

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Site # 1



Legal Description: Block 6, lots 1&2. Original Townsite

Address: 520 Main Street

Ownership: Name: Lone Star Lodge #33

private public address: c/o Billy Watters, Box 666, Thompson Falls, MT 59873

Historic Name: I.O.O.F. Lodge

Common Name: Odd Fellows Hall

Date of Construction: 1901 estimated documented

Architect: C. M. Owens

Builder: C. M. Owens

Original Owner: Lone Star Lodge #33

Original Use: Lodge hall and rental hall

Present Use: same

RESEARCH SOURCES: Note all records consulted to determine dates of construction, original owners, builders, uses, etc.

Abstract of Title: Deedbook 8, p. 117; 4, p. 99; 8, p.

Plat Records: Thompson Falls Original Townsite

Tax Records: Assessment Book 1907, p. 140.

Building Permits: not applicable

Sewer/Water Permits: not applicable

City Directories: Polk, Missoula County, 1903, p. 308

Sanborn Maps: 1910 & 1914 & 1927

Newspapers: Sanders County Ledger 4/24/08.

Other: Lodge #33 Minute Book: 12/22/00-10/19/01

MAIN STREET

HILL STREET

ALLEY

FERRY STREET

RIVER

Location map or building plan with arrow north.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Describe present appearance of structure/site, then contrast and compare that with it's original appearance, noting additions, alterations, and changes in materials. Discuss significant architectural features.

This rectangular two story brick building originally sported a recessed entryway which split four display windows on its front (north) side, with four doublehung sash windows above on the second floor. The entrance is now flush with the building, modern display windows are on the first floor, and modern casement style windows are situated in the old sills with the remaining space bricked-up above and below. The latter is true for all second floor windows: five on the east and one on the south side. A sign for "PAT'S PLACE: NEW AND USED CLOTHES" sticks out cover the front entrance. Above it, a wooden sign tacked to the side of the building presents "IOOF." The east wall has the sign for the County Hearing Aid Service attached to it. A concrete walkway leads to a side entrance under a metal canopy*. The stone and mortar foundation can be seen on the exposed south side due to a dip in the land. The basement level has an entrance door there, with two screened and boarded doublehung window sashes. A first floor entrance is gained through wooden steps on the SW corner. Above that, two bricked in areas show where windows once stood. The west side has a modern casement window in an old sill bricked up above and below on the first floor. A bricked up window sill is above, along with a second floor door and fire escape. A cinder block chimney stack runs up the west side to the flat, composition roof. It is located near an older brick interior stack. Another interior stack is close to the east side of the building. Near the roof line, brick patterns of header and stretcher courses form a cornice. The upper story windows have decorative relieving

HISTORICAL INFORMATION: Describe the persons, important events, and/or historical patterns associated with the structure/site and surrounding area.

The International Order of Odd Fellows and their branch, the Wild Rose of Rebecka, are more than simply social clubs. While holding dances and banquets, the groups from their inception have been active in charity and civic activities. The IOOF also loans money, gives sick benefits, takes care of widows and orphans, give old age and death benefits, and has an old age home and a cemetery for its members. The hall is available to members and is rented out to the public. Over the years, many church groups, fraternal lodges, government organizations, and private businesses have used the building. The Lone Star Lodge #33 was founded on April 5, 1889 in Thompson Falls. Its charter lists 27 members. By the end of the first year, 41 had joined. Between 1891 and 1901, 70 more members had been initiated or accepted in. Currently the lodge has 33 members. The first building was a two story wood frame structure that stood approximately where the current is now. Fire destroyed it on November 10, 1900 after a weekly meeting had been held. The lodge rented Lavel Hall till the building could be made ready. The Lodge awarded the contract to a member, C. M. Owens, who built the current brick structure for 4,300. Formal dedication occurred on October 25, 1901. A wooden sidewalk was added to the east side of the building shortly after. A front walk to the Weber store became a reality in 1903. The Lodge purchased an organ for church services held there in 1906. In 1907, a brick

Wright & Woodward's Directory of 1890, p. 159. (cont.)

Sanders County Signal: 4/12/06

Footnote Sources:

Sanders County Ledger: 12/27/05; 3/16/06; 9/20/07; 4/24/08; 1/28/09; 4/28/11; 3/21/13; 8/29/15; 6/22/49

Lodge #33 Membership Role Signature Book

Lodge #33 Minute Book: 4/5/89; 4/22/93; 11/10/00; 9/24/00; 12/15/00; 3/16/01; 3/19/01; 4/6/01; 10/12/01; 10/5/01; 3/10/06; 6/29/07;

INTEGRITY: Assess the degree to which the structure/site, and surrounding area accurately convey the historical associations of the property.

The exterior, except for the changes noted, retains its original integrity. The interior first floor has been altered. The two fireplaces are gone. The large hall room has been cut in two: one for the rental business, the other for the kitchen and utility room used by the Lodge. The upstairs meeting room and hallway remains original.

HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Justify how the persons, important events, or historical patterns associated with structure/site lend the property significance and/or describe the ways in which the structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular period, building type, or style.

The I.O.O.F. Hall is significant under Criterion A for its contribution to the historical development in Thompson Falls at the turn of the century. Built in 1901, the IOOF Lodge is one of the earliest surviving masonry structures on Main Street and is therefore the best representative building to illustrate the inception of permanent commercial growth and stability in Thompson Falls. The building is also significant due to its association with the International Order of Odd Fellows, which played an important role in local social, civic and charitable activities. The Lone Star Lodge #33 in Thompson Falls was founded on April 5, 1889 with 27 charter members, and by 1901 over 100 new members had been accepted in the organization. The Lodge has always been available for rent to the public and, in Thompson Falls, numerous church groups, government organizations and private businesses have used the building regularly since it was constructed for banquets, dances and related activities.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: John Lazuk

Address: 350 Strand Ave, Missoula, MT

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: Less than one acre

USGS Quad: Thompson Falls, MT

..... 11624650/5272200

Physical Description: (Cont.)

arches over the lintels of the windows. A watertable of St. Andrew cross bond separate the stories. There is a full basement that has been remodeled at least three times: 1906, 1915, and 1983.

*NOTE: The east side, 1st floor does have an exposed entrance door off the walkway.

History: (Cont.)

shed to house the building's power plant was constructed just behind the main building. The Lodge took it down in the 1960s. Before construction of the county jail in 1906-07, the Lodge rented out its basement for that purpose during those years, first for \$10, later \$15, a month. The Lodge met upstairs on the second floor as it does today, while they rented out the first floor for dinners, meetings, and businesses. When member D. V. Harriott's store burned down in 1909, the Lodge allowed him to operate out of the building rent free till he rebuilt in 1910. A string of businesses have succeeded Harriott including Adams and Adams Cabinet Makers, the Forest Service, the County Library, a furniture store, a cleaners, and the present used clothing store among many others.

Significance (cont.)

The basement of the building was rented to the County for \$10.00 per month for use as a county jail until the permanent jail was constructed in 1907.

This masonry Odd Fellows building replaced the original two story wood frame I.O.O.F. Lodge which formerly stood in the same location and was destroyed by fire in November, 1900. C.M. Owens, a Lodge member, was given a contract to build the present brick structure at a cost of \$4,300. In 1907 a brick shed was built behind the Lodge to house the building's power plant. It was removed by the Lodge in the 1960s.

The I.O.O.F. Lodge is one of only five early commercial buildings that remain in the downtown business district in Thompson Falls. Although the original storefront has been infilled with modern aluminum sash plate glass and the original 1/1 double hung wooden windows of the upper floor have been replaced by smaller metal casements, the building retains sufficient material and design integrity to accurately evoke its historic associations. Decorative brick corbelling still defines the high parapet wall and marks the break between the first and second floors. The building is a free standing, rectangular mass located at the southeast end of Main Street and, despite the window alterations, makes a very strong architectural statement in the community of small, unpretentious buildings.