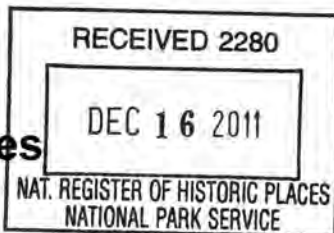


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1058

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name West Paris Lodge No. 15, I.O.O.F.  
other names/site number West Paris Historical Society

### 2. Location

street & number 221 Main Street

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

  
city or town West Paris  
state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04289

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Earle S. [Signature] JHPB 11/22/11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

[Signature] 1-22-12  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**WEST PARIS LODGE NO. 15, I.O.O.F.**  
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**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

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

None

**6. Function or Use**

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

SOCIAL / Meeting Hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Museum  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK  
                  GRANITE  
walls: WOOD / Weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: METAL/ Steel  
other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Narrative Description**

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

**Summary Paragraph**

The West Paris Lodge # 15, I. O. O. F. (also known as the Odd Fellows Lodge), is a two story, wood frame building in the small Oxford County town of West Paris, Maine. Located among a cluster of residential and civic buildings near the center of Main Street, the west facing lodge is situated between the former Methodist Chapel (1878) to the north and the 1893 Masonic Hall to the south.<sup>1</sup> The footprint of the gable fronted building is 36 feet 6 inches wide by 80 feet 6 inches long, with a one story shed roof addition, measuring 4 x 5 feet attached to the southeast corner. The building is centered on a flat rectangular lot, measuring approximately 98 by 60 feet. The westernmost 60 feet of the building comprises the original lodge, erected between 1876 and 1880. Two additional bays were added to the east end of the building, presumably in 1893/94, when a stage was constructed on the first floor. Stylistically, the building is Italianate, although it is a vernacular interpretation that shares stylistic details with numerous Italianate style houses in western Maine<sup>2</sup>. Straddling the ridge at the western end of the building, between the first and second window bay, is a slender, two-stage brick chimney. The gable roof features decorative cornice returns and the edges of the building are defined by slender corner boards topped with band moulding. Pairs of scroll brackets line the cornice above each of the window bays on the side elevations, as well as under the cornice return and along the rake and gable peak of the front elevation. White painted clapboards clad the building and contrast with the green decorative trim and stylistic features. The western three-quarters of the building rests on a granite foundation, while the rear portion is supported by brick; the corrugated metal roofing is similarly divided.

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**Narrative Description**

The main facade faces west and is four bays wide. On the first floor a two-leaf, four-paneled door with applied molding is positioned between a pair of large six-over-six sash with shutters and entablatured window heads. Over this main entrance is a wide door hood supported on scroll brackets. The fourth bay, located adjacent to the south edge of the facade, contains another four-panel door, with an entablature similar to that of the windows. There is a gradual wooden ramp with a wooden banister railing in front of this door, and an old, concrete apron, or deck, about 10 feet wide, spans the remainder of the facade and acts as a 'step' up to the building. On the second floor another pair of windows are set directly over the first floor examples; between the windows is a wooden shield featuring the I.O.O.F. icon of three links, followed by "I.O.O.F. West Paris Lodge, No. 15" divided on three lines. A joined pair of narrow four-over-four windows are set under the gable peak at attic level and resting on the window hood of this unit is a triangular sign with an attached rectangular plaque painted "1876". Over the single first floor door is a neat and modest painted sign reading "West Paris Historical Society".

The side elevations have a fenestration pattern of six equally spaced six-over-six, single-hung wooden sash windows on each floor. On the south elevation the westernmost bay on the first floor retains its original trim, but the sash has been removed and the opening filled with clapboards. The rear elevation contains two six-over-six sash windows on the second floor, and a single example under the gable peak and on the first floor. A shed-roof privy supported by a sheathing board enclosed foundation is affixed to the south edge of the west elevation. Above this a cast iron fire-escape leads from the southern second story window northward to grade.

The first floor of the Odd Fellows Lodge features a central entry vestibule, kitchen, dining room with stage, and stair hall. The vestibule has papered plaster walls, high plaster ceiling, a fir floor and a wall mounted, horizontal trim boards studded with coat hooks. A pair of four-panel doors lead eastward to the dining room; additional doors to the south and north lead to the staircase and kitchen, respectively. A small bathroom is located under the stair hall, as is the staircase to the basement. The kitchen occupies a former corner room as well as an almost equally sized space that was partitioned

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<sup>1</sup>The building is oriented square to the street, with the long ridge of the gable roof running northwest to southeast. For ease of description in this nomination the building will be referenced as if the ridge ran west to east.

<sup>2</sup>Randall H. Bennett notes the similarities between this building and the late Victorian homes of Western Maine in Oxford County, Maine, on page 501.



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off from the northwest corner of the dining room. The resulting kitchen is longer than it is wide. The northern half contains a sink and a line of cupboards and cabinets (both with attractive plywood veneer doors) and counter along the west and north walls, and a Round Oak "Chief" model cast iron, wood cook stove with six burners, a warming shelf and attached water closet. The southern half of the room contains a refrigerator, a built-in bead board pantry, a serving window, and door into the dining room. When this section of the room was constructed the height of the two partition walls was not extended to the dining room ceiling, thus there is an approximately two feet high air space between the ceiling of the kitchen and the ceiling of the dining room.

The dining room is finished with plaster walls and ceiling and hardwood floors. The trim around the windows and doors is made from flat stock, as is the chair rail. The walls and ceiling are papered and a paper border with gold leaf floral design, dating probably to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, is still affixed to the top of the walls. Painted onto the floors are a pair of shuffleboard courts; the northern court is partially obscured by the partition walls of the extended kitchen.

At the east of the room is the stage. The proscenium arch is slightly curved at the upper corners, and the only decoration is provided by small scroll brackets in the corners and flat stock trim. The apron front is clad with medium wide horizontal boarding. A pair of doors (at the top of four steps) are set into the stage wall and lead to the back stage area, where a several hand painted backdrops and wings remain in position, as does the hand painted theater curtain. A feature of note is a trap door in the floor of the stage which opens into the cellar below. The two-hole privy opens off the southeast corner of the back stage area.

There are no interior supports or posts in the room, rather the second floor is supported on a drop truss system with steel cables anchored to strong posts in the exterior walls. Massive girts run between the posts and a pair of wooden feet are bolted to each girt. The cable passes under the feet, and attaches to turnbuckles in the middle of the room. This assembly acts as a self supporting truss system and eliminates the need for interior supports. Also rising along the exterior north and south walls are a pair of heating chases clad with painted boarding. (These are not part of the truss system.) Furniture in the dining room include old plank tables with three-leg saw horse supports and several generations of wooden spindle back chairs marked "I.O.O.F." on the backs.

The second floor is accessed either directly from the exterior, through the single leaf door, or from the vestibule. The enclosed stair hall has two runs and a landing; at the top of the second run is a four panel door cut with a small hole near eye level. This "peep hole" is backed by a sliding panel operable from the interior side of the door. The only room accessed through this door is located essentially at the center of the west end of the building: two small storage closets are located along the north and south walls of the room and a built in closet is located on the north wall. On the south wall is a door to a second preparation room. Both of these rooms have hardwood floors and plaster walls and high plaster ceilings; window and door trim are made of flat stock. The door between this room and the meeting room has an ornate, cast metal peep hole. Lining the walls in the second room are portraits of the Odd Fellows 'Noble Grands' and other high echelon lodge officers. These portraits are examples of the many pieces of furniture and regalia that remain in the building, a condition of it's sale to the local historical society in 1986. A door in the north wall of this middle room leads to a long, narrow room lined with approximately 12 sets of numbered wardrobes, each constructed of horizontal boarding. The narrow closets on the south wall contain multiple coat hooks while those on the north wall are deep enough for coat hangers. One closet encloses an exterior window and another, free-standing, closet blocks a double door into the main hall.

Although the main hall or meeting room has conservatively appropriated plaster walls and ceiling, this was clearly the most important room in the building. The floor cover is leather, as are the ceremonial platforms that line each wall of the room. On the east and west ends of the room the platforms are two steps high (each step has brass nosing) and host a trio of quarter-sawn oak high back chairs and a podium. On the north podium is a leather bound 1877 Christian bible with a tooled leather cover stating "West Paris Lodge No. 15 I.O.O.F.". The platforms on the north and south walls are only one step high, but also host a high back chair located at the center of the wall. A pair of circular grates with pull chains in the form of three links are positioned in the ceiling, and the ornate standard of the lodge is framed against the west wall.

In 1986 the ownership of the West Paris Lodge No 15, I.O.O.F was transferred to the West Paris Historical Society. As referenced previously, the terms of the deed required the new owners to leave the ceremonial furniture and accessories in place. The Historical Society has installed free standing partitions on the floor of the meeting hall and use these "rooms" to display their extensive local collection of artifacts, art and photographs. The "rooms" are built of various materials, and are topped with 'ceilings' that are several feet below the ceiling of the meeting room, thus preserving the interior spatial volume.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1880 – 1961

**Significant Dates**

c. 1893-4

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Maxim, Silas P. (1827-1918)

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance encompasses the historic period during which the West Paris Lodge No. 15, I.O.O.F. occupied the subject building as their fraternal meeting hall. 1961 was chosen as the end of the period in recognition of the 50 year terminus generally required by the National Register. However, the property continued to be utilized by the Odd Fellows until 1986, when it was sold to the local historical society.

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

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

The West Paris Lodge, No. 15, I.O.O. F is a two story frame building containing a dining room, kitchen, stage and fraternal meeting rooms. The building is located on Main Street in the Oxford County town of West Paris, just a block from the center of town. Erected by the Lodge between 1876 and 1880, the handsome Italianate style building served as the meeting hall for the fraternal organization into the 1980s. It was also an important community venue for entertainment and recreation throughout its history. The West Paris Lodge, # 15, I.O.O.F is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A, for its long term association with the social history of the town, and under Criterion A as a good example of the type of quasi-public hall that was used by both a fraternal organization and the greater local community.

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

Until 1957 West Paris was one of the three principal villages in Paris, Maine. The village developed in the 1850s after the Atlantic and Saint Lawrence Railroad was laid out; the West Paris depot served Woodstock and West Sumner as well. The introduction of the railroad, as well as water power on the Little Androscoggin River encouraged the establishment of several manufacturing enterprises, including a corn canning plant, furniture making, wood products (clothes pins, bucket handles, pike poles, spools, wagons, and lumber), and shoes. Throughout the remainder of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a considerable residential, commercial, civic and manufacturing center developed in the village. In 1957 the village separated from the town of Paris and incorporated as the town of West Paris.

**Criterion C: Architecture:**

The Odd Fellows Lodge in West Paris is a prime example of a type of quasi-public building that was erected throughout Maine in the decades between the Civil War and World War I. These buildings served fraternal organizations, town governments, and local school systems; they hosted meetings and graduations, traveling performers and local talent and often were the site of family reunions, receptions, and graduations. Although no comprehensive study has been undertaken in Maine, state-wide observation coupled with the review of local directories, 19<sup>th</sup> century atlases, and town histories indicate that most towns or villages contained one or more public, quasi-public, or fraternal hall. Indeed, by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the presence of this type of hall, along with a church, a school and possibly a post office, appeared to elevate a cluster of residential properties from a cross-roads 'corner' hamlet to a village.

The impetus behind the construction of these multi-purpose halls varied, as did the composition of the ownership. Some halls were built by committee, such as the Band of Willing Workers in Clifton Maine, and supported by subscription. Others were built by towns, while others were erected by fraternal organizations. Frequently a hall would be raised through cooperative efforts. The Corinthian Hall in Corinth (NR: 7001446) was built by the town and the Odd Fellows; initially each owned one floor of the building. In Machiasport the town retained ownership of the entirety of Liberty Hall (NR: 77000089), but provided space for fraternal groups to use, including the Grange, and the Pocahontas and Redmen organizations. In Boothbay Harbor the Knights of Pythias built the large Pythian Hall (NR: 8001256) for their own use, but they also they rented a third floor meeting space to the local Masonic lodge, provided rooms for town offices and incorporated a large auditorium and stage. In rural Weld (NR: 7000597), the Masons constructed their hall in such a manner that they could operate a (movie) theater and public hall on the first floor, while in the coastal town of Brooklin the 1896 I.O.O. F. Hall (NR: 89002341) was designed to accommodate commercial uses on the first floor, community functions and theatrical productions on the second floor and lodge meetings in the upper story.

The public, quasi-public or fraternal halls shared several character defining features. At the heart of the building was at least one large room for meetings, functions, or dining and almost without exception adjacent to this was a kitchen. If a fraternal organization was an owner or tenant, there were one or more ante rooms or preparation rooms adjacent to the meeting room; sometimes these rooms were distinguished by 'peep holes' in the doors and wardrobes or clothes hooks lining the room's walls. If it was a two story building the public floor (usually the first floor) often contained a room for storing clothes and selling tickets through a small window. Most of the halls had stages; if the building was built for a Grange the stage was always attached to the meeting room. Generally there were no formal stages attached to the lodge rooms of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias or Masons; in these buildings the stages were attached to the public use rooms. Interior and exterior finishes varied from the ornate, such as found in Corinth and Machiasport, to relatively vernacular and utilitarian, as reflected by Cliffwood Hall in Clifton (NR: 8000666), but more often than not, these public halls were designed to attract patronage and generally reflected local stylistic trends. On the interior the meeting rooms of



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fraternal organizations were often adorned with ritualistic or iconic motifs associated with the organization, although the public spaces may have been more utilitarian.

Constructed in approximately 1880 by local builder and contractor Silas P. Maxim, the Odd Fellows Lodge is one of the town's largest and most architecturally significant remaining nineteenth century buildings. Located on the town's main street, the building is set between a small Gothic Revival chapel to the north and a mansard-roof Masonic Hall to the south. Across the road are vernacular, post Civil War frame houses (many featuring gable-front-and-wing massing, connected to gable front barns or carriage houses), as well as the castle-like Arthur L. Mann Memorial Library (NR: 88003016). The exterior of the Odd Fellows Lodge features heavy window and door hoods, elongated corner boards, widely overhanging eaves, cornice returns and scroll brackets under the eaves and rake – all stylistic features associated with Italianate architecture. The two-story building is similar in width and height to the neighboring structures, but at over eighty feet in length it is visually more prominent than the neighboring buildings. On the interior the first floor contains a vestibule, convenient kitchen, and large dining or assembly room with a stage at the far end. A secondary front entrance leads directly to the second floor, which served lodge functions and contained two ante rooms or preparation rooms, a room full of wardrobes and large meeting hall. The spatial organization of the second floor ensure that those who approach the meeting hall were vetted in several locations and the wardrobes were used to hold ceremonial clothing and offered a room in which to don the garments before passing into the lodge room.

A photograph in the collection of the West Paris Historical Society indicates that the current plan of the building is not original. Although the façade is the same, the image shows the building was only four bays long. Below the black and white picture is the caption "Old Masonic Hall in 1880. Now the Historical Society. Built by Silas P. Maxim." Close examination of the picture reveals that the triangular plaque set just below the peak of the façade wall featured an image that combined the compass, scale and capital "G" associated with the Free and Accepted order of Masons with the three-link motif that represents the Odd Fellows fraternal society.

In 1877, a year after the West Paris Lodge was chartered, the West Paris Odd Fellows Building Association purchased a lot on Main Street of 4980 square feet. The following year, the Masonic Granite Lodge, # 182, A.F. & A.M. was formed in West Paris and received its charter the next year. According to William B. Lapham and Silas P. Maxim's The History of Paris, Maine, this lodge originally met at Centennial Hall – a commercial hall in West Paris. There are no references in this volume to date the building of the Odd Fellows Hall, but the photograph suggests the building was completed by 1880 and housed both the Odd Fellows and the Masonic Lodges. In 1889 West Paris Odd Fellows Building Association sold the property to the West Paris Odd Fellows Lodge, and four years later the Odd Fellows purchased an additional 15 feet of land at the east end of their lot. According to Lapham and Maxim, the Masonic Lodge was built next door to the Odd Fellows Lodge in 1893. The two separate lodges (halls) are illustrated on the 1894 Sanborn Map of West Paris as is the two bay addition to the Odd Fellows building. Thus it is reasonable to date the current floor plan of the second story to changes and additions undertaken by the Odd Fellows in 1893/94, after the Masons moved out. Silas P. Maxim, the builder referenced on the photographic caption, lived in South Paris. Census records variously describe him as a builder, carpenter or farmer, he was also one of the author's of the History of Paris, published in 1884.

### Criterion A: Social History

Fraternal and sororal organizations, such as the Odd Fellows, Patrons of Husbandry, Order of Redmen, Knights of Columbus, Onward Rebekahs and Eastern Star, were voluntary, social clubs organized around shared beliefs, secular or religious, and bound by secretive rituals. The aim of each organization varied; for example the Grange focused on agriculture while the Sons of Temperance promoted sobriety and the Ancient Order of Hibernians gathered Catholic men of Irish descent. Many of the organizations were active in the community, and promoted social and religious morals and cultural values, or provided financial assistance or insurance to members. As such, they established cultural traditions and played a role in the social life of both their membership and the local communities.

The following excerpts from The Encyclopedia of New England contextualizes the social history of fraternal organizations like the Odd Fellows.

Although ceremonial forms and ritual practices define fraternal and sororal organizations, these activities represent only one facet of their institutional life. Social and recreational events have always been prominent features of fraternal and sororal culture. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, groups regularly sponsored banquets, dances, picnics, and evenings of amateur theatricals. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, bowling leagues and golf tournaments were added to the older forms of entertainment... New England's fraternal and sororal organization have a strong

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tradition of benevolence. Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century and during the antebellum period, charity was practiced informally within local groups. Financial support was extended to destitute members, their widowed spouses, and orphans, as local group finances allowed. After the Civil War, fraternal benevolence became systematized in two primary modes: some groups established institutions, often called "homes," to care for the needy... [other groups] established insurance or mutual benefit plans that made payments when members became ill or died. (White, p. 498-499.)

In the era of small district schools which generally lacked stages or auditoriums, fraternal halls offered a site for community events, including graduation ceremonies, and school plays, as well as in some instances basketball games, and perhaps shuffle board. In 1893 the Odd Fellows purchased an additional 15 feet at the east end of their lot; presumably it was at this point that the two eastern bays and the stage were added to the building. Handbills displayed on the walls of the museum illustrate the use of the building, "Dunham's Orchestra of South Paris, Monday Eve April 2<sup>nd</sup>", as do autographs on the back stage walls "Geo. M. Bragg, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1940".<sup>1</sup> According to record books remaining in the hall, in 1928 the tenth annual banquet of the West Paris Alumni Association was held at the lodge, where "supper was served by Onward Rebekah Lodge at seventy-five cents a plate."<sup>2</sup> Another ledger stored in a cupboard in the hall records the bylaws and establishment of the local Grange Library in 1894, suggesting that, if the Grange did not meet in the lower hall, they may have used a portion of the space as a library.<sup>3</sup>

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

Along with the I.O.O.F., there were several other Fraternal societies in West Paris in the late nineteenth century. The Granite Lodge, # 182 A.F. and A.M. (Masons) was formed in 1878 and chartered the following year.<sup>4</sup> Both the Masons and the Odd Fellow Lodges supported sister organizations for women, the Eastern Star and the Rebekahs respectively, and each had a branch in West Paris. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century the village had an active Grange (Patron of Husbandry), and the Maine Register also recorded the presence of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the International Order of Good Templars, and the United Order of the Golden Cross in West Paris.

The focus of the I.O.O.F. fraternal organization was generally conducting charitable and benevolent acts aimed towards their members and the community in general. According to Theodore Ross, who wrote a history of the organization in 1888, "the main objects of Odd Fellowship are to afford mutual relief and protection for its members in times of want, distress, danger or difficulty; to cultivate social relations among its members; teach them to be industrious and frugal; inculcate correct moral principles; and increase, by the practice of charity, their love for their fellow man." (Ross, p. 3). The Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows was established in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the first American chapters were organized in Baltimore in 1819. In 1843 the American chapter separated from the parent organization and took the name Independent Order of Odd Fellows. By the time the West Paris Lodge was established it was the 94<sup>th</sup> (approximately) subordinate lodge in Maine. That the West Paris Lodge was given the number "15" reflects the fact that the fifteenth lodge, originally the Passagassawakeag Lodge in Belfast, had surrendered their charter in 1856.

In 1880 the ritualistic work of the I.O.O.F underwent a revision which collapsed six levels of degree work (instruction and achievement based on Christian biblical morals) into four degrees at the local, or subordinate lodge level, and three conferred at the Encampment, or upper level of the association. Each of the degrees was represented by one or

<sup>1</sup> The Sept. 25, 1943 edition of *The Billboard* (the magazine later known just as *Billboard*) wrote this of Bragg: "George M. Bragg is playing week stands in halls in Maine with his Texas Cattle King Show, a family unit. They do a variety of acts, changing nightly and work without movies." (Page 27.) Bragg's signature appears on the back stage walls of many of the halls in Maine that the author has visited.

<sup>2</sup> (West Paris Alumni Association Records, West Paris Historical Society Collections)

<sup>3</sup> One built in cupboard in the dining room contains a significant amount of Grange materials from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. According to the second volume of the History of Paris the Grange met at Centennial Hall in West Paris (no longer extant) before building their own structure in 1914. Grange records, also published in this history, indicate that in 1906 the Grange contemplated buying the Odd Fellows Hall, but did not do so.

<sup>4</sup> On Paris Hill (another village of the town of Paris) a Masonic Lodge existed between 1807 and 1830, and in 1858 the Paris (South Paris) Lodge was organized in 1858, and is still in existence.



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more emblems: the all seeing eye, (Initiation, or mortality); the bundle of sticks and arrows (First Degree, or Friendship); the heart-in-hand (Second Degree, or Brotherly Love); and the scales and sword, hourglass and scythe, and the Holy Bible (Third Degree, or Covenant). The three principal virtues of Odd Fellowship – friendship, love and truth are represented by three interlocked links. The position of the raised platforms at the ends and sides of the room, the peep holes in the doors, and even the colors used on the walls all represent standard elements of I.O.O.F ritual and belief.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Deeds, various years. Oxford County Registry of Deeds, Oxford County Courthouse, South Paris, Maine.

Lapham, William B. and Silas P. Maxim. History of Paris, Maine (New England History Press, Somersworth, NH), Facsimile edition, 1983. Originally published in 1884 by the authors.

Maine Register, State Year-Book and Legislative Manual. (Portland, Maine: Greenville M. Donham), various years, 1887 - 1954.

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Paris Cape Historical Society. Paris, Maine: The Second Hundred Years. (South Paris: Paris Cape Historical Society), 1994.

Ross, Theodore. Odd Fellowship: Its History and Manual. (New York: M.W. Hazen Company), 1888.

Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Limited. "West Paris, Oxford Co., Maine". August 1894. (New York.) Microfilm copy on file at the Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine.

Varney, George J. A Gazetteer of the State of Maine. (Boston: B.B. Russell), 1882.

West Paris Alumni Association Records, West Paris Historical Society Collections, West Paris, Maine.

White, Barbara A., section editor, *Gender*, in The Encyclopedia of New England, Burt Feintuch and David H. Watters, eds. (New Haven & London: Yale University Press), 2005.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**10. Geographical Data**

WEST PARIS LODGE NO. 15, I.O.O.F.  
Name of Property

OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE  
County and State

**Acreage of Property** 15/100  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 374532 4908951  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the subject property are depicted on the Town of West Paris tax map # 6, lot 24.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This small lot represents the totality of two parcels, purchased in 1889 and 1893 by the West Paris Lodge, I.O.O.F. and on which their meeting facility was erected c. 1880.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Christi A. Mitchell, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 21 October 2011  
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 287-2132 x 2  
city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333-0065  
e-mail christi.mitchell@maine.gov

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

**WEST PARIS LODGE NO. 15, I.O.O.F.**  
Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE**  
County and State

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

**Name of Property:** West Paris Lodge # 15, I.O.O.F

**City or Vicinity:** West Paris

**County :** Oxford **State:** Maine

**Photographer:** Christi A. Mitchell

**Date Photographed:** September 27, 2011

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 1 of 6.** ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_WEST PARIS LODGE #15, I.O.O.F\_0001.TIF  
Primary façade; facing east.
- 2 of 6.** ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_WEST PARIS LODGE #15, I.O.O.F\_0002.TIF  
South elevation; facing west northwest. Note the change in foundation material between bays four and five.
- 3 of 6.** ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_WEST PARIS LODGE #15, I.O.O.F\_0003.TIF  
Interior, first floor dining room; facing southeast toward the stage.
- 4 of 6.** ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_WEST PARIS LODGE #15, I.O.O.F\_0004.TIF  
Interior, second floor hall. I.O.O.F furniture on raised platform; facing northwest.
- 5 of 6.** ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_WEST PARIS LODGE #15, I.O.O.F\_0005.TIF  
Interior, second floor hall looking through to the second floor anterooms; facing west.
- 6 of 6.** ME\_OXFORD COUNTY\_WEST PARIS LODGE #15, I.O.O.F\_0006.TIF  
Interior, second floor hall with free standing display partitions and raised side platform; facing east.

**Property Owner:**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: West Paris Lodge No. 15, I.O.O.F.

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, Oxford

DATE RECEIVED: 12/16/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/11/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/26/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/31/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11001058

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1.27.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



WEST PARIS LODGE # 15, I.O.O.F.; OXFORD CO., ME



WEST PARIS LODGE # 15, I.O.O.F.; OXFORD CO., ME





W. PARIS LODGE # 15, I.O.O.F. ; OXFORD CO., ME

30F6



W. PARIS LODGE # 15, I.O.O.F.; OXFORD CO., ME 4066



every FRIDAY 7:00pm



W. PARIS LODGE #15, I.O.O.F; OXFORD CO., ME 5046





W. PARIS LODGE # 15, I.O.O.F.; OXFORD CO., ME

60F6





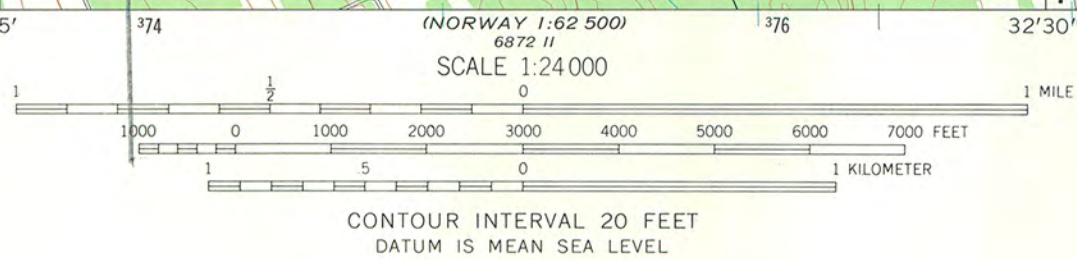
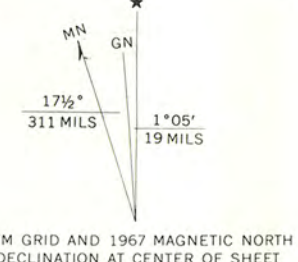
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1967

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Maine coordinate system, west zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route	

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WEST PARIS, MAINE  
SE/4 BRYANT POND 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4415—W7030/7.5

1967

AMS 6872 I SE—SERIES V811