

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 21 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall

AND/OR COMMON
Pythian Castle

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
30 E. Idaho St. __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Weiser __ VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1

STATE
Idaho CODE COUNTY CODE
Washington 087

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Lodge

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Knights of Pythias

STREET & NUMBER
30 E. Idaho St.

CITY, TOWN
Weiser __ VICINITY OF STATE
Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
E. Court and 2nd

CITY, TOWN
Weiser STATE
Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE
1970, 1972 __ FEDERAL __ STATE COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN
Boise STATE
Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pythian Castle, built in 1904, was designed by the firm of Tourtellotte and Company of Boise. It presents the appearance of a medieval castle whose interior reflects turn-of-the-century conceptions and business requirements. The first floor of this two-story 32 x 100 foot building is a store space, and the upstairs is the meeting hall for the Knights of Pythias.

The symmetrical cut-stone structure faces south. Two plate-glass windows make up the first floor, with a glass door at the eastern corner. Three cut-stone columns break up the first story's facade and culminate in Romanesque arches over the plate glass windows. A stone band separates the first and second stories. A large, centered window, originally stained glass but now boarded over, dominates the second story. It has a corbelled Tudor arch and is flanked by two double-hung sash windows with small stained glass transoms, also capped by Tudor arches. Four cylindrical pilasters extend the length of the second story. The two interior pilasters extend the length of the second story. The two interior pilasters are wider and terminate as miniature towers with flagstaffs. The entire building is surmounted by crenellated battlements.

Except for the boarded-over window and a first-floor awning, this structure remains unaltered. The richly textured sculptured stone surfaces are an outstanding feature of the building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- 1904	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Tourtellotte and Company

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pythian Castle is an interesting and unique structure. The Weiser Signal described it as "the finest of its kind in the West." That claim is not far from the truth, for its imaginative styling makes it a significant structure among American lodge halls.

The Weiser lodge of the Knights of Pythias was formed in 1897. It was preceded by two other fraternal organizations, the Odd Fellows and Masons. Being the newest fraternal order, the Knights of Pythias desired to have a meeting hall superior to others in the area. The resulting Pythians' lodge hall stands as a reflection of the tastes and aspirations of a newly emerging business class in Weiser.

The building was designed by Tourtellotte and Company, the foremost architectural firm in southern Idaho at the time. The cut stone for the front was supplied by Roberts and Sheff and quarried at Sand Hollow, near Weiser. The stone was hauled to town and hand cut on the site to fit. The mason work was contracted by Hamilton and Reader of Weiser, and the total cost of the building was \$9,000.00.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Weiser Signal: August 10, 1904, Page 3, Column 2.
September 24, 1904, Page 1, Column 4.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1
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5	0	2	5	5	0
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Only the building is included in this nomination.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Donald Hibbard, architectural historian

ORGANIZATION Idaho State Historical Society

DATE 14 January 76

STREET & NUMBER 610 N. Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE 384-2120

CITY OR TOWN Boise, Idaho 83706

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Merle Wells

DATE 14 January 76

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

DATE 5/13/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: [Signature]

DATE 5-12-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER