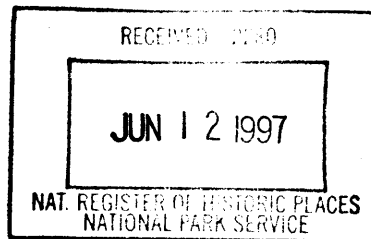


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" 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 Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall

other names/site number Ashton State Bank Building

2. Location

street & number NW corner of 6th Avenue and Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Ashton N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Fremont code 043 zip code 83445

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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.)

[Signature] 5/26/97
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or 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 this 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] 7/9/97
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall
Name of Property

Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		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
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
SOCIAL: meeting hall
COMMERCE/TRADE: business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
SOCIAL: meeting hall
COMMERCE/TRADE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE: sandstone
walls BRICK, STONE: sandstone

roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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)

ARCHITECTURE, EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1907-1920

Significant Dates

1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smokey Johnson and William Baker, Builders

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

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:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall
Name of Property

Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property less than one

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

A	<u>1/2</u>	<u>4/6/4/4/2/0</u>	<u>4/8/7/8/7/2/0</u>	B	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			
C	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	D	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Carol Marotz with assistance from IDSHPO Staff

organization Cloverleaf Rebekahs Lodge #82, Ashton, Idaho date February 25, 1997

street & number 1395 N. 4200 E. telephone (208) 652-3592

city or town Ashton state ID zip code 83420

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/or 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

name Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Ashton Lodge #88

street & number P.O. Box 208 telephone N/A

city or town Ashton state ID zip code 83420

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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County and State Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall is located at the northeast corner of 6th & Main in Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho. It is a two story brick commercial structure which was built in 1907. The building is rectangular in form with a clipped or angled corner at the juncture of the south and west elevations. The first floor contains three separate commercial spaces, one facing south onto Main, one facing west onto Sixth, and one at the southwest corner of the building. The second floor is reached by an interior stair at the rear of the building and houses meeting rooms for the fraternal order.

The structure rests on a foundation of locally quarried sandstone blocks with a rough ashlar finish. Walls are of red, pressed brick laid up in common bond. The south elevation features a center entry storefront on the east end flanked by a single window on the west. A sandstone dedication block, inscribed with the Odd Fellows' three link chain insignia and the date June 30, 1907, is located in the foundation immediately to the west of this storefront. The storefront retains its original recessed center-entry configuration as well as an original transom and cast iron support beam. The display windows and kick plates were replaced in the 1950s. The window has one over one double hung sash and rough ashlar sandstone sill and lintel. This window has been partially covered with a plywood insert. The second floor of the south elevation features three identical window openings. Each window has a sandstone sill and brick relieving arches with a corbeled brick hood molding. All three of these windows retain one-over-one double hung sash and have been covered with painted plywood.

The angled wall at the southwest corner of the building features an arched entry leading to the corner commercial space. The wall surface surrounding the arched entry opening is laid up in rough ashlar sandstone which includes a sandstone relieving arch over the entry. The stone work continues up to the top of the first floor and is capped with one course of smooth finished sandstone and a narrow frieze molding. The rough ashlar continues around to the west and south elevations for one course creating a quoin-like effect. The original arched door was replaced with a new door and sidelights during the 1950s. The second story of the southwest corner features a window similar to others present on the second floor. This is the only second story window that is not presently covered with plywood.

The first story of the west elevation features two windows on its south end, a side entrance for the corner commercial space, a new brick storefront and, at the north end, an entry door for the rear stair. The first floor windows are identical to that on the south elevation. The side entry for the corner commercial space retains an historic paneled door and has had a plywood insert fitted into its transom. The original glass storefront was replaced with brick infill in the 1950s. It does retain its original cast iron header beam and one course of alternating corbeled and flat header bricks. The

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Section number 7 Page 2 Name of Property Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall
County and State Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho

door to the rear stair was replaced in the 1980s. The second floor features two pair of window openings. One set is located at the south end of the elevation and are similar to the second floor windows on the south elevation. The other pair are located toward the north end of the elevation. They are also identical to the south windows in detail but contain two double hung sash windows. All of the second floor windows on this elevation have been covered with plywood.

The primary decorative feature of the Odd Fellows Hall is the large brick cornice which dominates the south, southwest and west elevations of the building. The cornice rises above the roof line to form a parapet. It consists of a corbeled brick bandcourse similar in design to the second story hood moldings, a corbeled brick scalloped frieze decoration, and a second bandcourse similar to the first. The entire cornice is capped with a narrow course of rough ashlar sandstone. The cornice is framed by large rectangular raised brick panels located at the southeast and northwest corners of the building. Identical panels are located at the two corners on the southwest elevation.

Both the north and east elevations are unadorned. The north elevation features a single one over one double hung sash window on the second floor and a rear entry door for the Main Street commercial space on the first floor. The east elevation has no fenestration and shows evidence of having been a party wall building which used to stand on the next lot. There is a ghost sign painted on the upper portion of this elevation which advertizes the Ashton State Bank and a hardware and furniture dealer, both of which previously occupied the building. The roof of the building is flat and covered in rolled asphalt.

Despite some modern alterations, the building retains a high level of historic integrity. It still conveys a strong sense of its original character and feeling and is, in general, in very good condition.

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County and State Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall in Ashton, Idaho is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the initial settlement of Ashton. The Town of Ashton was platted and incorporated following the arrival of the Oregon Short Line Railroad to the Upper Snake River Valley in 1905. This immediately triggered a townsite boom during which numerous speculative buildings were erected. The Odd Fellows Hall was one of the most significant and substantial of these structures. It is a typical speculative building, built in a simple style with an eye toward accommodating as many businesses and other uses as possible. Today the Odd Fellows Hall is the only building associated with this initial building boom in Ashton which retains its historic character. The building is also eligible under Criterion C as a typical example of a vernacular brick commercial building built to serve multiple uses at a minimal cost. It combines the 20th Century functional approach to commercial design, which has sometimes been classified as simply Commercial Style, with residual characteristics of the more elaborate 19th Century commercial design tradition.

Historical Significance

The Upper Snake River Valley did not acquire a large Euro-American population until the beginning of the 20th Century. While settlement commenced in areas further down the Snake in the 1880s, lack of adequate transportation kept the population of what is now the Ashton area relatively low. Following a period of reorganization in the 1890s the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) began to expand its rail network into new areas. One such area was the Upper Snake River Valley. The Oregon Short Line, a subsidiary of UP, completed a line from Idaho Falls to the newly formed city of St. Anthony in 1900. This triggered a small settlement boom and a large amount of real estate speculation and development in the St. Anthony area.¹

Two local businessmen who profited by the St. Anthony boom were C.C. Moore and Hiram G. Fuller. Each had made a substantial sum in St. Anthony real estate and saw first hand the money that could be made from a townsite boom. Moore and Fuller began to lobby Union Pacific officials to extend their line further up the river and into the Teton Basin. The pair formed the Ashton Town Site Company, named after the chief engineer of the UP, in 1904. They convinced the railroad to build an extension of the St. Anthony line directly through their proposed town. The line was built during the summer and fall of 1905, and the first train arrived in Ashton in January 1906.²

As had happened in St. Anthony, the new townsite of Ashton quickly attracted settlers. Moore and Fuller were in an excellent position to "boom the town" as the saying went. They quickly established a real estate office, insurance office, hotel and bank. They also acquired a large amount

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Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall
County and State Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho

of farm land, which they began to sell to newcomers at a substantial profit. As experienced town site developers, Moore and Fuller knew that a new town must demonstrate signs of progress and improvement in order to maintain a boom. As such, they invested in several substantial building projects which would boost the image, and value, of Ashton's Main Street. The first of these, in 1906, was the two-story brick Ashton Hotel.³ This community landmark was destroyed by fire in 1992.

In the spring of 1907 Moore and Fuller embarked upon their second substantial improvement on Main Street. These canny investors realized that it was not only in their interests to establish business ventures on Main Street, but that the creation of permanent community institutions would also foster the image of Ashton as a "civilized community." Both of these men had been active in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows during their time in St. Anthony.⁴ Men's fraternal organizations such as the Odd Fellows were one of the primary social institutions in small town America during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They not only provided a venue for facilitating business and general "male bonding," but also, along with their sister organizations (such as the Rebekahs, the Eastern Star etc.), provided much of the general social activity in a small community.

Moore and Fuller established the Ashton Lodge #88 in March of 1906, receiving their charter the following November.⁵ Once the Ashton Hotel was completed, they decided that a commercial building to house their bank and a social hall for their Odd Fellows Lodge should be their next investment. They chose a prominent corner location on Main Street and hired local builders to erect a permanent brick and stone edifice. The corner stone for the new Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall was laid on June 30th, 1907. The building was completed the following fall and was immediately occupied by Moore and Fuller's Ashton State Bank as well as a hardware dealer and a furniture store.⁶

Ashton continued to expand during the 1910s--its rural economy bolstered by the high demand for agricultural products caused by the First World War. The end of hostilities marked a severe downturn in the rural economy across the U.S. By 1920, the Upper Snake River Valley was beginning to feel the effects of a rural depression. Ashton never again experienced the growth it achieved during its first fifteen years of existence.⁷ Today, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall is the only boom period building remaining in Ashton that retains a significant level of historic integrity. Many others, such as the Ashton Hotel, have been destroyed or "renovated" beyond recognition.

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County and State Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho

Architectural Significance

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. This building is a representative example of vernacular commercial design typical of rural communities of the early 20th Century. In vernacular design, the brick-front store was the most popular commercial style of the first half of the 20th Century. Often labeled simply as the Commercial Style, brick-front store buildings exemplified a functional approach to commercial design. Such buildings varied in height from one to three stories, but their plans were quite similar. Two- and three-story buildings had ground-level store facilities with offices, meeting halls, living space, or storage on the upper floors. These structures were usually faced with brick and accented with minimal stone or concrete trim—a significant contrast to their often exuberant 19th Century predecessors.⁸

Developers and designers often paid particular attention to commercial structures located on street corners. These buildings tended to be more imposing than their middle-of-the-block compatriots, as they usually delineated either the center or end of a business district. Such buildings were occupied by the more significant commercial residents such as banks and fraternal organizations. In the 19th Century, these sites would have been reserved for the most flamboyant designs, almost inevitably incorporating some manner of tower or parapet at the corner in order to draw attention.⁹

As the simpler design aesthetic of the new century began to achieve popularity in rural America, numerous corner buildings were constructed which featured a significant reduction in both exuberance and exaggerated scale. The Ashton Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall is a textbook example of the brick-front design aesthetic as applied to a prominent corner building. The building clearly exhibits all the hallmarks of a typical brick-front commercial structure, including: minimal decoration, use of inexpensive local materials, and an emphasis on functionality and maximum utilization of space. At the same time however, the Odd Fellows Hall is a prominent corner structure which strives to impart a sense of style and importance. The clipped entry at the southwest corner of the building serves as a focus for both the building and the surrounding streetscape. The use of sandstone facing at the entry and the varied use of decorative brick corbeling, particularly in the cornice, are elements which succeed in raising this building above the ordinary functional brick box.

Conclusion

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows hall in Ashton, Idaho is historically significant. It is associated with the initial speculative townsite boom that followed the establishment of the town in the winter of 1906. It is the best remaining example of the rapid growth which Ashton experienced

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County and State Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho

from its founding until the rural economic collapse following World War I. As such, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. This building is also architecturally significant. It exemplifies the use of the simplified Commercial Style which became popular in the first decade of the 20th Century. More specifically, it illustrates the use of the Commercial design aesthetic as applied to a prominent rural institutional structure located on a significant corner site. It provides a fine synthesis between the desire for functionality and need for structural identity and prominence. As such, it is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

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County and State Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho

ENDNOTES

1. Hibbert, Philip, "A History of Ashton", Snake River Echos, Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society, v.6, no.1, (1977), p.18.
2. Ibid, p.19.
3. Marotz, Carol, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Ashton, Idaho, unpublished manuscript, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise, Idaho, (1994).
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Lansbury, W.A., "Ashton", New West Magazine, v.11, no.12, (Dec., 1920), p.16
8. Attebery, Jennifer Eastman, Building Idaho: An Architectural History. University of Idaho Press, Moscow, Idaho (1991), p119.
9. Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jannings, American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940, Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, (1985), p.240-243.

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Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall
County and State Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho

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Attebery, Jennifer Eastman, Building Idaho: An Architectural History. University of Idaho Press, Moscow, Idaho (1991).

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jannings, American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940, Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, (1985)

Hibbert, Philip, "A History of Ashton", Snake River Echos, Upper Snake River Valley Historical Society, v.6, no.1, p.18-24, (1977).

Lansbury, W.A., "Ashton", New West Magazine, v.11, no.12, p.16-17, (Dec., 1920)

Marotz, Carol, "Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Ashton, Idaho", unpublished manuscript, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise, Idaho, (1994).

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Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall
County and State Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1-2, Block 23, Ashton Original Townsite Plat

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

These two lots are all the property historically associated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall.

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PHOTO LOG

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall
Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho
Photographer: Idaho State Historic Preservation Center
Date: September 30, 1996
Negatives on file at Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise
[Note: The above information applies to all photographs listed below.]

Roll #1

Frm#	Subject	Address	Location
1	I.O.O.F. Hall	6th & Main, Ashton, ID.	SW
2	"	"	SE
3	"	"	S
4	"	"	W
5	" (entry detail)	"	SW
6	" (sign detail)	"	E
7	" (cornerstone)	"	S