

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received SEP 16 1980
date entered DEC 9 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Odd Fellows Hall - Big Horn

and/or common Big Horn Odd Fellows Hall

2. Location

street & number Lot #13 of Block 16 of the town of Big Horn, Wyoming — not for publication

city, town Big Horn — vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Wyoming code 56 county Sheridan code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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: NONE: VACANT

4. Owner of Property

name John Kings and Christy Love

street & number Box 40

city, town Big Horn — vicinity of _____ state Wyoming 82833

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sheridan County Courthouse

street & number _____

city, town Sheridan state Wyoming 82801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wyoming Recreation Commission has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1967 (revised 1973) federal state county local

depository for survey records 604 East 25th Street

city, town Cheyenne, Wyoming state Wyoming 82002

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the Southeast corner (Block 16) of Johnson Street of Big Horn, which is presently used as the Main Street of the town, the Odd Fellows Hall built in 1894, is a two-story white frame, clapboard, false-front building. The building is 20 feet wide by 46 feet long. The front of the building faces west onto Main Street and displays three interlocking rings, the sign of the Odd Fellows. The rings are at the top of the false front of the building. Below the three rings are two six over six pane windows located on the second floor. There are two brick chimneys, one each, on the north and south side. The front door is located on the south side, as are nine six over six pane windows. There are two six over six pane windows on the east end, one on the first floor, the other on the second floor.

During the ownership of the Cloud Peak Rebekahs, the sister organization of the Odd Fellows, strengthening rods were bolted through the north and south sides of the building to support the second floor. These bolts can be seen as black squares on the outside of the second floor. The wood shingle roof is in poor condition. The inside structure of the building is made of 2 by 6 inch native lumber framing, an indication of the early date of the construction of the Odd Fellows Hall. The first floor is a long room measuring 45 feet, as is the second floor. Division walls on the first and second floor have been removed, but four solid oak doors with peep-holes have been saved. The peep-holes were used in the secret meetings of the Odd Fellows and the Rebekahs. The doors date back to the 1920's.

The original structure of the Odd Fellows Hall measured 20 feet wide by 30 feet long. An addition was made by the Order of the Odd Fellows in 1901 to extend the eastern end of the building by 16 feet. By cutting a hole in the floor of the building, an old root cellar was discovered and the original rock foundation on which the building rests. When the extension on the eastern end of the building was made, the root cellar was blocked off and has not been used since. The building had sunk on the south side, about 6 inches, and has now been stabilized with a new concrete foundation on all sides.

Window and door locations have changed throughout the years, so it is difficult to say where the original entrances and windows were located. Patched areas indicate where a door or a window had been and then blocked out. There is only one staircase from the first to the second floor and it is located at the eastern end 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Odd Fellows Hall, the name by which this building is known in the community, as it should be, since the Order owned it for the longest period of time, is significant because it is one of the few remaining, original, false-fronted buildings in the town of Big Horn. Constructed in 1894, the false front is typical of architecture used in early western boom towns. The practice masked the gabled ends on frame buildings and provided a true street facade. It demonstrated an attempt to provide urban scale to the small town, or as one scholar comments, "for a shape in the vastness." This western approach is a reflection and adaptation of more urbanized nineteenth century eastern development.

The fact that Big Horn became a town with two-story buildings shows the transition from self-sufficient homesteads scattered throughout the area to town life, a commerce center, in the late nineteenth century. Even though Sheridan became the county seat and Big Horn did not continue to grow in size, it has continued to be a center for a variety of community activities in the Little Goose Creek Valley. The Odd Fellows Hall had figured continually in these community activities. The Odd Fellows, whose membership numbered around 30 men, and subsequently the Rebekahs, whose membership numbered around 40 women, brought men and women together for monthly meetings on the second floor of the building. The Big Horn Odd Fellows joined the Sheridan Chapter in 1949 and the Cloud Peak Rebekahs disbanded in 1970 because the upkeep of the building was becoming too expensive. In the 1930's and 1940's, community suppers which featured oysterbakes were held at the Odd Fellows, as well as a occasional dance or fancy dress party. People of the community still maintain a keen interest in the building and have been very willing to offer stories and history of the Hall, as well as suggestions for its rehabilitation. It has also been appreciated that the building is being saved for the future. The only other false-front buildings remaining in Big Horn are the Big Horn Mercantile Store and the Bozeman Inn. The Big Horn Blacksmith Shop, a Bicentennial Historical Landmark, is adjacent to the Odd Fellows Hall. All four buildings are located on the present Main Street of Big Horn. The Odd Fellows Hall has been particularly well preserved and virtually unaltered because its use was primarily limited to that of a meeting hall for almost 70 years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Addendum, Item #9

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre: property consists of building
Quadrangle name Big Horn Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Addendum, Item #10

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christy Love Sheila Bricher-Wade, Historian, Wyoming Recreation Commission
 organization _____ date May 16, 1980
 street & number Box 40 604 East 25th Street telephone (307-674-7278) (307)-777-7695
 city or town Big Horn Cheyenne state Wyoming 82833 82002

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jan L. Wilson

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 21, 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Bruce A. Oring</u>	date <u>12/9/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet Addendum

Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Scully, Vincent: American Architecture and Urbanism. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1976.

Vaughan, Thomas: Space Style and Structure. Building in Northwest America. Oregon: Oregon Historical Society, 1974.

Sheridan Press: "Building Salvaged by Big Horn Residents"; Tues., Dec. 11, 1980.

Mrs. Francis Logan, Past Noble Grand of Cloud Peak Rebekahs, interview by John Kings, May, 1980.

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Continuation sheet Addendum

Item number 10

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION & JUSTIFICATION

Big Horn Odd Fellows Hall is located on Lot 13, Block 16, Big Horn, Sheridan County, Wyoming. Said block situated in the NW1/2, SW1/4, Section 4, T54N, R84W. 6th P.M. The lot is bounded by Second Street and Johnson Street. The nomination includes the building and Lot 13, which provides protection from encroachment. Although there are other buildings of historical value in the area it is not feasible at this time to include them in a district nomination.