, competing at county fairs for prizes, furnishing dinners or suppers for the Kiwanis, Rotary, or similar civic organizations; taking part in parades, having a dining room at county fairs, bazaars, Grange fairs, and a hundred and one methods have helped to liquidate millions of dollars of Grange hall indebtedness.

Donations and contributions, plus entertainments and suppers, will nearly always fail to finance completely the Grange hall when built. This is not serious. A reasonable debt on a Grange hall at the time of dedication is no handicap. It is simply a guarantee that the members must stick together and work; but the debt of necessity must be financed, for the Grange must pay its bills promptly and keep its credit good.

The final financing takes many forms. The officers borrow money at the bank or borrow of some neighbor, the officers signing the notes, sometimes also the executive committee, or a committee of

substantial members. The ideal way is for the members to make the Grange direct loans on hall stock or hall bonds which pay no interest. Thus you have the financing entirely within the membership. We have known of Grange halls where more than 50 percent of the construction cost was in the form of bonds varying from ten to one hundred dollars held by the membership. Then, whenever the Grange accumulated funds, it declared a ten per cent payment on the bonds or stock, and in time the members received the money which had been advanced.

If a community really wants a Grange hall—if the membership is willing to put in some work and sacrifice—it will be no trouble to pay for the hall, provided the building is properly constructed, and provided the necessary work has been performed to impress the membership with its duty and responsibility.

## STAGE AND EQUIPMENT

Many a Grange blunders seriously in building a hall, without giving proper consideration to stage and equipment. It must always be borne in mind that the real purpose of the building is for a Grange hall, and its first need is to be properly suited to Grange work. The other needs come after this, but it is possible to build a Grange hall with the lodge room of proper shape, size, and dimensions for Grange work, yet suitable as a community auditorium.

The stage should be of size and proportion to fit in with the rest of the hall. It should be built with curtain, or so that curtain can later be added when finances will warrant. It should be built primarily with the Grange and its degree work in mind, but still taking care of other problems.

Some thought should be given to raised stations for the officers, and in seeing to it that the arrangement is such that all will work out well, especially in degree and ritualistic work. A Grange hall may be fine from every standpoint, except proper facilities for conferring of degrees; such a hall lacks in essentials.

## THE VALUE OF KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

One of the most common blunders in building Grange halls, is that proper consideration is not given to convenient kitchen and dining room equipment. A few hundred dollars spent when the foundation is being laid and the hall being built, might greatly change the convenience of the kitchen, and lighten the women's work

for years to come. The old saying that "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach" is true in Grange work. No Grange has ever reached its full development unless it has had proper kitchen and banquet room facilities. Men like to eat; healthy farmers have good appetites, and the Grange that realizes the advantages of a complete kitchen and dining room, in which banquets and suppers can be served easily, conveniently, and attractively, has taken a most important step forward.

There should always be a woman on the building committee. The women should be given the right to have proper equipment. All that is necessary is to tell the sisters that if they will raise the money, the facilities will be provided, and you can be assured that the money will be forthcoming.

Again, the kitchen and dining room equipment should be chosen with a view to the needs of other organizations, as well as the Grange. The commodity cooperative, farmers' institute, extension school, and similar organizations will occasionally want to rent the property, and the Grange must never be selfish, but must think of building for the welfare of the whole community. Then its future growth and life is assured.

#### JUVENILE ROOM

In all larger Granges a room should be provided where the Juvenile Grange can meet, or where the children can go during initiatory ceremony and regular Grange meetings. The Juvenile room need not be large, but it should be so situated that the joy and enthusiasm of the youngsters may not disturb the deliberations of the older membership. In most Granges the juveniles will attend and sometimes participate in the Grange Lecture Hour, but this does not detract from the need for a proper juvenile room.

#### LOT AND PARKING SPACE

The majority of our Grange halls are built out in the open country where real estate is not very valuable, and here a common mistake is made in securing a lot that is too small. Parking space should be provided and shade trees planted. The lot should be so located that landscaping and improvement will be possible. Good cement walks should be laid. Cinder or gravel should be placed on the drives. Flowers, shrubs and vines add to the beauty.

We recently visited a twenty-thousand-dollar Grange hall built on

a small unsightly lot, and while hundreds of dollars had been spent in decorating within, there had not been one hundred cents spent in landscaping and beautifying without. While the interior is most essential, the exterior should be such that it is a constant advertisement for the Grange, and a daily invitation to those who pass by, to join.

A very important, much-overlooked requirement is that the name of the Grange hall should be attractively placed on the building. This should be done in a neat, artistic manner. Sometimes a few dollars saved on a Grange sign is, after all, money wasted, because the sign is unsightly and unattractive. Where a Grange has electric lights, there should be a light over the door, so that the light shining through the glass with the name of the Grange, will give a cheerful welcome to those who pass by.

#### REMODELING CHURCH AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The decline of a rural church is always sad, but whenever a rural church goes down and its property is abandoned, there is nothing better to do with it than to turn it into a Grange hall. Some rural churches will never make satisfactory Grange halls, and money and effort spent in trying to make a Grange home out of such halls has been wasted. There are others, however, that will lend themselves nicely to Grange work. Many of the old style rural churches with a good foundation can, by excavating a cellar, remodeling, and adjusting, make a Grange hall of value.

We recently visited an old brick church 40 by 90 feet, with a very good foundation, which had been converted into not only an attractive Grange hall, but a fine community home. All that had been done was to remove the steeple, excavate for a good basement, build a stage, put in necessary partitions and equipment, and for a little more than one thousand dollars and donated labor, this Grange had a home that could not be replaced for less than from eight to ten thousand dollars.

In sections where there is centralization of schools in progress, and where there are schoolhouses being sold, there is an opportunity to take over a building and make it into a proper Grange hall. It is a mistake to accept a building even as a gift, if with reasonable expenditure of effort and money, it will not make a suitable Grange home.

If your hall is too small, or if it is not properly arranged, consult

a good carpenter, builder, or architect; find the cost of the needed changes; find the amount of donations available. Do not start to build or remodel, until a majority of your membership are enthusiastically in earnest and ready to go ahead—until there is assurance of a substantial amount of funds in sight. On the other hand, never allow a few pessimists to prevent your Grange from enjoying its rightful privilege of owning a home of its own.

#### BUILDING CODE REGULATIONS AND FIRE PROTECTION

*One point that cannot be over-emphasized by any community planning to build a hall is that before work is started, plans should be submitted to the state authorities having charge of the inspection of public buildings. Granges that have completed buildings without this precaution have been put to heavy expense in remodeling halls to conform to state regulations.*

The public building codes, the fire and panic acts as they are variously termed in some sections, are as different in their requirements as there are states in the Union. Consequently, no general rule can be given, but safety, fire protection, sanitation, and ventilation are of primary importance. Fortunately, we have had no serious disaster in a Grange hall in the United States, but every Grange building a hall should give careful consideration to these points. Granges that own halls should have them carefully inspected relative to safety and conformity with fire laws and protection against fire and other hazards.

In some states the building code requirements are unreasonable for Grange halls in the open country. In such cases, amendment through state legislatures may be necessary.

---

### *Acknowledgments*

Dean Vivian, of the College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University, extended to the Executive Committee of the National Grange the assistance of some of the professors and students in the department of agricultural engineering, and of members of the Agricultural Extension staff. He also contributed liberally of his time and talent, of which especial acknowledgment is made.

Due credit is given to Professor J. E. McClintock, Mrs. E. M. Cadley, C. E. Wilson, and H. P. Twitchell, for assistance in the preparation of this booklet. The major part of the work is due to the efforts of Benton M. Stahl, professor of agricultural engineering.

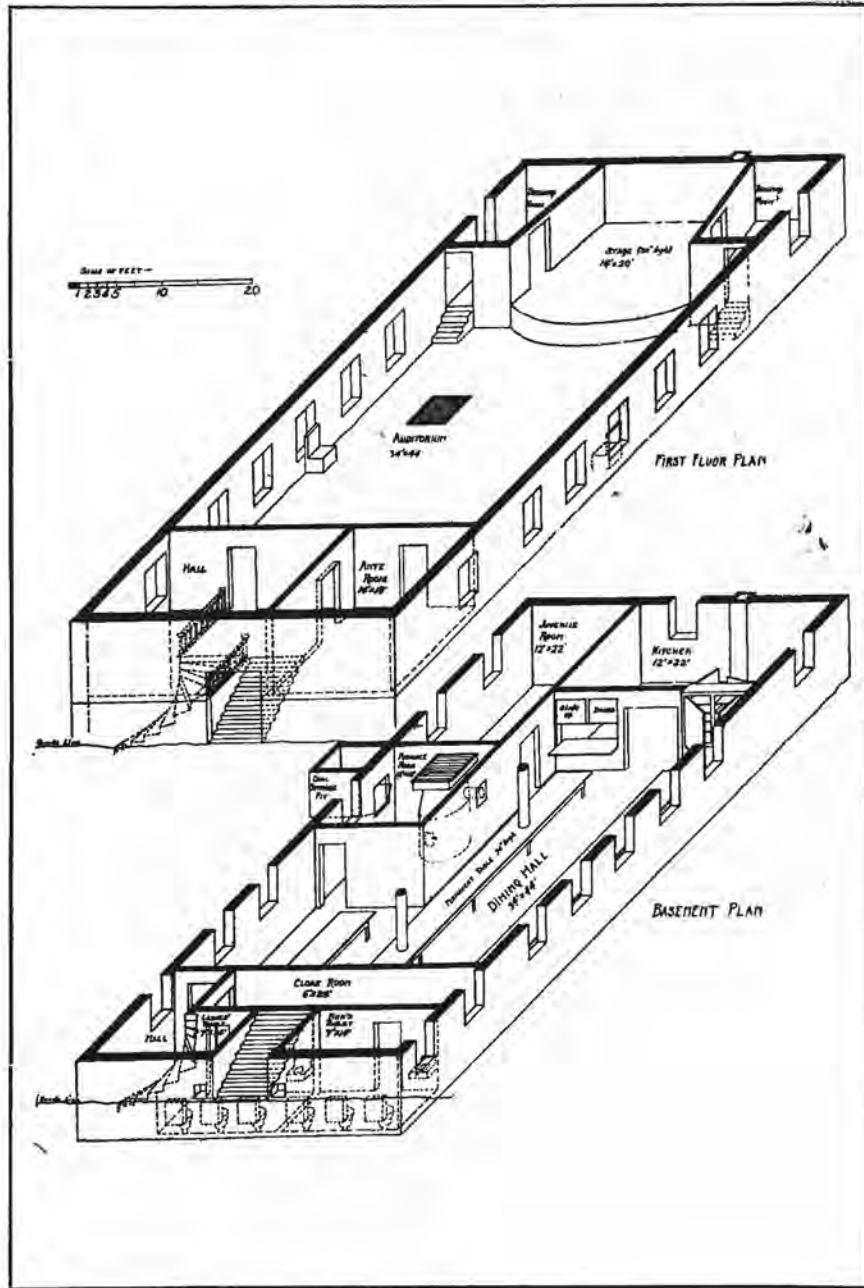
## *Cuts and Drawings*

On the following pages will be found cuts and drawings showing the exterior and floor plans of a number of Grange halls in various parts of the United States. It was thought wise to visit, photograph, and take dimensions of the halls that would best describe the various types of Grange property found in our country. It is not to be supposed that the particular halls have been selected because of their perfection, but simply to show how various communities have solved their hall problem.

It should be remembered that the drawings showing the two floor plans are given, not as a definite guide, but more in the nature of suggestions. A good carpenter or architect can take the drawings, and by consulting the photograph and description, provide blueprints and specifications at reasonable cost. Time and money spent in plans and preparation is usually time and money well spent.

A good building committee is almost essential if a satisfactory hall is to be erected. Get your best members on the committee. Give them authority to go ahead. With every member behind the committee, success will be assured, if you have a competent architect or contractor in charge of your work.

## Proposed Grange Hall Plan



## Architect's General Notes

**I**F THE MEMBERS of a Grange went at the problem of building in the same way that our large commercial organizations do they would employ an expert in building design to plan their Grange hall. Such a man would generally consider the following items with a great deal of care: location, adaptability to purpose, sanitation, fire protection, foundation, roof, floors, walls, water supply, heating system, lighting system and such special equipment as lightning rods, kitchen facilities, stage layout, etc.

Since the average Grange cannot go to such expense, and since so many of them make use of abandoned school houses or churches, the only thing that can be done is to urge the members to consider these points as carefully as they can. In general, the most important features to study are the interior arrangement, sanitary equipment, heating equipment, and adequate fire protection.

### IMPORTANT FEATURES OF A GOOD HALL

*Interior Arrangement.* In order to point out the importance of interior arrangement we must make use of some sort of illustration, and for this purpose we call your attention to the drawings labeled, "Proposed Grange Hall," on opposite page. A complete description of this will be given on pages 15 to 17.

*Sanitary Equipment.* The next important feature to consider, involves such items as light (window area, electric lights, etc.), ventilation (electric fans, ventilating flues, etc.), and waste disposal (toilets, septic tanks, wash bowls, water supply, grease traps, etc.). Any disinterested investigator who has visited many Grange halls will be impressed with the evident lack of such sanitary equipment, or the inadequacy of such equipment as may be found. Yet nothing is more important.

If the Grange is to be a symbol and a guide for the most progressive farm community, it is evident that it must stimulate its members by the force of its own example to make every effort to have these sanitary provisions that make life worth while. Surely it would seem inexcusable for any Grange to fail to provide decent toilet facilities. To say that the expense is too great is not a real excuse, because such things as septic tanks can be built at practically no cost by the members, and simple toilet fixtures are very inexpensive and can be installed without the assistance of skilled plumbers, except where the hall happens to be in a large city with building regulations that compel the employment of licensed plumbers. Every state has an agricultural college which can furnish sufficient plans and advice for the installation of septic tanks and plumbing fixtures. Be sure to make use of this service to the fullest extent.



At this point it would be well to urge that Grange members be sure to look up the state or city building codes before they attempt any remodeling or building. Oftentimes the failure to do this will cost the Grange a lot of money and sometimes completely spoil the appearance of the original building.

*Heating Equipment.* The heating equipment in our Grange halls is very often of the crudest type, the reason generally given being that any other kind of heating equipment is entirely too expensive. This would be true if we did not have warm-air heating systems. They are just as inexpensive as stoves of equal heating capacity and just as free from expensive upkeep. Incidentally they are not nearly so dangerous as a fire hazard where large crowds are to be cared for. The fact that more serious fires have not occurred in some of our Grange halls is more a matter of luck than of safe heating equipment, and one serious fire will cost more than the very best warm-air heating system.

Wherever it is possible, it would be desirable to make use of the pipeless furnace because of the ease of installation and the cheapness of this system of heating.

*Fire Protection.* This involves using fire resistant materials in such places as chimneys, roofs, the floor under the kitchen stove or heating stoves in the dining room and hall, and stairways. It also requires construction providing such things as fire stops in the walls, fire walls around the furnace and the covering of inflammable materials by protective coverings. The state or city building code always specifies the minimum requirements in these and other respects and should always be consulted by the building committee before plans for a new Grange hall are accepted.

Fire protection also involves consideration of the proximity to other buildings, especially where these other buildings are apt to catch fire. Generally the Grange hall is isolated, and there is no danger of fire spreading to it from an adjoining building, but where this is not the case the members should insist on a fire resistant roof, never a wooden shingle roof.

Another thing that should be provided is fire fighting equipment that is handy and of sufficient capacity to be really useful. Chemical extinguishers answer the purpose more satisfactorily than other types, and unless there is an ample water supply or a nearby fire department, such extinguishers should always be provided.

A good lightning rod system should be installed in all Grange halls, especially those in the country. Most farmers realize the importance of this for their homes and barns, but very few of them seem to remember that their Grange hall also needs lightning protection. Finally, much care should be given to the installation of the lighting and heating systems. All of them are dangerous unless properly installed and cared for.

## *Description of Interior of "Proposed Grange Hall"*

The interior arrangement shown in the "Proposed Grange Hall" may not seem entirely satisfactory at first glance, but a little study will very likely cause you to change your mind and agree that this arrangement is about as good as can be found.

### HEATING SYSTEM

In the first place notice that the heating system, a pipeless furnace, is completely hidden from view by a furnace room that can be lined with fireproof materials. Coal or wood is stored in a pit to the side of the furnace room with a door that gives easy access to the pit from the inside of the furnace room. This pit, which is half above and half below the ground, is covered with ordinary cellar doors, and a few bushes will completely hide this pit from view. Also notice that there is a window in the furnace room to give sufficient light and ventilation when necessary. The register above this furnace is located near the middle of the auditorium above so that it is possible to get a uniform distribution of heat throughout the first floor. Also notice that short pipes extend from the furnace to the dining room and juvenile room to furnish heat when desired.

### TOILET FACILITIES

Next notice that there are toilet facilities for both men and women, and that entrance to these toilets is made by way of a long cloak room which completely shuts off the dining hall from this essential part of any public building.

### THE DINING HALL

The dining hall is much larger than it appears to be in the drawing. There are two tables nearly thirty feet long and one that is about fifteen feet long which give a seating capacity that is ample for the average Grange. Also notice that one of the tables is built around the center posts that support the auditorium floor. These posts do not interfere with the use of the table as much as they would interfere with a passage way in the same place. Each table has a large aisle on either side for the use of those who are serving meals.

### THE KITCHEN

The kitchen is not too large and the partition that separates it from the dining hall is especially well adapted to handling dishes, serving trays, etc., while a large central entrance with double swinging doors makes it easy for waiters to pass from the kitchen to the dining hall. Also notice that windows are provided in two walls of

the kitchen so that cross ventilation can be secured during the hot summer months.

#### THE JUVENILE ROOM

The juvenile room should be a part of every Grange, and should be so arranged that it can be closed so that the children and the noises that they invariably make will not interfere with the activities of the members. The only objection to this juvenile room is that in case of fire there would not be enough exits for the children. It would seem desirable to provide a stairway from this room to the rear of the building for this purpose.

#### MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE HALL

The main entrance to this Grange is at the ground level, which is a most desirable feature, since it is not necessary to provide an expensive porch and there is no danger of accidents if a crowd is hurrying to get out of the building. Passing up the flight of steps to the first floor landing we find two doors, one opening into the ante-room (this should always be provided) and the other opening into the auditorium. From this landing it is also possible to go to the basement, where the cloak room and toilet facilities are located, by means of a wide stairway. A railing makes the first floor landing safe, but this landing could be extended over to the left wall of the hall if desired.

#### THE AUDITORIUM

The auditorium has ideal dimensions, neither too wide nor too long for a Grange lodge room. This is a point that seems to be overlooked very often, especially in rearranging old buildings such as schools and churches. Where the hall is unusually long it would be much better to partition off one end of the room for storage purposes, cloak rooms, juvenile room, or for some other purpose.

#### THE STAGE

The stage in this hall is very simple yet complete. There is a dressing room on each wing of the stage, with a window to furnish light and an entrance from each dressing room to both the stage and the auditorium. Another thing that is important is the height of the stage, which in this case is 30 inches. Most people who are familiar with the requirements agree that this is about the ideal height for both the spectators and the actors.

#### PAINTING AND GENERAL APPEARANCE

The advertising slogan "Save the surface and you save all" is more than a statement to encourage the purchase of paint. It is in

reality good business advice that any farm community can afford to follow. Painting more than preserves the surface and protects the property. It is a good advertisement for the character of the people that live in any locality. A building that has been recently painted, that is kept in repair, is not only more attractive to the membership, but is also an invitation to an entire community to improve the appearance of all property.

Complaint is sometimes made that "Our hall needs painting but we have not the money." This is a mistake, as it always costs less money in the end, to take care of needed repairs and keep property in good condition than to face expensive bills resulting from neglect.

Grange halls should be painted in colors that harmonize with the surroundings, and in addition to an occasional coat of paint, the general appearance should always be considered. Grading, sodding, walks and similar improvements add to the value of the hall, the self-respect of the membership and to the value of every acre of farm land for miles around.

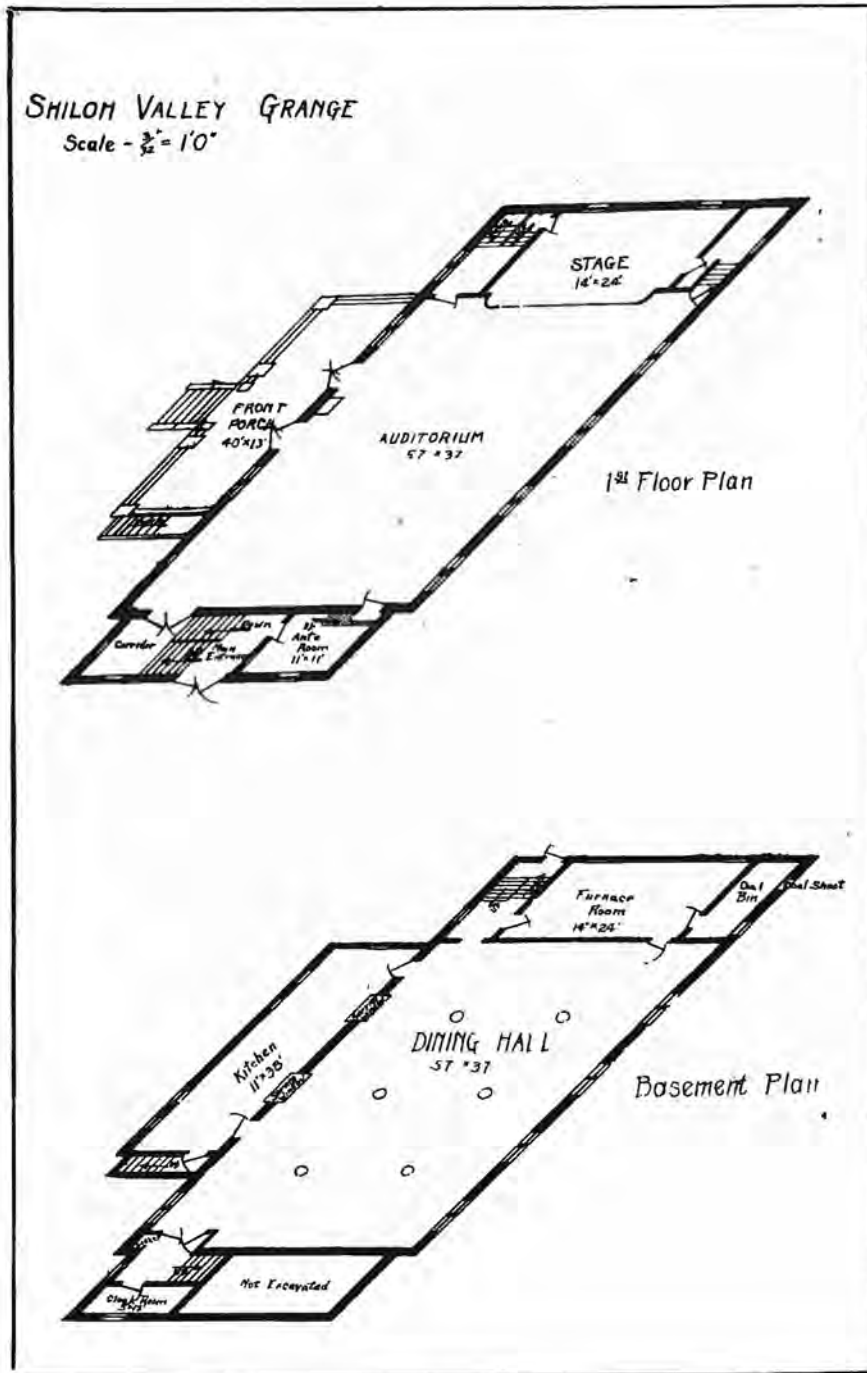
#### THE BUILDING AND ITS SETTING

No attempt has been made to indicate the architectural features of the exterior. The architectural treatment of such a building will depend largely upon the material that is available. Brick, shingles, stone, concrete, etc., require different types of architecture to secure the most pleasing appearance.

Whatever is used, however, will not appear to the best advantage without appropriate landscaping. As a matter of fact, well kept lawns, properly placed shrubbery, vines, and trees will make the ugliest building far more attractive than the very best building which does not have a pretty background and setting. Some of the Grange halls illustrated in this pamphlet indicate both the need and the advantages of proper landscaping.

It will generally be noticed that the Grange building belonging to a progressive membership will be well kept and have attractive surroundings; in other words, they make their hall something to be proud of regardless of the cost of the building itself. Here again we would urge Grange members to make use of their agricultural college by calling in the extension men to aid with their landscaping and building efforts.

B. H. S.



Front Elevation, Shiloh Valley Grange Hall

SHILOH VALLEY GRANGE HALL is a good example of the type of hall that is being built by some of our more progressive and up-to-date Granges scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This particular Grange is located in the heart of the corn belt, not far from the Mississippi River, in the fertile state of Illinois. A glimpse at the floor plans and front elevation indicates that this hall is more than a Grange hall. It is a community center of no mean proportions.

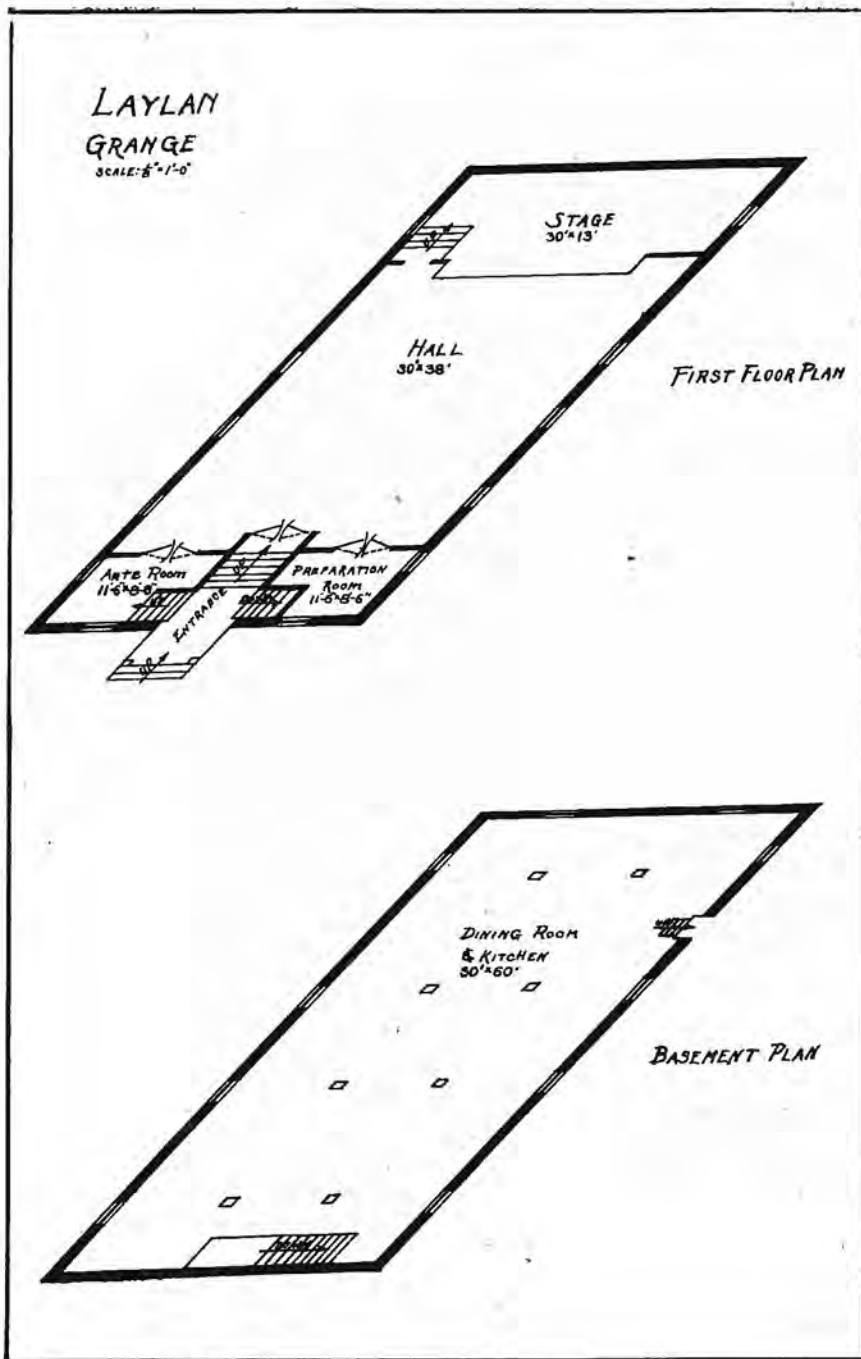
This Grange has over 200 members, a large majority of whom are young people. Consequently, when the hall was built, proper attention was given to the stage, kitchen, dining room equipment, and auditorium.

A very attractive feature of this hall is the fact that while the entrance is at one end with proper equipment and facilities, yet the front porch with its wide, open doors make it possible to empty the hall very quickly after an entertainment or meeting. This hall costs approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000, and is a home of which any Grange could be proud.

#### Architect's Note

The floor plans show excellent arrangements for the rapid and safe exit of a large crowd. Ample width of stairs and passageways may be the means of saving lives in an emergency, such as a fire or panic. From the sanitary viewpoint this grange seems to be lacking in only one essential—toilet facilities. In a grange building of this size and cost, adequate equipment of this type should be insisted upon.

Sufficient ventilation can be secured by adjusting windows. Every room should have windows permitting cross ventilation. In appearance this Grange hall is of pleasing proportions, and the large porch over the kitchen and to the left of the auditorium adds to the beauty of the building.



Laylan Grange Hall

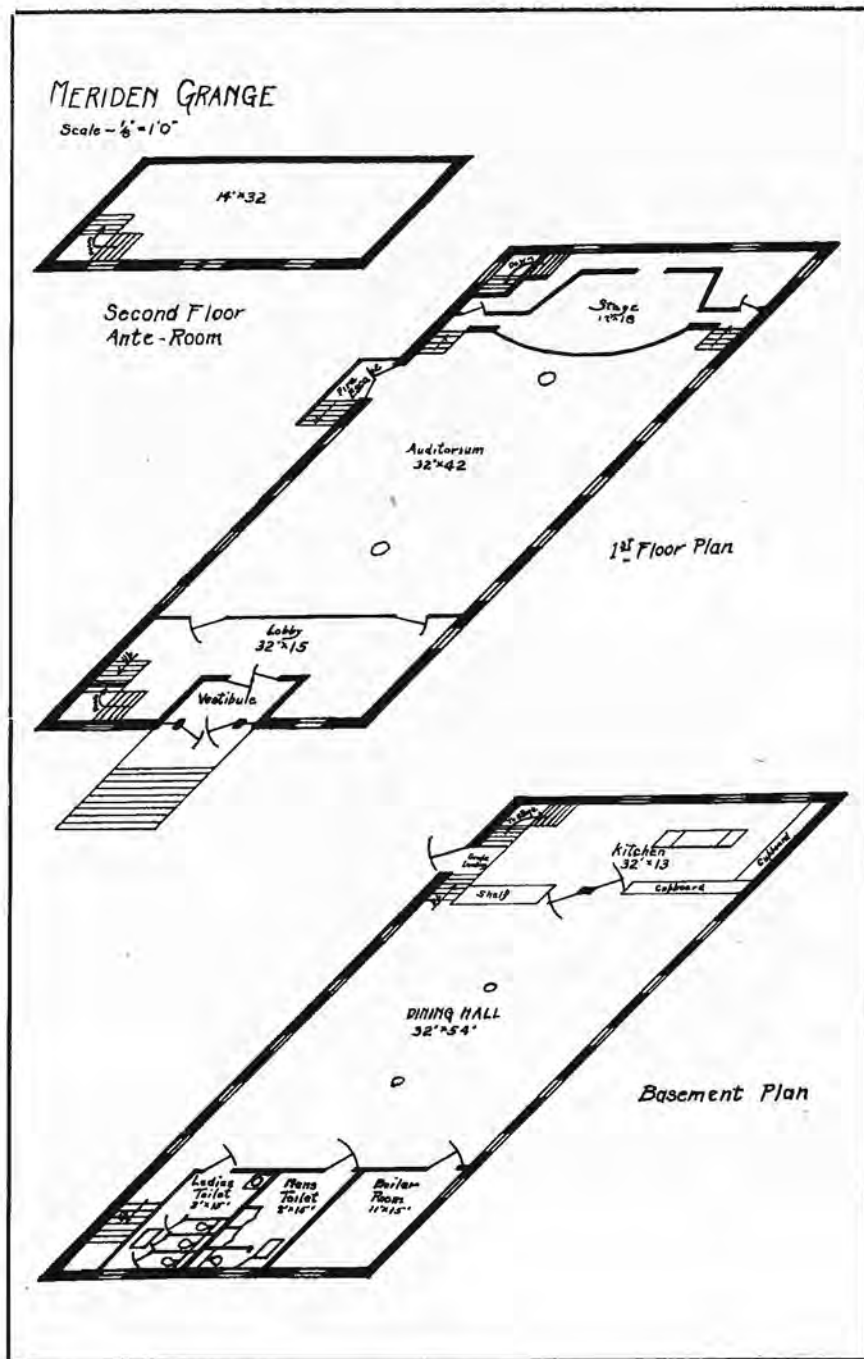
LAYLAN GRANGE HALL is a splendid example of the medium type hall that has been constructed in large numbers in almost every state in the Union. The photograph clearly tells the story. It is a combination of the basement one story plan which gives good dining room and basement equipment, and yet complies with the one story regulations of some states for buildings that are not fireproof. This particular hall basement is 4 feet below ground, and 4 feet above grade line.

It is the home of a thriving young Grange and was built largely with donated labor. They own an acre lot with plenty of parking space. The photograph was taken before the sodding had been done. Landscaping and growing trees will greatly change the appearance. With the labor and lot donated, this property cost approximately \$2,500, about one-half the contract price to duplicate such a building.

#### Architect's Note

This Grange hall has a pleasing appearance, simple and well proportioned. Too much ornamental detail would be entirely out of place in an inexpensive building such as this. Only one thing is needed to make this Grange really attractive, and that is landscaping. A well cared for lawn with some shrubbery would work wonders.

The floor plans indicate that nothing but the absolute essentials have been provided. The kitchen could be separated from the dining room at little expense. If possible, the furnace should be enclosed by walls separating it from the dining room, keeping out the dirt and improving the looks of the eating place. Even in the most inexpensive building, there should be toilet facilities, and water. Greater safety, in case of fire, would be secured if another exit were provided at the rear.



*Meriden Grange Hall, Connecticut*

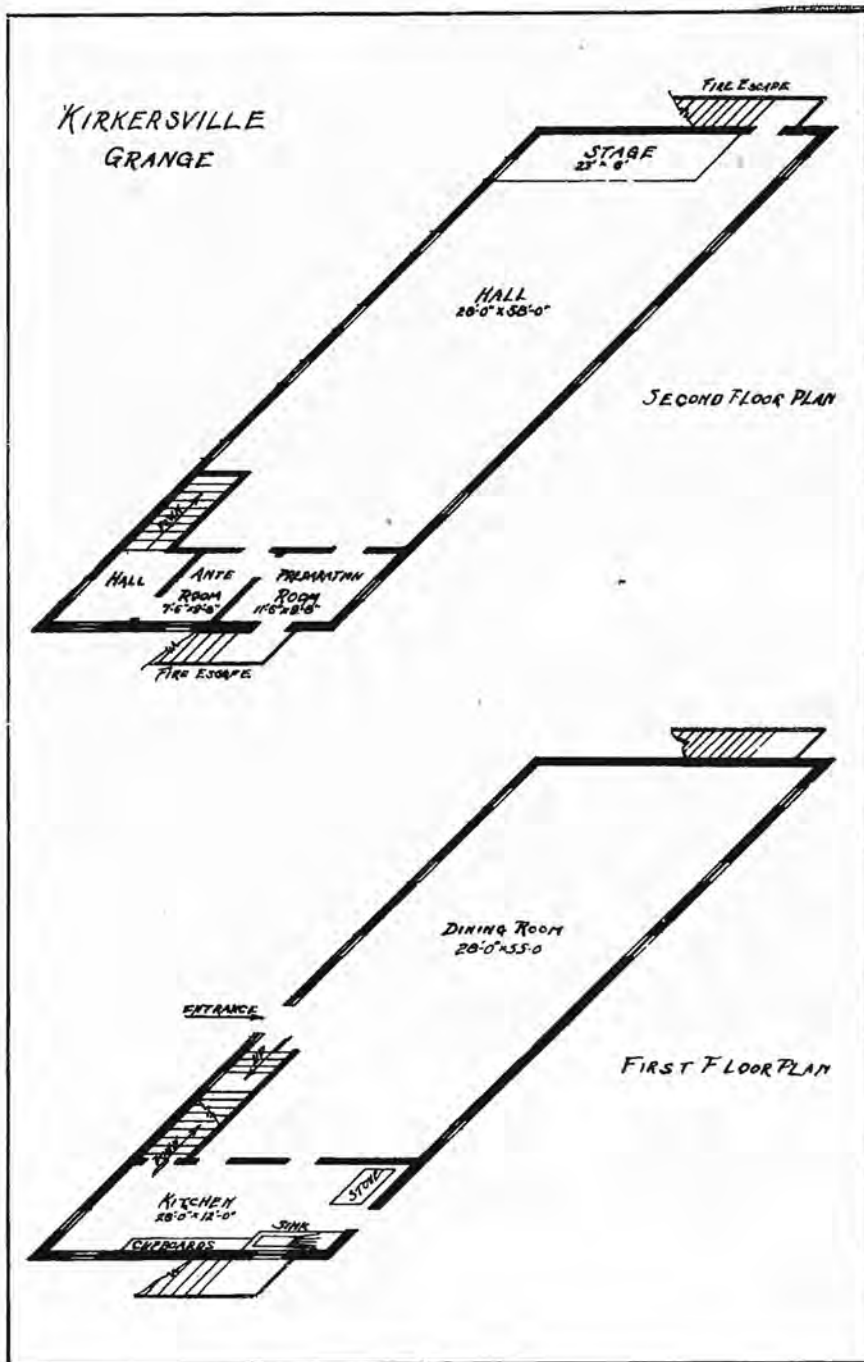
MERIDEN GRANGE HALL typifies the better grange halls that are being built in the United States. This new two-story building is built of wire cut brick with stone trim, concrete foundation, and is absolutely fireproof, and modern in every particular. It has a hot water heating system, and all modern plumbing and lighting conveniences.

Special attention is called to the large kitchen and good dining room equipment. As this Grange has approximately 400 members, this part of the hall is used a great deal. The auditorium has a good sized stage, well located. Although of fireproof construction, fire escapes have been added. This building stands on a large lot on the principal street of the city. It was constructed almost entirely on the contract basis. The total cost was well over \$20,000, but by careful financing, and sound management it has been possible to reduce the debt, and to meet all obligations promptly.

#### *Architect's Note*

This fine looking building deserves the very best landscaping that can be secured. Several properly placed trees would soften the sharp break of the roof line between the front part of the building and the large main roof, which, from the architectural viewpoint, is the only serious criticism that can be made.

The floor plans show ample exits and passageways and an excellent arrangement of rooms. By using steam or hot-water heating it has been possible to place the furnace in a corner of the basement entirely shut off from the dining room. The toilet provisions are worthy of favorable comment.



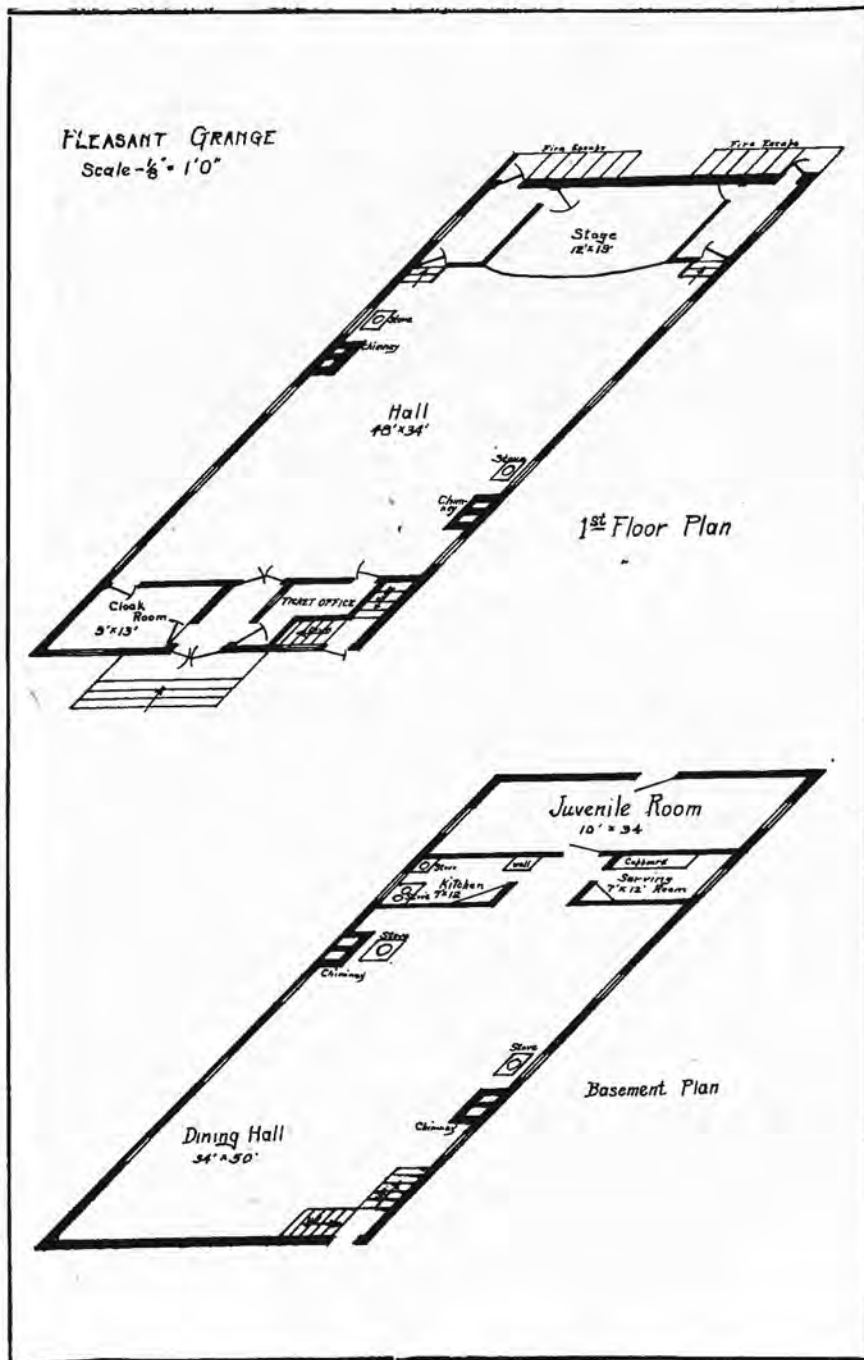
*Kirkersville Grange Hall*

KIRKERSVILLE GRANGE HALL indicates the possibility of reconstructing an old school building. The centralization of schools, the changing of the location of buildings, and different requirements and standards are placing much old school property on the market. A Grange frequently can buy an old school building at a small fraction of its replacement cost, and it is often possible to make it into an ideal Grange home.

A study of the floor plans and a glance at the photograph tell the story of how this particular Grange was able to secure a large school building with a very large lot, and convert it into a Grange Hall at approximately 20 percent of the replacement cost of ground and building. More than one Grange now owns its home because the members have seen the possibilities of an old school building or church.

*Architect's Note*

This is a good example of the first-class substantial construction that is often found in old buildings. The difficulty lies in adapting the existing arrangement (in this case a schoolhouse) to the needs of a Grange hall. If a toilet had been provided where the preparation room is now located, and a new preparation room partitioned off from the stairway across the large hall, the hall would be of more pleasing proportions and the building better adapted to caring for large crowds. With very little cost for making a lawn and planting some shrubbery, this building would become a source of greater pride to the community.



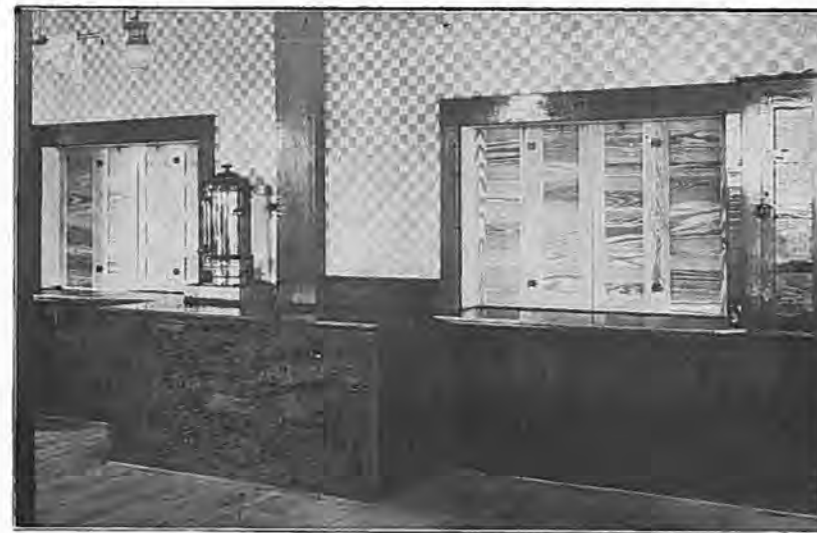
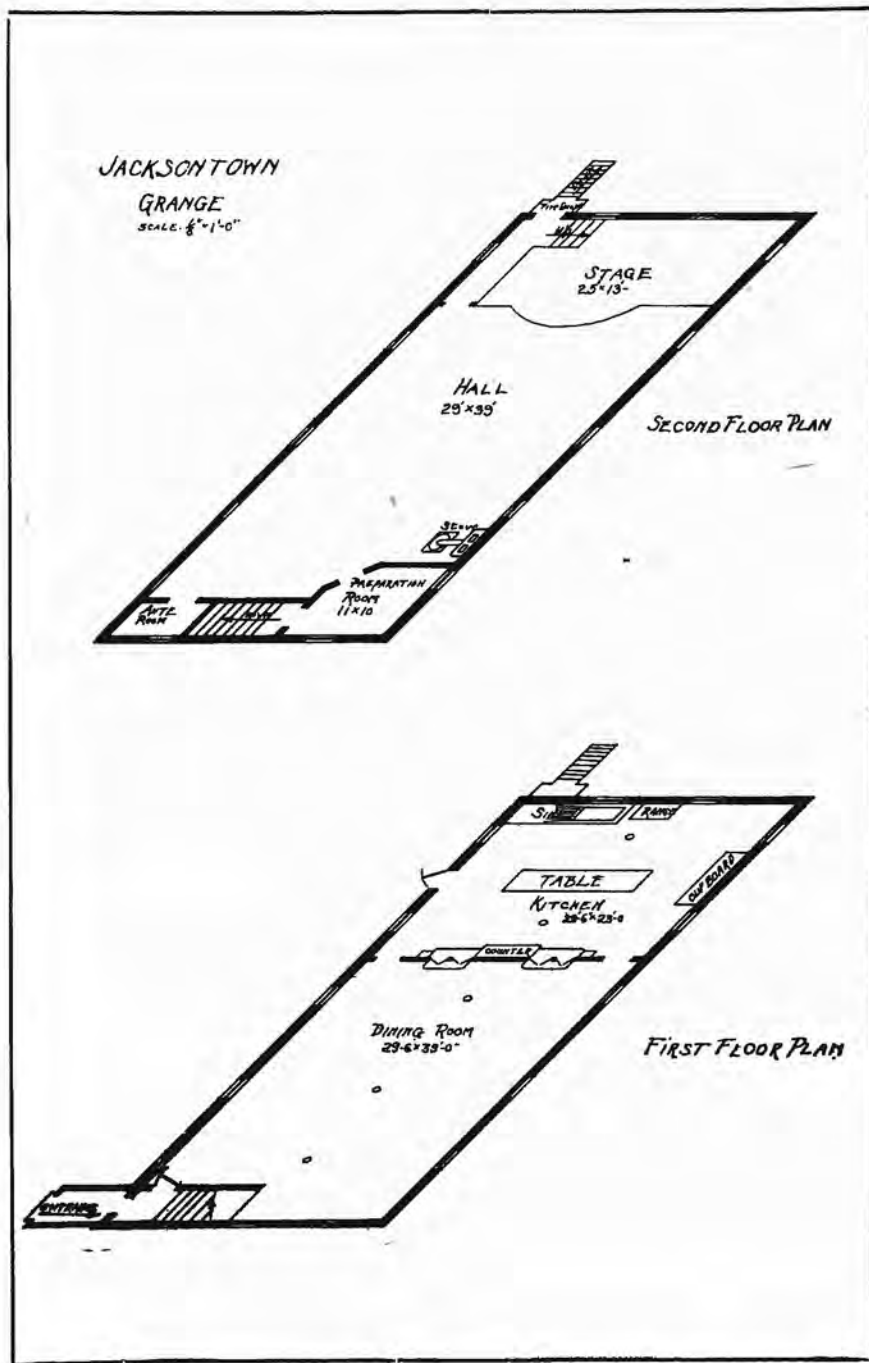
*Pleasant Grange Hall, Ohio*

PLEASANT GRANGE HALL.—We here have another example of a one-story type hall with basement. The foundation is of tile. The building presents a neat and attractive appearance, and was constructed at the minimum cost when the dimensions and type of construction are considered. Attention is called to the large juvenile room with a grade entrance so that the children need not in any way interfere with Grange meetings.

This hall was constructed in 1914 at an approximate cost of \$5,000. The replacement cost would be much greater today. This Grange hall provides the home not only for a large Grange, but an entire community as well.

#### *Architect's Note*

The buiding is most attractive in its simplicity and balanced proportions. However, it is in a location that is peculiarly difficult to beautify. But in spite of the small front lawn area, the building would be improved in appearance by planting appropriate shrubbery on each side of the stairway and making a well kept lawn on each side of the building. The only objections to the floor plans are the lack of toilet facilities and the heating arrangement. Small stoves placed in crowded rooms may cause more damage and loss than the extra expense of a single furnace in a fireproof room.



*Interior, Jacksontown Grange Hall*



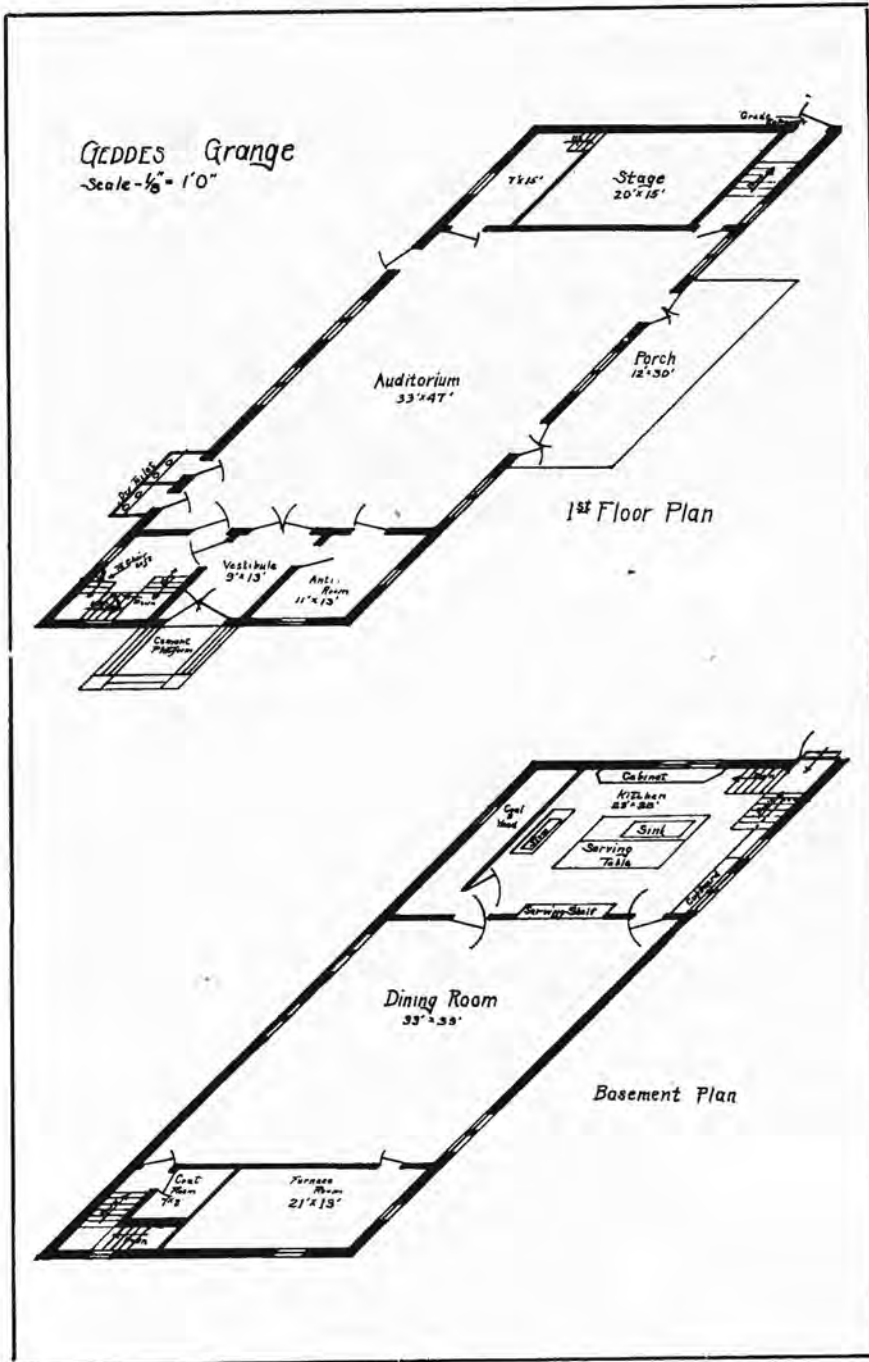
JACKSONTOWN GRANGE HALL is a remodeled school building, the home of an organization of approximately 300 members. The centralized school and township high school gave the Board of Education a frame building that they could not use. The Grange acquired the property and by careful reconstruction, provided a beautiful hall.

Special attention is called to the serving table shown in the photograph above, between the kitchen and the dining room. A capable sister on the building committee saw to it that when the remodeling was done, the kitchen and dining room conveniences were provided.

*Architect's Note*

Another example of the good construction and materials found in old buildings. The only thing that spoils the beauty of this structure is the fire-escape. Since this sort of fire protection must and should be provided, the only thing to do is to hide it with trees and shrubbery placed so that they do not interfere with the use of the fire-escape. The objections noted in other Grange halls about toilets and heating equipment apply to this hall. The unusually large kitchen is worthy of careful study. Some details of construction that are particularly good are shown.





*Geddes Grange Hall*

**GEDDES GRANGE HALL.**—A complete community home is in reality what the members of Geddes Grange of New York have built. They have not only provided a convenient and attractive interior, but the exterior is a pleasing design, and will, when landscaping is completed and the shrubbery has grown, have a most attractive appearance. This is a large Grange, with prosperous members.

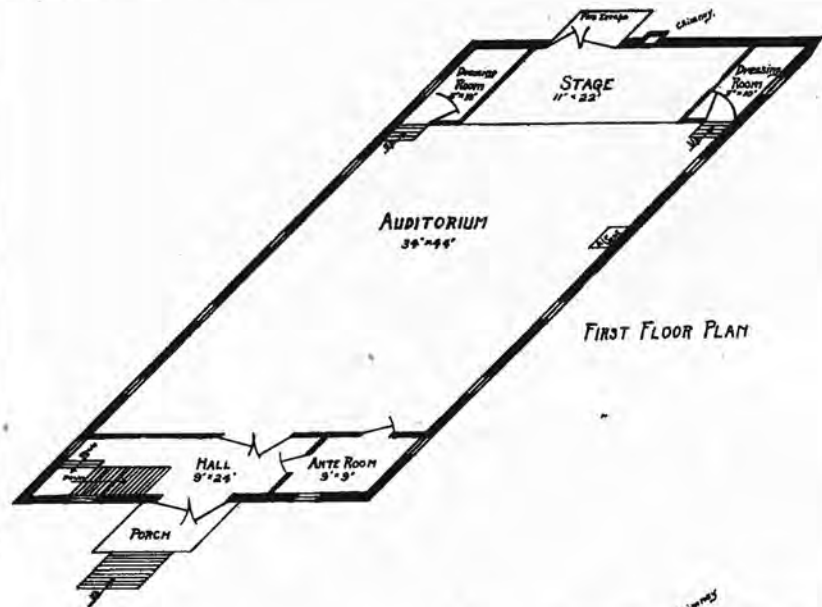
The kitchen is of unusual size and convenient in its arrangements. The serving table and doors swinging either way are conveniences worth considering. The stage is a little larger than is ordinarily needed, but provides all facilities for an entertainment and similar gathering. It will be noted that the end porch and front porch give special facilities for handling a large gathering. Patrons who visit this Grange have pronounced it one of the nicest and most convenient Grange and Community Homes they have ever seen.

#### *Architect's Note*

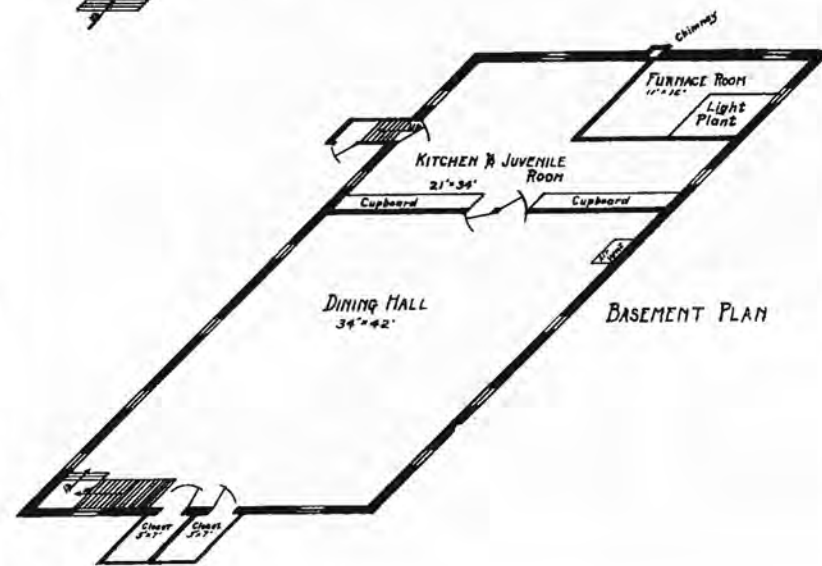
An excellent example of the possibilities of wood shingle construction. This is a very economical and attractive material that can be recommended where good fire fighting equipment is available, as, for instance, on the outskirts of a town having a good fire department. A little money spent on landscaping would make this a charming addition to any community. The floor plans cannot be criticized except the location of the toilets.

**BAUGHMAN GRANGE**

Scale:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'0''$



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT PLAN



*Baughman Grange Hall*

**BAUGHMAN GRANGE HALL.**—The above illustration shows the home of Baughman Grange in Wayne County, Ohio, and is a hall of which any Grange could be proud. It is constructed of wire cut brick, with concrete foundation, and has the size and convenience desirable for a Grange with a membership of from two to four hundred.

It will be noted that the kitchen is so constructed that it can also be used as a Juvenile room under certain circumstances. The hall is located in a prosperous farming section, is on a good road, and has many necessary conveniences that add to the comfort and happiness of the Grange. This hall cost approximately \$10,000, but its replacement value would be much greater at the present time.

*Architect's Note*

This building is noteworthy for its good lines and skillful use of materials, and especially for its pleasing setting. The advantages of shrubbery are evident, and a study of the picture should stimulate other Grange organizations to similar efforts at beautifying their Grange halls. No doubt this Grange will eventually plant vines or shrubbery around the covered entrance to the left of the kitchen to conceal it from public view. The floor plans indicate a well arranged hall.

The combination of kitchen and Juvenile room would seem impractical and the entrances to the toilets (under the porch) should be concealed by a partition or screen instead of opening directly into the dining room. It is interesting to note that this Grange provides a light plant in the furnace room, and also has a ventilating flue extending from the dining room, and auditorium, so that foul air can be removed from these rooms without depending on open windows entirely.



*An attractive location and landscape work would vastly improve this Grange*

The above Grange hall is a concrete block structure built by a prosperous Grange in the central states. It has a very attractive interior and is well suited for Grange work. The hall was erected largely as a result of contributions by the membership. The hall is located on a good road, in a splendid farming community. It is unfortunate that the architecture of this hall was not given more consideration.

#### *Architect's Note*

The problem here is to get rid of the box-like appearance of an otherwise excellent building. With a little extra labor a simple cornice could have been made along the top of the walls with ornamental cast concrete blocks at the corners. The porch could be extended across the entire front of the building and the porch roof likewise, while supporting columns of concrete blocks would make this porch look like a part of the building instead of a small shed.

Of course, the surroundings should be attractive, and special care should be given to conceal the rear of such a building. As it is, the first floor seems to be perched up on a temporary support because of the use of poured concrete for the basement walls and concrete blocks for the first story walls. Plant vines at the base of such walls so that when they grow they will cover the different materials and make them appear more attractive.

The only thing such a building as this needs is a few simple ornamental details and an attractive location. As it is in the picture it is too plain to be attractive, and the immediate surroundings are in such shape that not even the prettiest building would look attractive.



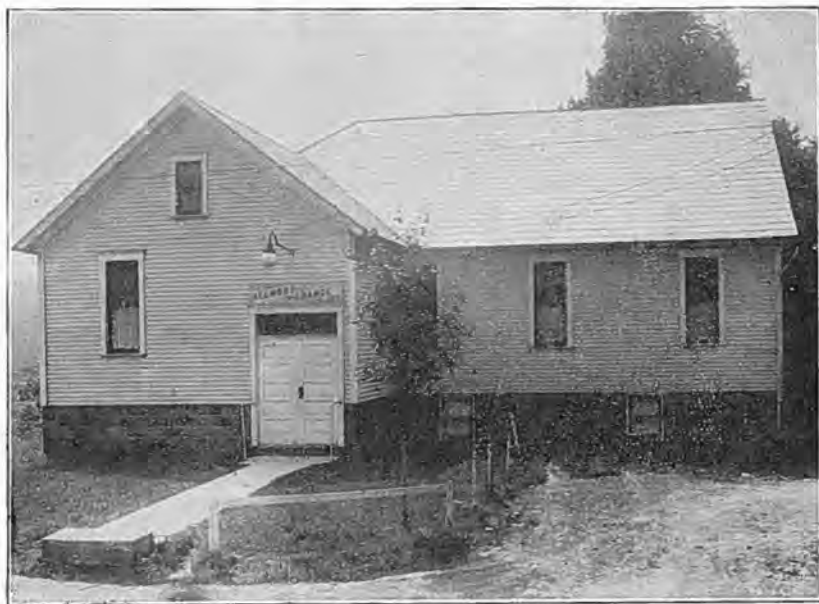
*Fruit Ridge Grange Hall, Michigan*

The above hall is the home of Fruit Ridge Grange in Michigan. This Grange was known throughout the country as the home Grange of George B. Horton, former High Priest of the Assembly of Demeter. This hall presents an attractive exterior and interior, and was built along lines to take care of the entire community needs of a growing and prosperous agricultural community.

#### *Architect's Note*

This building, with its numerous roofs and gables, could easily be remodeled into a most imposing structure by simplifying the roof lines. Such remodeling should not be considered, however, unless the expense of keeping the roofs in repair became excessive.

An interesting feature in this photograph is the old horse shed which is now used for garage purposes. Such a shed should be available near most Grange halls and, with a little care, it could be made to improve the looks of the entire building.



*Belmont Grange Hall, Ohio*

The hall of Belmont Grange indicates the possibilities of remodeling an old hall. Years ago the membership of Belmont Grange built a small building 20 by 40 feet. The lumber, the labor, and the material were all donated. The Grange grew rapidly and an addition was necessary. Consequently, by building in an "L" shape, it was possible to provide an attractive Grange home. Electric lights, good basement equipment, running water and toilet facilities, add to the comfort of this Grange.

*Architect's Note*

Attention should be given to the pleasing entrance at the ground level. A shed roof over this entrance would only spoil its appearance. Unless a good sized porch could be provided it is much better not to attempt a roof.



*Westfield Grange Hall, Pennsylvania*

Westfield Grange has an attractive home built of rejected paving bricks, which reduced the cost but in no way interferes with the attractive appearance of the completed building.

This hall has a very convenient and ample basement, and all necessary facilities for a modern and up-to-date Grange. If all Grange halls were as attractive as this one, we could all feel proud of our lodge homes.



*Wintersville Grange Hall, Ohio*

The Service Flag in front of Wintersville Grange Hall indicates that the photograph was taken during the war, and testifies eloquently to the number of young men and women that this community sent out to render service for their country.

This hall is of size and design well suited to the needs of a Grange desiring a home of moderate size, and at a cost within the reach of its membership.

The building and its surroundings are attractive not only because the building is of good design, but because everything is well cared for, clean, and evidently the pride of its members. Care is as important as design when it comes to a good looking Grange hall.



*Webster Grange Hall, Webster, N. Y.*

The illustrations indicate a Grange Hall of unusual size and facility. The exterior view above shows the main street entrance of Webster Grange, New York. This is a modern, up-to-date, three-story hall of large size, with all needed modern conveniences.

Webster Grange is one of the largest, if not the largest Grange in the United States, having over 900 members in good standing when these photographs were taken. The lodge room is on the third floor, if we count the basement with its up-to-date dining room and facilities as the first story. On the second floor is an auditorium with a moving picture outfit; while on the first floor, or basement, we find a very large dining room and modern kitchen conveniences. This Grange hall is entirely paid for and the membership look upon their hall as their community home.

For a large Grange hall, this building is apparently well designed, and with three floors and a big Juvenile room, it is possible to take care of the entire needs of its large membership, and be of great service to the community.



*Dining Room, Webster Grange Hall*

*Architect's Note*

A noteworthy feature of the dining room is the permanent table built around the supporting columns in the center of the room. This sort of arrangement makes full use of space that would be useless as a passageway. Attention is called to the fact that the photograph of the dining room indicates proper kitchen conveniences, ease in serving, as well as evidences of good plumbing and sanitation.



*Auditorium, Webster Grange Hall*