

INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: Idaho Falls Downtown multiple resource area  
(partial inventory: architecture)

✓ SITE NAME: I.O.O.F. Building

SITE NUMBER: 13

✓ LOCATION: 393 North Park Avenue

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

I.O.O.F. Lodge  
P.O. Box 74  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Idaho Falls South, 7.5 minute      ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the I.O.O.F. Building and the property on which it stands, the north 50 feet of lots 1 and 2 and the northeast 50-by-14-foot corner of lot 3, block 27, Railroad Addition, Idaho Falls.

UTM(S): 12/415885/4858250

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1909

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

Romanesque Revival style. The brick is laid in common bond and painted light cream. The raised trim has been painted a mustard color. The east facade has three bays above an altered storefront. The central bay has two one-over-one-light double-hung sash windows surmounted by a raised round arch. The two flanking bays have Chicago windows with a fixed central pane and a one-over-one double-hung sash on either side. Above these windows are raised triangle moldings suggestive of pediments. The cornice is a complex one of stepped corbel tables suggesting denticulation. Capping four "towers" are sheet iron caps with raised garland decorations. The central bay is outset one brick width. Within its corbel table is a raised "IOOF" legend, and below that is an Art Nouveau stained glass panel with a three-linked chain and "F L T" within the links. The north facade has ten double-hung sash one-over-one windows on the second story. The lower story on the north side of the building preserves original openings, although a round-arched doorway has been bricked in. The storefront on the east side appears to represent Moderne style remodeling in the 1940's or 1950's.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Built ca. 1909, the Idaho Falls I.O.O.F. Building is architecturally significant as a late representative of the Romanesque Revival style built during a period when Renaissance Revival motifs began to dominate commercial building, locally and regionally. Consequently the building, although basically conservative in its use of corbelling and round arches, draws on the Chicago window and pedimented window heads. The building is the multiple resource area's sole remaining example of the use of Romanesque Revival motifs during this period. The building is historically significant for its association with the Idaho Falls lodge of the I.O.O.F. As with other fraternal and secret societies, the lodge was a focal point of cultural activities and listed many of the most prominent residents of the town as members. As early as 1892, the Idaho Falls Times boasts of a thriving chapter already existing in the city.