

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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MAY 15 1987

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name I.O.O.F. Temple Building other names/site number NeHBS # JF04-62

2. Location

street & number 523 "E" Street city, town Fairbury state Nebraska code 031 county Jefferson code 095 zip code 68352

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked), public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total 1. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. Signature of certifying official: James A. Hanson, Nebraska State Historical Society. Date: May 12, 1987.

In my opinion, the property meets (unchecked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: NA. Date: _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register (checked). determined eligible for the National Register (unchecked). determined not eligible for the National Register (unchecked). removed from the National Register (unchecked). other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper: Beth Grossman. Date of Action: 6/15/87.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestonewalls brick

roof asphaltother limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The I.O.O.F. Temple Building is located near the courthouse square in Fairbury, Nebraska, the county seat of Jefferson County. The two story commercial building was constructed in 1894-95 and represents a fine localized example of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. Of brick construction, the double store originally featured retail space on the first level with the Odd Fellows Lodge utilizing meeting hall space on second. Structural and historical integrity, for the most part, have been preserved. The rear (west) facade shows a small one-story brick addition (c. 1947). Modifications have occurred in the store-fronts and interior spaces on the street level. The second floor meeting hall space is in near original condition. This nomination includes one contributing building.

The I.O.O.F. Temple Building (Lodge #54) represents a fine commercial example of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. The two story double-store building, measuring 6 x 8 bays, is constructed of brick and has a flat roof with parapet walls capped with stone coping. Fenestration, for the most part, consists of round arched window openings of double hung sash with fanlights of divided panes above. The windows are crowned with concentric round-arched brick hoods with horizontal stringcourses joining the window units at the springing line and sill levels. The building also incorporates corner and wall pilasters and shows an abundance of brick corbelling near the roof line. A stone plaque, which states in relief, "I.O.O.F. Temple" is found on the main facade. At the sidewalk level, the store fronts (originally recessed with double door entries) have been modernized and utilize plate glass windows and a metal canopy.

The Temple Building is located one block north of the courthouse square. In the northwest corner of the building there is an entrance and stairway to the second story. The upper floor is divided into two areas, with the main room on the north measuring 32' x 66'. To the south is a banquet room which is joined to the main room by vertical sliding doors so that the two may be made into one. Convenient to the banquet room is a kitchen with

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two pantries. Aside from these there is an ante room, a reception room, a regalia room and a "team" room. The hall has a sixteen foot ceiling and is finished in hard pine and oiled. At the time of dedication on April 26th, 1895, the rooms were all supplied with incandescent lights. Around 1947, a small one-story brick addition was attached to the rear (west) facade of the bulding (see photo #'s 1 and 2).

The present owners are currently performing a certified rehabilitation on the building for use as professional and clinic office space: the second floor meeting space, which is now vacant, will be stabilized and maintained with tentative plans to eventually use the space for a variety of social activities. The glass bays over the years have been modernized (replaced), but are in the process of being converted back to the original design. One of the windows on the lower level facing 6th Street was changed to an entry, but it also is in the process of being bricked in to restore the appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1894-95

Significant Dates
1894-95

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Significant Person
NA

Architect/Builder
William Clifton

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

The Fairbury I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows) Temple Building is architecturally significant (Criterion C), on a local level, as a well-preserved commercial example of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture, a style which was evident in Nebraska during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The building incorporates characteristic features of the style including round arched window openings, brick corbelling, wall and corner pilasters and stringcourses. Historically, the building is associated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a fraternal organization instituted in Nebraska in 1855. The building served as the Odd Fellows Hall for the Fairbury community for almost 70 years. The period of significance is derived from the original construction date (1894-95) of the building.

The architectural evaluation of the I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellowship) Temple Building was made on a local level. The structure was identified and entered into the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey as a result of a National Register request made by the present owners who are in the process of performing a certified rehabilitation.

The building occupies the southwest corner of 6th and E Streets in the block directly north of the Jefferson County Courthouse (listed National Register of Historic Places, 11-27-72). Due to its substantial size and architectural design, the hall stands as one of the most prominent commercial buildings surrounding the courthouse square. Downtown Fairbury is comprised of one and two story buildings constructed of brick (or brick face) for the most part and incorporate design elements from various architectural styles, including Commercial Italianate, Renaissance Revival and Classical Revival. The Merchants Hotel building (NeHBS # JF04-56), a building comparable in

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Nebraska State Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is Lot 3, Block 18, Original Town of Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire town lot that has historically been associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Ackerman/Joni Gilkerson, technical editor and additions

organization Owners/Nebraska State Historical Society date April, 1987

street & number 1103 G Street/1500 "R" Street telephone (402) 729-2824/471-4767

city or town Fairbury/Lincoln state Nebraska zip code 68352/68501

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size to the hall and one which displayed round arched fenestration, was recently demolished. There is currently community interest in creating a downtown business historic district, centering around the Jefferson County Courthouse. The I.O.O.F. Hall would serve as a key anchor building in this potential historic district.

Architecturally significant, the Fairbury I.O.O.F. Temple Building represents a fine localized interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. In the state, the lodge hall stands as a well-preserved example of commercial architecture executed in the style, and remains as one of few recorded buildings displaying Romanesque Revival detailing in its design. The building incorporates characteristic features of the style-- its most obvious borrowing is the round-arched fenestration found, for the most part, in the upper story. Other features associated with the style include brick corbelling, wall and corner pilasters and horizontal stringcourses, all of which are displayed in the building's design.

The Romanesque Revival style was evident in Nebraska during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The style appears to have manifest itself primarily in religious (e.g. St. Bonaventure Catholic Church listed NRHP 10-19-82) and civic (e.g. Wayne County Courthouse listed NRHP 5-2-79) architecture in the state with only a small number of commercial buildings designed in the style. Commercial architecture, for the most part, in southeastern Nebraska (including Fairbury) consists of Renaissance Revival (Hooper Historic District listed NRHP 5-8-80), Commercial Italianate (Plattsmouth Main Street Historic District, listed NRHP 9-26-85) and Richardsonian Romanesque (National Bank of Ashland, listed NRHP 1-27-83) architecture. The Townsend photography studio in Lincoln (listed NRHP 12-20-84) is one other good representation of the Romanesque Revival style employed in commercial architecture.

As a property type, the I.O.O.F. Hall in Fairbury represents a good example of an I.O.O.F. Lodge Hall constructed during the late 19th century in Nebraska. These halls were designed to incorporate office and retail space on the lower levels, with the lodge hall occupying the top floor. The Fairbury lodge hall was one of the first substantial commercial buildings to be erected in Fairbury and remains today as one of the major structures in the downtown business area.

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Numerous I.O.O.F. lodge halls have been surveyed as part of the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey, including halls in Table Rock (NeHBS # PW08-19), Pawnee City (NeHBS # PW06-47), Geneva (NeHBS # FM05-58), Humboldt (NeHBS # RH04-30), Wood River (NeHBS # HL08-9), Harrison (NeHBS # SX04-9), and Falls City (NeHBS # RH03-77). All buildings display similar massing (two stories in height, with either single or double store frontage) and are identified with the initials "I.O.O.F." and/or symbols, e.g. three links, near the cornice line. Lodge Halls occupy the second level with retail space on first. Many of the buildings provide private access to the halls through separate entries. The Fairbury lodge hall is a good example of this, providing access to the second floor meeting space via the entry on the north facade in the rear bay (see photo # 2). The buildings represent a variety of architectural tastes including Commercial Italiniate and Renaissance Revival. However, the Fairbury Lodge Hall is the only known example recorded to date, of a Odd Fellows hall designed in the Romanesque Revival style.

Thomas Wildey, born in London, England in 1782, introduced Odd Fellowship into the United States. Washington Lodge No. 1 was organized in Baltimore on April 26, 1819. These early lodges, usually consisting of laborers, farmers and mechanics, formed to provide fellowship and mutual protection in times of distress. In Nebraska, the first lodge was instituted on May 28, 1855 in Nebraska City. Fairbury Lodge #54 was instituted on September 22, 1875 with Ira A. Gallup serving as Grand Master and Johns Evans serving as Grand Secretary.

In July of 1894, Articles of Agreement and Lease between Sarah Moulton and the Odd Fellows Lodge #54 were entered into the county records. Agreement between the two parties stipulated that Moulton would be responsible for the construction of "one story and the basement" and the Lodge "agrees to build at their own proper cost and expense all of the second story of said building." The contract for the building was let to William Clifton. On April 26, 1895 Fairbury Lodge No. 54 dedicated the new temple, assisted by members of the Grand Lodge and various surrounding lodges. That day marked the seventy-sixth anniversary of Odd Fellows in the United States. The Lodge utilized the second floor meeting hall for almost 70 years. The charter for Lodge #54 was arrested on December 21, 1964. The street level of the building has served a variety of commercial business over the years including a hardware store, furniture store and grocery business.

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"To the Citizens of Fairbury," **Fairbury Gazette**, Fairbury, Ne, April 27, 1895.

Whalen, William J. "Odd Fellows (Independent Order of Odd Fellows)," **Handbook of Secret Organizations**, The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, second printing, 1967, pp. 117-125.

Whiffen, Marcus. **American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles**, The M.I.T. Press, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 1969.