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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 22
NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration 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 I.O.O.F. Hall
other names/site number Crest Theatre 5ME 6937

2. Location

street & number 4th and Curtis N/A not for publication
city or town De Beque vicinity
state Colorado code CO county Mesa code 077 zip code 81630

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2/11/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer
State of 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 the 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 of the Keeper *[Signature]* **Entered in the National Register** Date of Action 3/25/93

I.O.O.F. Hall
Name of Property

Mesa County, CO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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
RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls metal siding
roof asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

I.O.O.F. Hall
Name of Property

Mesa County, CO
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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" in all the boxes 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)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1900-1942

Significant Dates

1900

1918

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

I.O.O.F. Hall
Name of Property

Mesa County, CO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 13 | 740130 | 4357280
Zone Easting Northing
2 | |

3 | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeff Lee edited by H. L. Wilson 10/92
organization Colorado Center for Community Development date July 1992
street & number 222 South 6th Street, Room 409 telephone (303) 248-7310
city or town Grand Junction state CO zip code 81501

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 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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of De Beque
street & number 349 Minter Avenue telephone (303) 283-5475
city or town De Beque state CO zip code 81630

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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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

IOOF Hall
Mesa County, CO

DESCRIPTION

The IOOF Hall is a two story, detached commercial building located on the corner of 4th and Curtis Streets near the center of De Beque, Colorado. The Hall has a rectangular plan measuring 25 by 93 feet with a concrete foundation and frame construction. All four walls are finished with metal siding that has been stamped to resemble stone block masonry. It is the only building in De Beque with this type of unique material. The roof is rolled asphalt and slants toward the rear. The exterior is structurally sound, but in fair condition. While all of the original siding is intact, the metal is rusting and unpainted. Most of the windows are boarded over and have no glass. The lot has virtually no landscaping except for several small trees and a few small patches of grass. Overall, the property is in fair condition and virtually no exterior alteration has taken place since construction.

Even with its unusual metal siding, the front (west) facade of the IOOF Hall is a typical two-part commercial block building with its characteristic horizontal division into two distinct sections. The street level is comprised of three bays. The central bay contains the recessed entrance of double doors flanked by tall windows. The other two bays have large storefront style windows and wooden kickplates. A wide band of transom windows runs across the facade. A secondary cornice divides the upper section from the lower/street level section. The stamped metal of the upper section is formed to look like a sculptural relief with stylized floral motifs and engaged columns. Three evenly spaced rectangular windows are separated by pairs of these engaged columns. The projecting cornice is decorated with a fleur de lis and swag motif and "IOOF No. 125" in raised letters.

A small 9 x 28 foot shed and a covered, exterior stairway (the only means of access to the second floor) are attached to the north side of the hall. The shed was originally used as coal storage. A paneled door with transom is near the east end and two very small, square windows with hoods are near the first floor ceiling level. There are two large rectangular windows on the upper level. The enclosed exterior stairway measuring 4 x 32 feet has two rectangular windows, one near the bottom and one near the top.

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IOOF Hall
Mesa County, CO

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The south facade has one rectangular window and a door near the east end on the lower floor and three rectangular windows evenly spaced on the upper floor. Like the north facade, there are also two very small hooded windows at the first floor ceiling level.

There is a one story shed roof addition measuring 18' x 25' at the rear (east facade) of the building. The date of construction of this addition is unknown. However, it is considered an historic addition as the method of construction is consistent with the rest of the building. The metal siding and window construction are similar to the original building. There is a door centrally located on the back wall of the addition with open wood stairs and a small gabled roof porch. Above this addition are two large rectangular windows on the upper level of the main building. There are two square windows on the south side of this addition; the north side also has two square windows and a non-working inset chimney.

On the interior, the first level with its hardwood floors actually contains three main sections. On the west end near the main entrance is an 11' x 25' section that is divided into three smaller rooms. The middle one being the original lobby and the two on either side were used for storage. Near the end of 1917 a small room was added above the lobby to be used as a projection booth for what was then known as the Crest Theater. A small set of steep stairs lead to the projection room from the south storage room. The center section, which has had numerous uses ranging from dance hall to theater to boxing arena to hosting funerals, is 25' by 64' and has a small stage, which is now carpeted, at the east of the room. Originally, there was an orchestra pit in front of the stage that held five to six musicians. It was covered sometime around 1930 when a new hardwood floor was installed. This room also has two operating pre-1930s ceiling fans. The one story section (the addition mentioned earlier) is divided into two rooms. One of the rooms with its outside entrance from the rear (east facade) was mostly recently used as a kitchen. The other room is roughly the same size and has a bathroom against the north wall. Originally this area was not divided and was part of the stage which was much larger than now. The walls that now divide this area were added after 1942. There were small dressing rooms behind the stage to accommodate the traveling and local shows that performed in De Beque.

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Section number 7 & 8 Page 3

IOOF Hall
Mesa County, CO

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The upper floor was used as the meeting place for the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs and measures 25' x 70'. This carpeted upper floor is divided into two rooms: a kitchen on the west side and a larger lodge room. There are stamped tin workings around the walls just below the ceiling on the upper floor. (The ceilings are fifteen feet high on both floors.) The upper floor is not accessible because of the unsafe condition of the stairway.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The IOOF Hall meets Criterion A because of the contributions it made to the social history and to the entertainment/recreation history of De Beque and the surrounding rural area. The Hall served as a community center by hosting a diverse mixture of social events; entertainment activities; and town, school and church functions. The Hall served the community in this fashion from the date of its construction until the early 1980s when it closed. The period of significance ends, however, in 1942 to comply with the National Register 50 year rule. Clad entirely with its original metal siding stamped into floriated patterns and engaged columns, the Hall also meets criterion C because of its distinctive type and method of construction.

Historical Background and Significance:

De Beque is located on the western slope of the state, 35 miles east of Grand Junction. In the fall of 1881 when the Ute Indians were removed from western Colorado to reservations in Utah, the territory opened up to settlers. The town of De Beque was named for its first settler, Dr. W. A. E. deBeque. Born in Canada in 1841, deBeque was a Civil War veteran who lived in several Colorado towns trying to improve his ailing health. While still in poor health and living in Grand Junction, he was urged by friends to go up river and look for a suitable ranch site in which to establish a cattle business that would allow him to spend more of his time outdoors. In April of 1884, he chose a site on the Colorado River at the mouth of Roan Creek, 3 1/2 miles south of the present town site.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4IOOF Hall
Mesa County**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

The deBeque family was the first to settle in the valley, but soon more settlers came, as did a toll road and eventually the railroad in 1889. Real estate development followed the railroad. The town site was laid out by Curtis Town & Land Company November 1889 and the town was incorporated in 1890. By 1899 De Beque was considered the second most important town in Mesa County because of its role as a shipping point for the valley's agricultural products and for the area's cattle. By 1909 ten passenger trains passed through town each day, five eastbound and five westbound.

However, settlement and growth on the northwestern plateau of the state was slow. De Beque and other small towns along the banks of the Colorado River never experienced the rush and prosperity of the major valley towns to the east and west. Most of the architecture was utilitarian and subdued. Shortly after 1900, Colorado experienced a small oil boom. Oil was discovered in De Beque, but Athearn described it as "a find that produced more excitement than oil." In the 1920s excitement over the possible development of shale oil brought DeBeque into the limelight again. The town was referred to as the oil shale capital of the United States. Despite the fever pitch, promotions, and experimentation, no economically feasible method of recovering the oil from the shale was discovered. Unable to compete with the abundance of cheap oil, the new industry was dormant by the late 1920s.

The IOOF Hall was built as a meeting hall by the Odd Fellows in 1900, near what could be called the commercial center of town. It immediately became the center of the social and recreational activities in the De Beque community. The Hall was the only building of substantial size for many miles around and the De Beque area was quite isolated from the outside world in the early decades of the 1900s. For these reasons, the Hall became the natural place to hold any type of gathering.

Built by the Odd Fellows, they and the Rebekahs (the women's auxiliary of the Odd Fellows) met in the upstairs meeting room continuously throughout its period of significance. Lodge meetings were very special in the early days of the Hall. Once a month as many as sixty men, most on horseback, would come to the Hall from all around the area for lodge night. Most of the men would spend the night at the McDowell Hotel across the street from the Hall, and no doubt a good time was had by all.

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IOOF Hall
Mesa County, CO

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The Odd Fellows Hall played a significant role in the two largest industries in the De Beque area, cattle and oil shale. The Hall was the only building in town that was large enough to hold meetings concerning these two industries. Irrigation companies met there to work out water issues between local ranchers and farmers. When it came time for the cattle trains to ship out the area's cattle, the ranchers would have meetings in the Hall. The burgeoning oil shale industry brought several oil companies to town. These companies held meetings in the Hall to map out the growing industry.

In addition to its use as a meeting hall, the building also played an important role in the social history of De Beque. The Hall served host to several town, school and church functions. In its early years, town dances were held at the Hall on weekends. Political rallies were held every election year with Democrats and Republicans introducing their candidates on alternate weeks. All elections were held in the Hall and up until the mid 1920s all school activities, including plays, dances and commencement exercises, were held in the Hall as the school had no auditorium. However the biggest event of the early years at the Hall were the funerals. Since the Methodist Church was too small, people from the outlying areas came by wagon, buggy or on horseback to attend the funeral held in the Hall. All the businesses in town were closed for the funeral. However, when the "hearse" headed up to the cemetery, the merchants opened their doors for business, often doing more business in a few hours than they had since the previous funeral.

The Odd Fellows Hall is also historically significant for its association with the development of entertainment and recreational activities in the De Beque area. De Beque was a small rural town and travel was not easy or convenient at the time. The early years of the Hall brought traveling and medicine shows to De Beque. The only entertainment many area residents experienced was the shows and movies at the Hall. The Hall served to bring the residents together for these occasions.

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IOOF Hall
Mesa County, CO

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Arriving first by train and later by automobile numerous travelling shows, some quite well known at the time, came to the Hall, including "Milo's Minstrels" and the "The Glendora Players." In an effort to sell their questionable cure-alls, "medicine shows" with their commercial breaks also came to the Hall.

In about 1918 movies came to the Odd Fellows Hall. R. K. Finley, the station master at the depot, put in a small generator behind the Hall, thus making the Hall the first building in De Beque to have electricity. He also put in a small projection booth above the lobby. The generator ran the projector inside and the big electric sign stating "Crest Theater" outside. Every Wednesday and Saturday evening, the community had the opportunity to view the likes of Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford and Tom Mix.

The first radio in the De Beque community was in the Odd Fellows Hall. This was in the early 1920s before the town had electricity and the radio was powered by batteries with a horn-like speaker attached to it. On special occasions, such as election nights and Jack Dempsey fights, everyone was invited to the Hall to experience this new form of entertainment.

The significance of the Odd Fellow Hall as an entertainment and recreation center began to decline with the Depression and continued with the construction of the road to Grand Junction following the Colorado River in 1930. Before this time the only routes to Grand Junction were the railroad, a toll road along the railroad, or the treacherous De Beque cutoff road that first went ten miles south then followed Plateau Creek to the Grand Valley. Because of the difficulty in getting to Grand Junction the Hall was the center of almost all of the entertainment and recreation activities in the De Beque area. After the road was finished in 1932 more activities became available to the locals by travelling to Grand Junction. This, combined with the Depression, led to fewer activities at the Hall. The Crest Theatre closed and dances were no longer held weekly. Attempts were later made to operate a theater at the Hall, along with other activities such as roller skating and prize fights. However, none of these were successful and the Hall never again held the same status as an entertainment and recreation center.

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I00F Hall
Mesa County, CO

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The I00F Hall is also significant architecturally for it represents a distinctive method and period of construction. Buildings clad entirely with pressed metal, still intact and maintaining their historical integrity are rare in this state. Wooden false front commercial buildings with pressed metal siding can be found in the towns of Breckenridge and Westcliffe. A small residence in Ridgway is clad in metal stamped to look like stone block masonry. But none of these buildings possess the variety of ornamental and surface design, or the integrity of the I00F Hall. While the pressed metal is an unusual material for construction, its use is also indicative of a particular period of construction when the arrival of the railroad brought architectural changes to a community.

The 1850 Exposition and its Crystal Palace created far-reaching architectural waves with its use of metal in building construction. Although iron had been in use since the latter part of the 18th century, it quickly became the advanced building material of the nineteenth century. Its arrival into Colorado during the 1870s was made possible by the railroad and the dependence of a town's architecture on railroad imported goods can not be overemphasized.

This newly available building material provided great possibilities in terms of ornamental surface and design. After decades of unornamented buildings, Coloradans began to equate ornamentation with advanced civilization. Ornamentation became a way of avoiding the home-made look and proving sophistication. Composed of standardized elements but with extremely active surfaces, this new material also looked to the past. References to past civilizations can be seen on the I00F Hall in the use of columns, swags and the fleur de lis. A relatively light weight material, the surface of the metal siding often attempted to belie that quality by resembling stone or brick. Although a building went up quickly (the metal siding was nailed over a wood frame construction), its resemblance to stone or brick gave the appearance of stability and longevity, important qualities for burgeoning, isolated towns like De Beque.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 8

IOOF Hall
Mesa County, CO

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- Athearn, Robert G. The Coloradans. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1976.
- Brettell, Richard R. Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture 1858-1893. Denver: Historic Denver Inc., 1973.
- Case, Raymond. Interview, 20 July 1992. (Last member of the De Beque Odd Fellows before charter dissolved in 1973)
- De Beque, Armand. History of the De Beque Odd Fellows Hall. Unpublished manuscript, De Beque Library.
- De Beque, Armand. Interview, 1 May, 8 May and 14 July 1992. (Son of town founder)
- De Beque, Armand and Prather, Sarah. Cattle and Shale: A Story of Roan Creek and De Beque, 1884-1984. 1934. De Beque Library.
- deBeque, Mrs. W. A. E. II. "Dr. W. A. E. deBeque and his Pioneering at the Townsite of De Beque." Colorado Magazine vol. 22, no. 5 (September 1945), pp. 215-224.
- Hafen, LeRoy R., ed. Colorado and Its People: A Narrative and Topical History of the Centennial State, 4 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1948.
- Harris, Julia. Interview, 8 July 1992. (Born in De Beque in 1902 and continuous area resident since)
- Mesa County Assessor's Office. 1969 and 1984 assessment sheets for De Beque Odd Fellows Hall.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

IOOF Hall
Mesa County, CO

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Parcel no. 28-0143; lots 1 and 2, block 18; Township 8S, Range 97W, NW 1/4
of Section 27; Town of De Beque.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the area historically associated with the Odd
Fellows Hall.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page _____

IOOF Hall
Mesa County, CO

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. IOOF Hall
2. Mesa County, CO
3. Jeff Lee
4. June and July 1992
5. City of DeBeque, 349 Minter Avenue

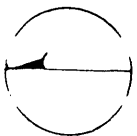
- Photo # 1 View E
2 South facade, View N
3 Rear facade, View W
4 N side with enclosed exterior stairway, View SW
5 Front facade, View E
6 Detail of stamped metal on upper level, View E
7 Detail of cornice, View E
8 Detail of stamped metal siding, View N

Alley ³

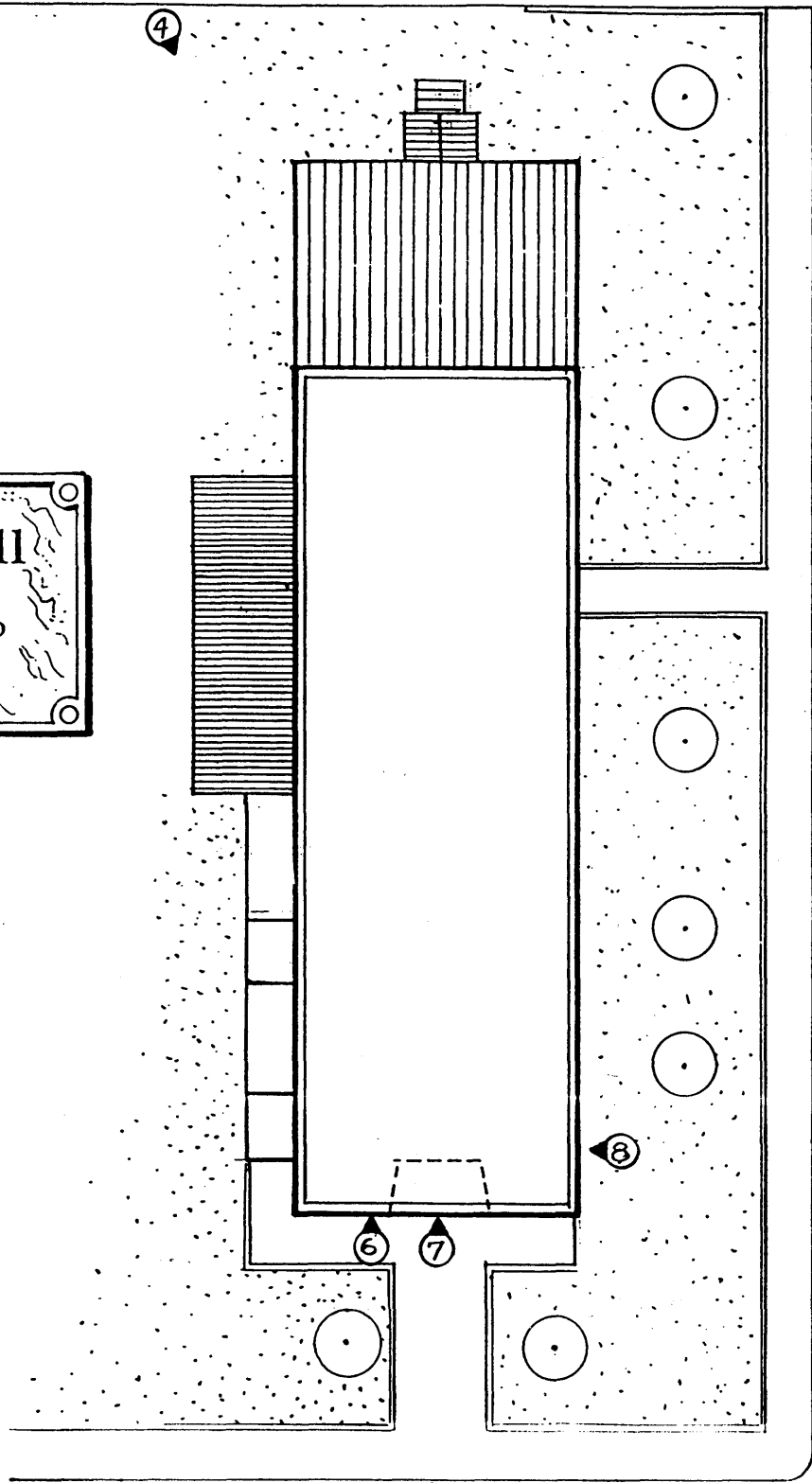
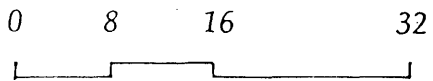
I.O.O.F. Hall
Site Plan
De Beque, Colorado
A.D. 1900

² Fourth Street

○ = photograph



North



¹ Curtis Avenue