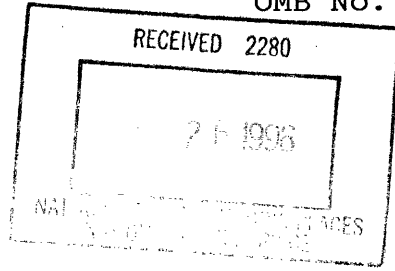


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Elks Lodge No. 1353

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 108 East Seventh Street not for publication N/A
city or town Casper vicinity N/A
state Wyoming code WY county Natrona code 25 zip code 82601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John J Keck _____ Date 11/13/96
Signature of certifying official

State Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A *see page 2

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Social Sub: meeting hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Social Sub: meeting hall

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Second Renaissance Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation poured concrete
roof poured concrete deck; tar and gravel
walls brown face brick and cream/beige terra cotta
other _____

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

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance 1922-1946

Significant Dates 1922, 1936

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Architects: Garbutt, Arthur; Weidner, Charles T.;
Sweeney, James P.; George W. Cottrell-stonework;
Lloyd Building Company - cement work

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

See Continuation Sheets for continued bibliography

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>13</u>	<u>391800</u>	<u>4744100</u>

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

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

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Robert G. Rosenberg, Historian
organization Rosenberg Historical Consultants date July 31, 1996
street & number 739 Crow Creek Road telephone (307)632-1144
city or town Cheyenne state WY zip code 82009

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 1353
street & number 108 East 7th Street
telephone (307) 237-2432
city or town Casper state WY zip code 82601

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Elks Lodge No. 1353
Natrona County, WY (Page 7)

=====
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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Elks Lodge No. 1353
Natrona County, Wyoming

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7. Description

Elks Lodge No. 1353, located at 108 East 7th Street in Casper, was constructed by the prominent architectural firm of Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney during the 1920s oil boom in Casper. It is a two-story brick building with distinct horizontal divisions utilizing pronounced terra cotta belt courses. The first and second stories are articulated differently with rectangular-shaped street level windows and contrasting round arched second story windows. The building is also crowned by an enriched projecting cornice. These elements are representative of the Second Renaissance Revival architectural style. It occupies a corner lot; to the south is an open park, and across South Center Street to the west is St. Anthony's Catholic Church, another impressive edifice designed by Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney. These two buildings dominate the streetscape in a transitional area where the south edge of the downtown commercial district gives way to residential neighborhoods.

The building is rectangular in shape (138'E-W x 57'N-S) and occupies a corner lot. The south and west sides that face East 7th Street and South Center Street respectively are finished in brick with terra cotta trim. The bricks are laid in a Flemish bond, and the color of the brick consists of shades of brown that range from a light cream to a dark reddish-brown. However, the east and north sides are merely finished in red brick without terra cotta embellishment. The building rests on a concrete foundation with a full finished basement. The walls are constructed with 8" concrete block with 4" face brick. The building has a flat roof with steel beam framing, a poured concrete roof deck and built-up tar and gravel roofing. The floors are constructed with reinforced concrete covered with quarry tile and carpeting.

The facade or south side of the building contains the main entrance, which consists of a terra cotta round arched portal with enriched archivolt and fan light. The building originally had iron grilled doors that have been replaced with double-leaf glass and aluminum doors. The legend "BPOE 1353" is incised in terra cotta above the doors. A terra cotta balcony with balustrade supported by brackets is centered above the portal. There is a metal canopy over the entrance that extends to the curb and is a recent addition. The basement windows are above ground level but appear to have been filled in with brick. The first floor windows on the south side are regularly spaced rectangular-shaped units located above a highly decorative

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terra cotta water table. Each window bay has a brick lintel and decorative terra cotta lugsill that simulates a flower box. Each window bay is filled with a four-light window and three-light transom with metal sash. The second story is physically divided from the street level by a decorative terra cotta belt course. The second story window bays are regularly spaced and consist of round arched windows with terra cotta moldings encrusted with trailing floral motifs. There is a recessed terra cotta panel below each window with an urn depicted in low relief. The two windows on the east and west ends of the south side are six-light units with metal sash. The round arch portion of the window is separated by a decorative terra cotta horizontal element and is filled with five lights and metal muntins that repeat the arch motif. The horizontal terra cotta element is replaced with twin metal muntins in the six intervening second story windows in the south side. There is a small terra cotta medallion centered above each second story window arch. A bracketed projecting cornice of marble and terra cotta crowns the south side wall. There is a terra cotta diamond design repeated between each bracket of the cornice.

The west side of the building is much narrower than the facade but is finished in a similar fashion, except that the center first story window has been filled in with glass brick and has a louvered metal ventilator above it. Also, all of the second story windows contain a horizontal terra cotta element that separates the rounded arch from the lower portion of the window. Finally, there is a large vertical metal sign suspended from the west side of the building near the southwest corner bearing the legend "BPOE 1353" that was added at a later date.

The finished portion of the building with brown brick facing and terra cotta trim continues for a short distance on both the east and north walls, which are unfinished. As a result, all of the building corners except the northeast corner have terra cotta molding with gracefully curving foliage and repeated urns and vases.

The south end of the east side of the building continues the facing of the south elevation and has one window bay on the first and second stories. However, the second story window is filled in with brick that matches the rest of the facing, and it appears that it never was fitted with lights and sash. The remainder of the south side is finished in red brick. There are no basement windows above grade, and the water table is delineated with a

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brick belt course. In this red brick portion, there are two first story windows that are the same as those of the facade, except that they have brick lintels and sills; a third window has been bricked in. There is a metal service door set in the wall just below window level near the northeast corner. There are four round arched window bays in the second story of the red brick portion, but three are filled in with brick. The second bay from the south edge of the red brick portion has two multi-light windows with metal sash that was probably added at a later date and only partially fills the original bay. The east wall is crowned with a corbelled brick cornice capped with terra cotta.

The west end of the north side of the building also has a finished portion with brown face brick and terra cotta trim that contains one window bay on the first and second stories. The finished portion has a basement window, terra cotta water table, and a first story window that has been modified to a small rectangular three-light window with metal sash. The second story window and cornice are the same as on the west and south sides. The terra cotta geometric pattern in the cornice area is most easily viewed in this segment. The remainder of the north side of the building consists of plain red brick walls. The first and second story window bays have similar proportions and spacing as the west and south elevations, except that several of the first story windows have been modified or bricked in. There is also a small flat-roofed brick addition of more recent origin that contains an entrance to the basement. There is a metal fire escape leading to a metal door in the second story and a metal air conditioning unit mounted on the north wall. The second story windows continue the rounded arch motif with metal sash but are devoid of terra cotta trim. It appears that one of the windows was modified to create a second story exit to the fire escape, and there are no round arch windows east of this exit in the north wall. There is a narrow brick exterior chimney located east of center that extends from ground level to just above the roofline. Finally, the top of the elevator shaft can be seen as a flat-roofed brick enclosure extending above the roofline at the northeast corner of the building.

According to early descriptions, the interior of the building originally consisted of a banquet room in the basement with adjoining serving rooms, dish closets and kitchens. A dumb waiter connected the downstairs serving rooms with a lunch room on the first floor. The basement also contained janitors quarters, locker rooms, shower rooms and a gymnasium. The main

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entrance on the first floor led into a vestibule of marble and "caen" stone with terazzo floors. From there a large lobby and corridors led into the first floor rooms. The architecture of the lobby and corridors was described by contemporaries as "the Spanish style." The corridor to the left led to a billiard room in the "English" style with rough hewn beams and high paneled walls with wainscotting. There was also a lounge with a fireplace in the "Italian renaissance" style with toilet rooms intervening between the lounge and billiard room. There was a ladies' dining and lunch room directly off the lobby furnished in the "Adams" style. There was a dining room and card room for men at the end of the right corridor finished with low beams and grotesque figures. The first floor also had telephone booths and a secretary's office. There was also a refreshment stand and cigar and candy booths adjacent to the men's dining room.

The current layout of the basement consists of a banquet room with an adjoining kitchen, small weight room, rest rooms, and storage. However, the basement was renovated in 1993, and all the rooms have been completely remodeled with suspended tile ceilings and new paneling, and there are no original materials or architectural elements. The first floor layout consists of a set of steps leading upward from inside the street entrance to a security door that can only be opened by member cards. This door opens onto an east-west oriented main hallway. A bar/lounge area with music stage at the west end is located directly north of the entrance across the hallway. To the right or east, there is a billard room with dark vertical wood paneling. This room also has a suspended ceiling with acoustic tile. The next room east is a card room. To the left or west of the lobby entrance is the secretary's office. The next room on the left is the Abby Brooks Nichols Room or Library Room, which has a fireplace, shelves, tables and chairs. This room has also been remodeled with a suspended acoustic tile ceiling. The west end of the hallway has a set of stairs leading to the second floor.

Originally, stairs led to the second floor where the lodge rooms, dance hall, and stage were located. A ballroom, 54 feet by 86 feet, was finished with a highly decorative frieze. Anterooms on either side of the stairs leading to the dance hall were used for dressing rooms. There was reportedly a stage at the back of the building with a stage floor 26 feet by 37 feet.

The second story now consists of a large ballroom or auditorium with the original hardwood floor, which was refinished in about 1990. The walls are

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plastered, and it appears that although the ceiling is at its original height, it has been replastered and new light fixtures have been installed. The decorative frieze is no longer evident. There is a raised platform at the east end that serves as a stage, but it does not appear that a formal stage was ever built. The west end of the second story also has restrooms that were originally the dressing rooms.

In conclusion, although the general layout of the interior is roughly the same as originally conceived, there are few original architectural elements or materials remaining on the interior due to extensive remodeling.

Overall, the exterior of the Elks building remains nearly pristine with only minor changes, and it is in excellent physical condition.

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8. Significance

The Elks Lodge No. 1353 was constructed from 1920-1922. The architectural firm of Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney was hired to design the new Elk's Lodge building. Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney was the pre-eminent architectural firm during Casper's oil boom period and from 1914 to 1925 designed fifteen schools and over fifty homes and commercial buildings, including the Townsend Hotel, Con Roy Building, Tribune Building, the Casper Fire Station, Wyoming National Bank Building, Tripeny Building, and Natrona County High School. The firm designed the Elks building in an architectural style described by contemporaries as "Italian Renaissance." Indeed the building has several elements of the Second Renaissance Revival, including a distinct horizontal division between the first and second stories utilizing a prominent terra cotta belt course. Also, the two floors are articulated differently and the building features an enriched projecting cornice. The rich terra cotta embellishments are a trademark of Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney designed buildings. The Elks Lodge represents one of this firm's finest buildings, and it has retained excellent physical integrity with few exterior modifications. It is also located in an area that has retained its early twentieth century setting with a city park to the south and Saint Anthony's Catholic Church, another fine building designed by this firm, located to the west across South Center Street. Therefore, the Elks Lodge building is eligible under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture as an outstanding example of Second Renaissance Revival architecture and as the work of a master architect, Arthur M. Garbutt.

Casper was a railroad town created in 1888 when the Chicago and North Western Railroad extended its line westward from Nebraska and built up the North Platte River Valley through Douglas and Glenrock. At first the ranching-oriented town grew slowly, and the census counted only a thousand people by the turn of the century. However, the commercial production of oil in the area in the 1910s and 1920s quickly changed the character of the Casper community. The great Salt Creek Oil Field, located about fifty miles north of Casper, was extensively developed after 1910. Casper was strategically located as the nearest railhead to the field, and it became the major oil shipping point. Refineries and tank farms were built at Casper, and a system of pipelines was laid connecting them to the field. The Midwest Refining Company and Standard Oil Company of Indiana invested heavily in the field and assured a bright future for Salt Creek. As a result of these developments, the city of Casper experienced an oil boom period that began in 1913-14 and continued well into the next decade. The major oil concerns established

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their headquarters in Casper, providing employment and injecting capital into the local economy. The population multiplied, and prosperity accelerated community expansion and the construction of buildings.

The Casper Elks Lodge, B.P.O.E. No. 1353, was granted its charter on July 8, 1918, by Grand Exalted Ruler Bruce A. Campbell of East St. Louis, Illinois. The Casper Lodge was installed by the officers of Cheyenne Lodge No. 660. The new lodge had a charter membership of sixty. The first officers were A.E. Stirrett, Exalted Ruler; W.W. Keefe, Esteemed Leading Knight; Arthur M. Garbutt, Esteemed Loyal Knight; Edward J. Schulte, Esteemed Lecturing Knight; Robert Cohen, Secretary; W.J. Chamberlain, Treasurer; C.W. Thomas, Tyler; A.E. Wallace, Chaplain; N.F. Castle, Inner Guard, and Gus F. Bell, Esquire. The Board of Trustees were M.P. Wheeler, Oscar Hiestand, and Jeremiah Mahoney. Meetings were first held in the Odd Fellows Hall until the new Elks Lodge building was completed.

The Order of Elks was formally organized on February 16, 1868, in New York City. The full corporate name is Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America. Its declared purpose is to practice the cardinal principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Membership in the Elks is open to "citizens of the United States, not under twenty-one years of age, who believe in the existence of God, who subscribe themselves to the objects and purposes of the Order and who have been duly initiated in a Subordinate Lodge." In addition to social activities, the Elks have a program of youth activities including college scholarship funds, grants for higher education to children of deceased Elks, scouting, athletics, leadership recognition and annual Youth Week programs. They also participate in community improvement activities, charitable programs, sponsoring shows, and entertainment for disabled veterans in V.A. hospitals. The Elks also operate numerous hospitals, clinics, and training centers and schools for children afflicted with cerebral palsy. In addition, each subordinate lodge is allowed to decide what charitable and benevolent projects it will sponsor. The Elks also pioneered the observance of June 14th as Flag Day in 1907.

In October 1920, the local newspaper reported that the building committee of the Elks Lodge No. 1353 had accepted the plans of Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney for a new building to be located at the corner of East Seventh Street

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and South Center Street. The cost of the new building was estimated at \$100,000, a considerable sum in 1920, and it is evident that the Elks were reflecting the overall optimism of the Casper community at the height of the oil boom. Construction of the basement and cement work began on October 23 and was contracted to the Lloyd Building Company. Construction continued through the spring and summer of 1921. On August 23rd, the local newspaper reported that work had resumed after a five or six-week delay due to the absence of terra cotta tiles. A Denver firm had been contracted with for the terra cotta, and flooding in the area had damaged its kilns. However, two carloads of terra cotta had arrived at Casper that day so that construction could be resumed. The article also stated that George W. Cottrell had the contract for the granite, brick, and terra cotta work on the Elks Building.

By late September 1921, the newspaper reported that the exterior of the building would be finished in a few weeks, and that interior work would be done over the winter months. The lodge rooms were to be finished first so that meetings could be held in the new building. Finally, on March 17, 1922, the Casper Elks celebrated the opening of the new lodge building with an initiation of a large class, installation of officers, a business program, entertainment, and a midnight dinner. The Elks held a minstrel show in their new home in May in the 900-seat auditorium.

The total cost of the Elks Building ranged from \$100,000 to \$200,000 as reported in the newspapers. Since the lodge was forbidden by charter to incur any debts, the financing was handled by a separate corporation known as the Casper Elks Home Association. Directors of this group were A.E. Stirrett, H.J. Patterson, John Byrne, A.M. Garbutt, W.W. Keefe and L.G. Murphy. Certificates of membership cost \$100 each to raise funds, and no member of the lodge could hold more than ten each. The Association purchased the Sam Conwell home on the corner of First and Wolcott for \$29,000, then quickly sold it for \$60,000. The profits were used to buy the site of the new lodge at East Seventh and South Center Streets for \$14,500.

However, the Casper oil bubble soon burst, and the city, state, and nation entered the Great Depression. The building remained unfinished and largely unfurnished during this time period as the city and the Elks lost population. Finally, in 1936, there was a slight upturn in the economy, and the Association launched a membership drive for new members. The drive proved successful, the lodge building was finished, and all debts paid. The Elks

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Lodge building was ultimately turned over to the lodge, debt free, by the Association.

By April, 1943, the Casper Lodge had a membership of 598. The burning of the mortgage occurred in March 1950, and the Lodge was incorporated on March 5, 1949. The Lodge purchased the lot to the north of the lodge building for \$20,000 for future enlargement. In 1950, the Elks undertook a \$100,000 major remodeling project. In 1967, a second remodeling project was carried out. By 1968, the Casper Elks Lodge had a membership of 2,332.

In 1977, there was a fire in the Library room that resulted in remodeling, and many of the pictures of deceased Past Exalted Rulers were lost. Since 1968, the Elks have put in a new stairway to the basement and remodeled the lounge, ballroom, and basement. The electrical wiring and plumbing have also been updated. By 1993, the Casper Elks Lodge had a total membership of 1,407.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Frank, Patrick. "Classicism in a Boomtown: The Architecture of Garbutt, Weidener, and Sweeney in 1920s Casper." Annals of Wyoming 66(Spring/Summer 1994):26-37.

Garbutt, Irving. "Classic Architecture Marked Casper's First Oil Boom." Casper Journal 29 October 1994.

_____. Casper Centennial, 1889-1989, Natrona County, Wyoming 1890-1990. Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corporation.

"Industrial Edition." The Casper Daily Tribune and Wyoming Weekly Review, January 22, 1922, pp. 8-9.

Mokler, Alfred James. History of Natrona County, Wyoming, 1888-1922. Chicago, Ill.:R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company.

No Author. "Why Membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks?" Vertical Files, Wyoming State Archives, Department of Commerce, Cheyenne.

No Author. "Elks Are Active Why Not Join Us?" Vertical Files, Wyoming State Archives, Department of Commerce, Cheyenne.

No Author. Casper Lodge No. 1353 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Diamond Anniversary 1918-1993, July 17 (Historical Souvenir Booklet).

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"Construction Work Started on New Elks' Home for this City."
The Casper Daily Tribune 27 October, 1920, p. 12.

"Work Resumed on Elks' Home Here." The Casper Daily Tribune 23 August,
1921, p. 5.

"Casper Elks to Celebrate New Home Opening with Big Fete." The Casper
Daily Tribune 17 March, 1922, p. 1.

"Over 500 Elks Attend Session in Lodge Home." The Casper Daily Tribune
18 March, 1922, p. 4.

Property Records, Tax Assessor's Office, Natrona County Courthouse,
Casper, Wyoming.

Starr, Eileen F. Architecture in the Cowboy State, 1849-1940. Glendo,
Wyoming: High Plains Press, 1992.

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Elks Lodge No. 1353
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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is located at 108 East Seventh Street, Casper, Wyoming, and occupies the northeast corner of Seventh Street and South Center Street on Lot 5, Block 28, Casper Addition.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is defined by the legal boundary of the lot that the building occupies and includes the parking lot on the north side of the building.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96001632

Date Listed: 01/30/97

Property Name: Elks Lodge No. 1353

County: Natrona

State: Wyoming

Buildings Designed by Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney in Casper MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Sada McClelland
Signature of the Keeper

January 30, 1997
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Sect. 5: "Buildings Designed by Garbutt, Weidner, and Sweeney in Casper MPS" is, hereby, entered for Name of Related Multiple Property Listing.

Sect. 8, Significance: "Entertainment/Recreation" is, hereby, deleted as an area of significance since nomination does not claim or justify criterion A. The period of significance is amended to "1922-1936" to correspond to the period of construction and significance of property in architecture.

Sheila Bricker-Wade, National Register coordinator, of the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on January 29, 1997.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)