

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Montana
COUNTY:	Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 9 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
* Fraternity Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lot 14, Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Elkhorn

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#1

STATE: Montana CODE: 30 COUNTY: Jefferson CODE: 043

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Historic building</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Western Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 2245

CITY OR TOWN:
Missoula

STATE: Montana CODE: 30

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Boulder

STATE: Montana CODE: 30

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: September, 1963 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE: 08

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fraternity Hall, a handsome two-story frame building with false front and ornate balcony, faces northwest across the main street of Elkhorn, Montana. The balloon framed structure with studs of full 2x6's has been sound enough to withstand for decades the time, neglect and heavy winter snows of this high country (elevation 6500 feet) ghost town. The exact construction date is unknown but the Fraternity Hall Association of Elkhorn was incorporated May 8, 1893, for the purpose of purchasing a site, erecting and managing a building to be used by the numerous lodges of the town.

Exterior: The building's overall dimensions are approximately 28 feet by 72 feet. The foundation is native stone, rubble construction and exterior walls are of lapped horizontal siding, double thickness.

Of exceptional character is the building's false front. Although typical of the Greek Revival influence on architecture in the western mining towns, the front has been modified with an ornate neo-classical cantilevered balcony and simulated pilaster and arch treatment above the eaves lines. The front facade also has a band of vertical siding between the first and second floors.

A hip roof of hand split wood shakes is concealed behind the false front. Windows have a simple squared stock exterior trim. Paneled wood doors (most now missing) with transoms above framed the entries at the front and rear as well as the balcony.

Interior: The building has two floors and interior walls of wood planks. A vent for a stove is located on the northeast wall.

The main doorway on the first floor opens into an entry which leads to a single large assembly room with a raised stage at the southeast end of the room. A small room is to the left of the entry and stairs to the right.

The second floor has a small landing, reception room with balcony access storage rooms, and a large lodge room to the rear with a raised platform against the walls.

The building has been vacant for years, the roof is in poor condition and all of the windows and doors are gone. However, the foundation is in good condition and the interior is well preserved although defaced with tourist jottings.

The Western Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society purchased Fraternity and Gillian Hall nearby on June 26, 1972, when they learned that parties outside of Montana wished to buy them and move them out of state. The loan for this purchase was provided by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Society has recently repaired Fraternity Hall's foundation to some degree and placed plywood over the building's windows, doors, and roof.

A more immediate danger to the remaining buildings in Elkhorn than age and weather may be the growing population of the town (from 8 to over 25 in recent years) and renewed mining activity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1893-1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in the 1890's, Fraternity Hall was the social and architectural center of the gold and silver mining town of Elkhorn. Located 22 miles northeast of Boulder, the town was named after the large elk herds of the area and had a population of 2,500 during its peak in the 1880's and 1890's.

Peter Wys discovered the Elkhorn mine about 1870 which led to an estimated 32 million dollars worth of silver and gold being mined in the area. One of the town's more prominent citizens was Spruille Braden, who went on to become a mining engineer and ambassador to Cuba, Columbia, and Argentina.

Fraternity Hall stands today as one of the town's better designed and built structures. Its ornate, cantilevered balcony and simulated pilaster and arch treatment on a false front is said to be architecturally unique. It is perhaps the most photographed ghost town building in the United States and is featured on the cover of many publications on ghost towns. The Architectural Record also featured Fraternity Hall as number one on a list of 12 structures in the West that should be saved.

The first floor of the building was used as a meeting hall, community dance hall, and for theatrical presentations. The second floor served as a lodge meeting hall for such groups as the Masons, Knights of Pythias, IOOF, IOGT, Sons of St. Georges, and the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

Fraternity Hall has witnessed several mining booms and busts and the aftermath of the 1889 diphtheria epidemic as well as feasts, dances, shows, boxing matches, two funerals and a murder.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Architectural Record, "The heritage that should be saved." McGraw-Hill, New York. December, 1971, p. 134.

Quinn, Frank, "Elkhorn in days of silver boom was bustling town." The Montana Standard, Butte-Anaconda, Mont., September 26, 1954.

Wolle, Muriel S., Montana pay dirt: a guide to the mining camps of the treasure state, Sage Books, Denver, 1963.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

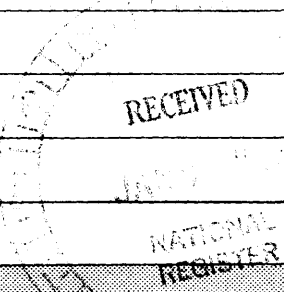
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"

12/427140
5124830
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
David G. Conklin, Recreation Planner

ORGANIZATION: Montana Department of Fish and Game DATE: 12-10-74

Recreation and Parks Division,

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mitchell Building

CITY OR TOWN: Helena STATE: Montana CODE: 30

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Ashley C. Roberts
Ashley C. Roberts

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date December 26, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. K. Winters
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/3/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register
Date APR 2 1975