

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000192

Date Listed: 3/3/95

**Bremerton Elks Temple
Lodge No. 1181 Building
Property Name**

**Kitsap
County**

**WA
State**

**N/A
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.

Paul R. Lugin
x _____
Signature of the Keeper

3/3/95

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

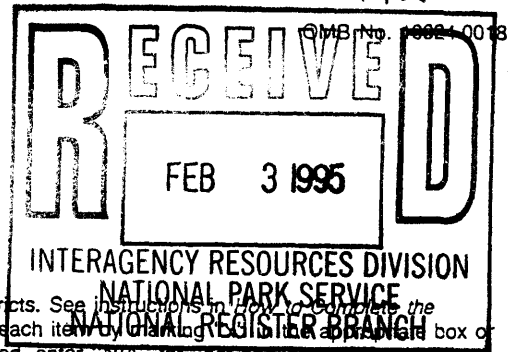
U. T. M.:

The correct UTM coordinates for the property are in Zone 10, as noted on the USGS map, and not Zone 11 as provided on the nomination form.

This information was confirmed with Lauren McCroskey of the WA SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

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



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bremerton Elks Temple Lodge No. 1181 Building

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 285 Fifth St. not for publication N/A

city or town Bremerton vicinity N/A

state Washington code WA county Kitsap code 035 zip code 98310

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary M. Hampson 1/27/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper 3/3/95 Date of Action

Name of Property

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	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival
Moderne (addition)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls brick
roof asphalt
other steel sheet metal cornice

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.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1920-1945

Significant Dates

1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Bremerton Elks Lodge Building
Name of Property

Kitsap, WA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .50

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

110	5281190	5267980
Zone	Easting	Northing

2

110	528210	5267980
Zone	Easting	Northing

3

Zone	Easting	Northing

4

Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul D. Purcell, Vice President

organization Archdiocesan Housing Authority date 12/8/94

street & number 100-23rd Ave. S. telephone (206) 328-5661

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98144

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name CCS/Bremerton Limited Partnership c/o Archdiocesan Housing Authority

street & number 100-23rd Ave. S. telephone (206) 328-5661

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98144

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Narrative Description:

In 1920, Bremerton Elks Lodge (BPOE 1181) constructed a fraternal hall at a prominent location on the corner Fifth Street and Pacific Avenue in downtown Bremerton, Washington. The imposing four-story structure was designed in a classical revival mode by an architect as yet unidentified. In 1947-1948, the building was enlarged and remodeled in the Moderne style by the Bremerton architecture/engineering firm of Williams-Davis & Associates.

Exterior - The lodge building stands on a sloped site, facing Pacific Avenue to the west. The property is bounded by Fifth Street on the north and by an alley on the south. Below grade, the structure extends to the east property line under a paved parking lot (see Site Plan).

The Elks Lodge building is of wood frame construction with a brick veneer. The foundation and ground floor, partially below grade, are of reinforced concrete. Along Pacific Avenue, single-story retail shops added in the 1947 remodel protrude from the original face of the building to the sidewalk. The store fronts are terra cotta-clad and have metal-framed, plate glass windows. Formal access to the interior of the lodge occurs beneath a canopy on the Fifth Street facade.

The upper three stories feature regularly-spaced, rectangular wooden windows. These are operable casement at the first floor level, and six-over-one light, double-hung sash at the second and third floor levels. Above the casement windows are decorative arches of terra cotta with an infill of brick headers. Medallions and keystones of terra cotta enliven the surface of the primary facades. The roofline is articulated by a classical entablature and an ornamental parapet of sheet metal and wood. The rear elevation is unadorned, having originally been concealed by an adjacent frame building along Fifth Street.

Interior - The interior of the Elks Lodge building consists of a combination of spaces dating to the original 1920 s construction, and spaces created in the 1947 remodel. The ground floor includes five bays of retail shop space, a ladies' cocktail lounge and ballroom accessed by a circular staircase, and various rooms designed for exercise and recreation. Of these, only the circular stairwell and the cocktail veneer finishes, curvilinear partitions and

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modeling, recessed ceilings with indirect lighting, and a Moderne-style service bar remain.

The first floor encompasses a variety of functional spaces designed for the use of lodge members. These include a stag bar, card room, billiard room, and washroom, all fronting onto Pacific Avenue. The Fifth Street lobby and reception area, a manager's office, reading room, dining room with buffet counter, and kitchen facilities occupy the remainder of this level. With the departure of the Elks to the new lodge facilities in 1977, these rooms were given over to uses such as a kick-boxing gym and meeting rooms for AA groups. The only spaces which retain architectural significance on this floor are the stag bar with some original paneled wainscoting, and the Fifth Street lobby/reception area with its birch veneer finishes and curvilinear surfaces dating from the 1947 remodel.

On its second and third floors, the lodge interior remains much as originally designed in 1920. At the center is the two-story lodge hall, the formal meeting room of the fraternal Elks, measuring 55' by 66' in dimension. Its plaster walls are articulated with modeled pilasters and panels. Indirect lighting was installed above the entablature. The floor is raised around the perimeter and fitted with chairs for member seating. At one end of the hall is a rostrum and, at the opposite end, a balcony for visitor seating. Three wooden doors providing access from the surrounding corridors are labeled with the words Charity, Justice, and Brotherly Love.

On the north, south, and west sides of the lodge hall around the perimeter of the building are two floors of sleeping rooms, simply furnished, most with private baths. Use of the rental rooms was gradually discontinued after World War II, and the lack of heat to these spaces has resulted in serious plaster deterioration in the intervening years.

Alterations - As the lodge's membership approached 1500, the Elks embarked upon a major remodeling of the building in 1947-1948. The most visible exterior change was the addition of commercial storefronts along the western facade, resulting in the loss of original formal entry staircase on Pacific Avenue. Judging from historic photographs, the removal of this hierarchical entrance with its paneled concrete railing and its canopy marquee altered the logic of the building's classical design. Over time, however, the Moderne-styled storefronts and other components of the interior remodeling have acquired significance in their own right. As part of the renovation, a formal

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recessed entry was created on Fifth Street with curvilinear steps and brick reveals, and a canopy overhead. On the alley elevation, a number of original window openings were bricked in.

Neither original architectural plans nor early interior photos of the buildings have been found, so the precise early use of interior spaces have not been determined. Contemporary newspaper reports mention such functions as a gymnasium, barber shop, ladies' reception rooms, baths, club rooms, etc. The Williams-Davis & Associates remodel of 1947-'48 more than doubled the size of the ground floor interior. Moderne styling was carried into the new lobby and down a circular staircase to a cocktail lounge and dance floor. A salient feature of this staircase was a central corrugated glass shaft. New spaces in the enlarged basement included a handball court, bowling alley, exercise room, locker rooms, and steam and massage rooms.

First floor interior spaces were reconfigured in the remodel. The original entrance lobby became part of the new pool and billiard room. The dining hall was carved up into the new lobby, secretary's office, cloak room, and reading room. The kitchen facilities were doubled in size with a single-story brick addition to the rear of the building. Only the lodge hall and the rental rooms on the second and third floors were left unaltered in the renovation.

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Name of Property Bremerton Elks Temple

County and State Kitsap County, WA

Since completion, the Bremerton Elks Lodge Temple has served as the most important social center in the community and has figured prominently in the lives of local military and civilian employees. The building's handsome Classical Revival styling extends into interior spaces in the well preserved stag room. A first floor, terra cotta addition in 1947 eclipsed the ceremonial entry but left all remaining design elements intact. Because of the lodge's status as the only surviving example of the Classical Revival style in the community, this integrity issue does not compromise the building's eligibility. Ground floor interior spaces, also remodeled in 1947, reflect strong Moderne qualities which may take on greater significance in the future as the greater body of Art Moderne architecture is examined.

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Narrative Statement of Significance:

For more than 55 years, the Bremerton Elks Lodge building was the scene of important social, civil, and business gathering in downtown Bremerton, Washington. Because of its scale, its classical styling lent a certain urbanity to the downtown. A 1947 remodeling in the Moderne style altered the formality of the Pacific Avenue facade but, over time, this storefront addition itself became a part of the history of the building.

The four-story brick-faced structure at Fifth Street and Pacific Avenue was not the first home of Lodge 1181, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The local organization took shape in January of 1910, with many charter members brought in from other area lodges. In its earliest years, the group met in various rented halls, including the Harlow Building and the Dietz Building in downtown Bremerton.

By December of 1918, membership reached the 700 mark. A building committee was appointed to develop plans and specifications for a new lodge home. Within a few months, a member in failing health offered the brotherhood a piece of prime property at Fifth Street and Pacific Avenue for a reduced price. Ground-breaking ceremonies took place in January, 1920. On that occasion, the Bremerton Evening Searchlight reported:

A description of the completed structure outlines a complete gymnasium, with appropriate baths, dining section for club and club cafe, as well as for the entertainment of other functions, club rooms, lodge rooms, public hall, twenty-eight sleeping rooms, two ladies' reception rooms available for the use of Lady Elks...library, barber shop, committee rooms, executive office for the lodge and a multitude of other uses.

The architect for the new building remains unidentified, although a likely record exists in the Bremerton Elks Lodge minutes, as yet inaccessible. Construction continued through 1920 despite delays brought about by a workers' strike. The completed edifice, together with its furnishings and the costs of clean-up to open, totaled \$168,358. This was borne by the sale of the building fund bonds to the membership.

The dedication of the new temple in March, 1921, was an event of rather large proportions in Bremerton's history, a sign of the prominent role of the lodge

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would play in the community in the years that followed. The Puget Sound Naval Shipyard was involved in the festivities, many of its military and civilian employees being members of the Elks. The local newspapers reported on a two-day flurry of activities which included a parade with eight Elks bands led by the commandant of the shipyard H.A. Fields, a flag-raising ceremony with color guard from the shipyard, a sit-down dinner and cabaret at the new Elks gymnasium featuring the musician Marcario Flores, and a midnight matinee at the local Rialto Theatre. Upwards of 10,000 visiting Elks came to tour the shipyard. To assist the brotherhood with the organization of this important event, the Ladies of Elks were formed as a temporary committee, soon afterward to be formally recognized.

Over the years, membership in Elks Lodge 1181 grew to encompass the business and professional community, city officials, and ranking officers of the shipyard. The Chamber of Commerce was headquartered in the lower level of the building. Local businessmen met regularly for a midday meal at the Elks lunch counter. Year-around, dozens of Elks functions and countless community-wide events were held in the many club rooms and halls of the lodge. Visiting Elks could stay overnight in the third and forth-floor rental rooms, some of which accommodated bachelors on a more permanent basis. A short list of some former Exalted Rulers of the lodge suggests the influence of the membership as a whole, and includes a mayor of Bremerton, an attorney, a newspaper owner/editor, a dentist, a downtown merchant, a master of the forge shop at the shipyard, and various Naval officers.

Due to the presence of the Naval shipyard, Bremerton during this period had a large proportion of single men. Many of these men participated in one of the several lodges and similar social institutions that were active in the era, including the Eagles Aerie, the YMCA and the Serviceman's Lodge in addition to the Elks Lodge.

Architecturally, these buildings vary. The Eagles Aerie located in downtown Bremerton, is an art deco building circa 1930s, and remains in use and is in good condition. The YMCA building, which was the only building in Kitsap County architecturally comparable to the Elks Lodge Building as a masonry building in the Classical Revival style, was demolished recently in order to vacate land for the ferry terminal. The Sinclair Building is also a masonry building, but does not have the level of ornamentation or grandeur of the Elks Lodge Building and lacks terra cotta and a cornice. The other prominent masonry building in downtown Bremerton is located at 202 Pacific Avenue.

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This building underwent a substantial remodeling in the 1960s, severely compromising its historical character.

By 1945, the Elks were experiencing a need for expanded social space and parking. Plans were prepared by the local firm of Williams-Davis & Associates for a major remodeling of the building. The project would encompass the addition of retail storefronts along Pacific Avenue. The work was completed in September of 1948 for a grant total of \$360,000. The Moderne-styled design and the new spaces it created are described in #5 above. A single tenant, Payless Drugstore, moved into the 60' x 100' terra cotta-clad shop space and remained for 18 years, becoming a fixture of the downtown.

The remodel was well underway in the summer of 1948 when President Harry S. Truman came to Bremerton in his campaign for re-election. He spoke to a crowd of 6000 from the "new sun porch of the Elks temple," in other words, from the roof of the storefront addition. Snapshots taken that day reveal that he stood at the northwest corner of the verandah, overlooking the crowd at Fifth and Pacific. These photos also show that the store fronts had not yet received their terra cotta facing. According to strong local tradition (memorialized by a bronze plaque now mounted on the building), someone in the crowd yelled "Give 'em Hell, Harry!" and the phrase became Truman's well-known political motto. In recording the events of the day, however, the Bremerton Sun went only so far as to note:

Enthusiasm ran away with one of the president's listeners during the Bremerton address. As Mr. Truman lambasted congress for allowing prices to grow "outrageous," a voice from the audience rang out: "Lay it on, Harry!"

After World War II, membership in the Bremerton Elks Lodge steadily grew, but some changes in the building's use occurred. The demand for the rental rooms on the third and fourth floors declined, and eventually these floors were no longer heated. The basement cocktail/dance hall opened for business lunches on weekdays. Most of the recreational rooms built into the new ground-floor space were never used as such. Instead, a Tropical Room lounge was installed in the exercise room, and the handball court was converted for small banquet use.

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County and State Kitsap County, WA

In 1977, after years of planning, a modern Elks Lodge facility was constructed well outside of the downtown area. Bremerton Lodge 1181 vacated the old site at Fifth and Pacific, and the building was sold for \$310,000. Since that time, its interior spaces have been rented out piecemeal to commercial entities, dance and athletic clubs, and social service groups. During this period, the old structure has been only sporadically heated and maintained, and has undergone some deterioration.

Today the former Bremerton Elks Lodge building stands as one of the few remaining brick buildings in downtown Bremerton, and is the only remaining local example of the Classical Revival style.

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Name of Property Bremerton Elks Temple

County and State Kitsap County, WA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 37,38,40,41,42 and 43, Block 6, Town of Bremerton, according to plat recorded in volume 2 of Plats, page 30, in Kitsap County, Washington.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries are based upon the urban legal description which has always been associated with the building.

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Name of Property Bremerton Elks Temple

County and State Kitsap County, WA

PHOTOS

- #1 Bremerton Elks Lodge Building, view from Pacific Avenue, camera facing northeast. Photo by Stephanie Durman, December, 1994.
- #2 View of Fifth Street facade with relocated entrance. Photo by Stephanie Durman, December, 1994.
- #3 View of rear wall and parking lot from Fifth Street, camera facing southwest. Photo by Stephanie Durman, December, 1994.
- #4 View of the Pacific Avenue facade from the roof of the storefront addition, camera facing north. Photo by Stephanie Durman, December, 1994.
- #5 View of balcony along north wall of lodge hall, camera facing north. Photo by Vern Miller, April, 1994.
- #6 Interior view of second-floor lodge hall, camera facing south. Photo by Vern Miller, April, 1994.
- #7 View from dance floor in ladies; lounge looking toward service bar and circular stair, camera facing west. Photo by Vern Miller, April, 1994.
- #8 Interior of ladies; lounge, camera facing north. Photo by Vern Miller, April, 1994.
- #9 View from foot of circular staircase in ground-floor ladies; lounge, camera facing north. Photo by Vern Miller, April, 1994.